



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milwaukee Public Library and Dead Bird Brewing Raise a Glass for Libraries with Bücherwurm.

A limited-edition German fest bier debuts Aug. 22, at a fundraising event for the Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library.

MILWAUKEE — AUGUST 12, 2026 — The Milwaukee Public Library (MPL), the Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library, and Dead Bird Brewing Company are raising a glass to libraries, local partnerships and community with the release of Bücherwurm, a limited-edition German festbier.

The beer will debut during a launch celebration from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, at Dead Bird Brewing Company, 1726 Dr. William Finlayson St. A portion of Bücherwurm beer sales will be donated to the Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library.

German for “bookworm,” Bücherwurm is a traditional festbier brewed with Salzgitter Pilsen malt, Hallertau Mittelfrüh hops and a classic German lager yeast, a well-read collaboration that brings together Dead Bird’s craft and Milwaukee Public Library’s place in the community.

“Milwaukee Public Library is part of the fabric of this city, and collaborations like this create new ways for people to connect with the Library and with one another,” said Jennifer Meyer-Sterns, Library Deputy Director. “This collaboration is a wonderful example of what can happen when the Library, a local business and our fundraising partner work together to create something that connects people, celebrates Milwaukee and supports the institution at the heart of it.”

“As a small local craft brewery, being an integral part of the community is paramount for us,” said owner and brewmaster of Dead Bird Brewing Company, Nick Kocis. “We have had an educator happy hour at our Milwaukee taproom since we opened in 2019. Our book club has grown to hundreds of members and our monthly book swaps are well attended, so a collaboration with MPL and the Friends group was a no brainer. With Milwaukee’s history of German brewing we wanted to make sure we were showcasing a classic brew. Bucherwurm is a modern style Oktoberfest called a Festbier. Its slightly lower in alcohol content and lighter than the original Marzen. This recipe is light and friendly and a perfect last summer early fall beer. We’re very excited to bring this chapter to life with MPL.”

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“The Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library are thrilled to partner with Milwaukee Public Library and Dead Bird Brewing Company on this fun and unique fundraising event,” said Kristen Nelson, President, Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Directors. “By raising money to help support the Milwaukee Public Library, the Friends have been able to help bring libraries to life for people of all ages.”

The Aug. 22 celebration will also include Beer + Bites with Chef Sharrie Agee from 1 to 3 p.m., button- and bookmark-making activities, and photographs and other Billy the Bookworm materials from MPL’s Special Collections. The beer tapping ceremony will begin at 12:30 p.m.

The event is open to all ages. Guests must be 21 or older to purchase or consume alcoholic beverages.

For more information, visit mpl.org/DeadBird.

About Milwaukee Public Library

Milwaukee Public Library is an anchor institution that helps build healthy families and vibrant neighborhoods – the foundation of a strong Milwaukee. Since 1878, Milwaukee Public Library has been a free provider of education and information for residents of Milwaukee and beyond. With 13 locations, and more than five million items in the collection, MPL offers free access to a rich collection of materials both physical and digital, access to technology, classes, exhibitions, programming and more. From toddlers to scholars, MPL serves more than one million patrons who come through its doors annually and many more around the globe who use its resources at www.mpl.org.

About the Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library

The Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library is a community of library supporters dedicated to enhancing the Milwaukee Public Library through grant funding for programs, experiences, and resources. Funding is made possible through memberships, special sales, and proceeds from The Bookseller, the Friends’ volunteer-run used bookstore. Learn more at <https://www.supportmpl.org/bookseller/>.

About Dead Bird Brewing Company

Dead Bird Brewing Company was founded in 2015 in Madison, WI, and in 2019, it found its new home in Milwaukee, WI. Sustainability is a core value for owner Nick Kocis, who is dedicated to minimizing the brewery's carbon footprint with waste, energy-efficient appliances, solar panels, recycling and composting. More at <https://www.deadbirdbrewing.com>

Media Contact:

Melissa Howard

Communication and Community Engagement Director

Milwaukee Public Library

mhowar@milwaukee.gov

414-286-3032