

## At the Library

I craved a burger, so I went to my favorite local restaurant. Chances are, you've heard this story, or told it yourself. For me, this story began six months ago, at the Beloit Public Library.

I had just started work as the Outreach & Communications Coordinator at the library. While discussing displays at a meeting, one of my coworkers suggested a chalkboard a la Bob's Burgers, with book puns like "I know why the Cajun Burger sings" and the actual book next to them.

Now, part of my job is to help people think about the library in new ways. As the information age changes people's needs, libraries are transforming to better serve their communities. People know the library has books, but do they know that there are computer classes, wifi hotspots available for checkout, and reference librarians who will help you answer any question? The library has traditionally been a quiet place. There are still plenty of quiet places to study at Beloit Public Library, but are also community meetings and classes, a gaming club for teens, and coming soon, a coffee shop!

The burger idea evolved. We planned for May, which is National Burger Month. We contacted local leaders, people who were making things happen whose stories were not well-known, so we could share those stories. We wanted to showcase Beloit, looking for people involved in local government, schools, non-profits, and business. Libraries are a great community meeting place, and with Burger Month we could engage the community in a new way -- through a common love for food.

In January I started planning Burger Month, fighting the cold with thoughts of spring flowers, summer sun, and the grill. The plan took shape: each week, a different local restaurant would serve a special burger. The burger would be named after a local leader. Anyone could show their library card and get \$1 off the special burger -- or any burger! Even veggie burgers could be part of the celebration. A library card from ANY library could earn the discount. It was all lined up:

May 1-7 The John Wong Burger at Doc's

May 8-14 (excludes Tuesday) The Nick Dimassis Burger at Hanson's

May 15-21 The Neddy Astudillo Burger at Bushel & Peck's

May 22-28 The Regina Hendrix Burger at The Rock

The librarians had more ideas about how to celebrate. Did you know that there is burger gummy candy? Or bookmarks that smell like burgers? They'll be at the library in May. You'll also be able to see a burger made entirely of books, and if you're lucky, see a friendly librarian in a chef's hat or apron.

One day in mid-April, with Burger Month almost upon me, I planned to go out once a week during Burger Month. I imagined ordering the burger, showing my library card, every week getting a discount and every week trying a different burger!

There it was. I was craving a burger, and I couldn't wait another few weeks to have it. So I went to my favorite restaurant and ordered an awesome burger. I'll be back in a few weeks with my library card!

For more information on the special burgers and the local leaders visit [beloitlibrary.org](http://beloitlibrary.org) and click on the

banner for Burger Month.

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