Linking you to your next great read is the mission of the library’s Book Link service. Readers may fill out a Personalized Reading Suggestions form, learn about the powerful NoveList reader’s advisory database, and browse genre brochures prepared by library staff for help in deciding what to read next. All of these resources are available on our website at www.ecpubliclibrary.info/services/book-link/. Readers are also encouraged to stop at Information & Reference, or call 715-839-5004 for assistance.

Twenty-one Book Link genre brochures are currently available: Amish, Banned Books: ”Diversity,” Christian Literature, Classic Literature, Dystopian Fiction, Erotica, Fantasy, Horror, LGBTQ, Local Authors, New Adult, Nordic Noir, Romance, Science Fiction, Self-Help, Steampunk, Thrillers, Urban Fantasy, Urban Fiction, Western, and Women’s Fiction. If you would like a paper copy of any or all of these guides, please call the Home Delivery Services office at 715-839-4857, or e-mail kathyh@eauclaire.lib.wi.us.
**DON:** I grew up in Waverly, Iowa and studied chemistry at Iowa State University. I worked as a chemist in Chicago, then attended the University of Illinois. For 30 years I was on the chemistry faculty of UW–Eau Claire, and retired about 15 years ago.

I have always enjoyed reading books, seeing plays and movies and listening to many kinds of music. When I came to Eau Claire, I found the public library a great resource for materials of all sorts. Volunteering in the Home Delivery program gives me a chance be a small part of helping our customers to continue their enjoyment of reading, watching and listening.

I have been delivering library materials in the Home Delivery program for about three years. I’ve really enjoyed meeting and talking to people who love to read and watch and listen to the stories (fiction and nonfiction) that can take us beyond our own life and experiences and into new worlds and ideas. I have delivered to about seven different customers during the last three years, usually just one or two at a time. It’s been fun!

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**“Curl Up and Read” Returns in 2017**

Our popular winter reading program returns January 3 through February 28, 2017. Here’s how it works: read three books and write a short review of one of them to complete a bookmark. You may complete as many bookmarks as you can in the time allowed. Each bookmark gives you a chance to win a prize. Participants must have a library card in good standing. All bookmarks must be returned to the library by Tuesday, February 28. The prize drawing will take place on Monday, March 6.

If you would like to participate, please register online at www.ecpubliclibrary.info/events when sign-up begins January 3. If you prefer, you may contact the Home Delivery Services office at 715-839-4857 or e-mail Kathy Herfel at kathyh@eauclaire.lib.wi.us.
Elizabeth B. has been receiving Home Delivery books for two years. She will read anything, science fiction and fantasy being her least favorite genres. Elizabeth started the Friends of the Library with former Library Associate Director Mildred Larson, and has many memories of the years when it was so hard to get volunteers she had to rely on her children and friends to help. When she was 10 or 11 years old, Elizabeth lived two blocks from the La Crosse Public Library. When a book was finished, she walked to the library to get another. Elizabeth has one of the lowest library card numbers on file, meaning she probably visited this library on the day it opened in 1976. Thank you for being such an interesting Home Delivery customer, Elizabeth!

Carol C. is a Michigan native who relocated to Eau Claire about a year ago to be closer to her daughters. She used libraries a lot starting in elementary school. Carol fostered a love of reading in her daughters, whom she took to the library “all the time.” She most enjoys happy endings and not necessarily love stories. Wholesome, family, Hallmark movie-type stories are favorites. Carol heard about Home Delivery through the activity director where she lives and thinks it’s a wonderful program. Several ladies have started a book club for their residents. They are currently reading The Hummingbird by Stephen P. Kiernan. Thanks for being part of Home Delivery Services, Carol!

Clarey G. grew up in Alma Center which had a small public library. She thinks she read “every book in the library.” A favorite memory is curling up in a chair reading while her parents worked on jigsaw puzzles. Her parents always encouraged their children to read. Saturday mornings after chores, Clarey would go to the public library. A speed reading class in school made her an even more voracious reader. Amish stories and mysteries are her favorites. Thank you, Clarey, for being a customer for eight years!

Teri O. has worked at the public library since 1983. She is a wife, mom and grandmother of three, including a baby boy who lives in Colorado. Currently a Technical Services Assistant II, Teri’s office is near mine and is used to me peeking into her work area to ask if she can please deliver for one of you in a pinch. She has yet to say no, unless a trip to Colorado is planned. Thank you so much, Teri, for going above and beyond to help out with Home Delivery!
I can’t believe it’s almost Christmas already! Where do the years go? This newsletter’s “fun fact” is a Home Delivery statistic. From November 2015 to November 2016, 45 people came onto the program and 46 people left. I was surprised it was that close! That’s a lot of comings and goings. If you are reading this and have been receiving books for a long time, I thank you!

Unless you are one of the few who goes online and requests your own materials, a small group of selectors and I choose materials to be delivered to you. We do our best to send you good things, including Interlibrary Loans, which can be a little tricky when coordinating the due dates. Staff in the Interlibrary Loan office are so helpful with this.

This year we started sending birthday cards with your library materials as close to your actual birthdate as we can get. I hope you enjoy being thought of by the library during your birth month!

The people who deliver are worthy of many thanks! They deliver every three weeks, working around their vacations and inclement weather to bring library materials to you. This year we lost a few more customers to the Altoona Public Library when they moved to places like The Classic. We also lost the residents on Home Delivery at Syverson Home when the new River Pines was built during the summer, only to start delivering to Syverson again recently as new people moved in who requested our services!

I wish you all a very happy holiday!

—Kathy Herfel,
Home Delivery Coordinator