



# KEWAUNEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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*Tourism Coordinator/Public Information Officer*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 6, 2017**

### **“Out of County” Library Usage Continues to Cost Kewaunee County Thousands in Taxpayer Dollars**

KEWAUNEE, WI – Kewaunee County is budgeting to pay off another hefty library bill in 2018 that amounts to \$53,430. This is due to the continuation of residents checking out materials from libraries in the counties of Brown and Manitowoc in 2016.

Kewaunee County Administrator Scott Feldt is asking residents make an immediate effort to try and stay within Kewaunee County for library services.

“We have our own libraries in Algoma and Kewaunee, let’s use them and save taxpayer dollars for something that is needed,” said Scott Feldt, Kewaunee County Administrator. “If you add up what we’ve paid to other counties for usage from 2011-2015 that could have been a savings of \$296,863. And, this most recent bill brings the total to \$350,293.”

Kewaunee County is being charged \$52,574 by Brown County for use of its libraries in 2016 with payment due by March 1, 2018. Meanwhile, Manitowoc County sent Kewaunee County a bill amounting to \$856.

This is not an uncommon practice. It has been state law since 2006 under Act 420 that a consolidated public library system, which is maintained and financed through the county, can bill adjacent counties, who are not consolidated for library services.

Records show that 19,995 out of county library materials were directly checked out by Kewaunee County residents in 2016 with costs ranging from \$2.85 to \$5.08 per item.

“If these materials were loaned out by Algoma Public Library or Kewaunee Public Library, there would be zero cost to Kewaunee County,” said Feldt.

And, while there is no library in Luxemburg, residents have the option to have materials delivered to and picked up from a library station housed at Nicolet National Bank.

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These efforts coincide with those made by the Kewaunee County Library Services Board, which has launched a marketing campaign aimed to bring awareness to the cost for out-of-county library usage.

The board members have been hanging up posters across Kewaunee County at local businesses, as well as handing out bookmarks with easy to follow instructions on how to request wanted materials online from our local libraries by using [www.infosoup.org](http://www.infosoup.org). When residents utilize the search engine, they access their account with their library card number and pin and then search for the materials, i.e. books and movies, that they would like put on hold or delivered to the Algoma Public Library or Kewaunee Public Library for pick up or brought to the library station in Luxemburg.

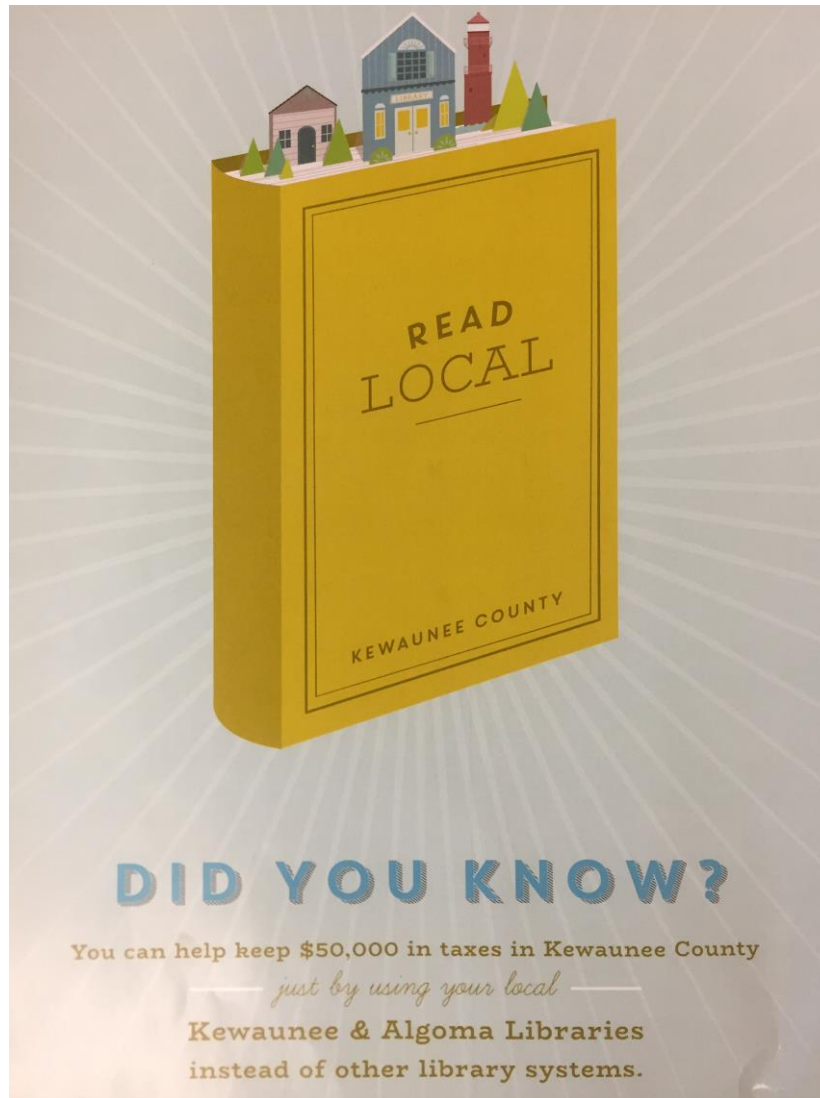
“We have two very fine libraries in Kewaunee County that serve our citizens in a very friendly manner and a very professional manner and in my humble opinion our two libraries are two of Kewaunee County’s most valuable assets,” says Robert Entringer, President of Kewaunee County Library Services Board.

In addition, the Luxemburg-Casco School District has opened the Luxemburg-Casco High School Library for public use, Monday-Friday from 3:30PM-5:30PM. And, on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Algoma Public Library will be at Luxemburg-Casco Primary School from 4PM-7PM to print library cards for residents during parent-teacher conferences.



(Algoma Public Library)

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**("Read Local" Campaign Poster)**

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