

Fox Cities Reads is a community experience

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FULL TEXT

The Fox Cities Book Festival and public libraries in the Fox Cities have been teaming up for 13 years to offer a community read –complete with an author visit.

In November, the festival announced "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City" by Matthew Desmond as the 2019 community read.

The event will conclude with a presentation by Desmond at 6:30 p.m. April 11 at Menasha High School, and at 10 a.m. April 12 at the Lawrence Memorial Chapel in Appleton. For a list of all of the "Evicted" related activities at the public libraries and how you can get involved, visit foxcitiesbookfestival.org.

The book is about eviction in Milwaukee and follows the story of eight families as they struggle with poverty and finding safe, stable housing. Desmond lived in both a trailer park and a rooming house while researching his book, which won the Pulitzer Prize in the general nonfiction category in 2017.

Desmond used a tape recorder during his research and transcribed conversations, meaning the book often reads like a work of fiction. Interested people can download the free Overdrive or Libby app, and use their library cards to stream the e-audiobook from their devices.

Libraries in Appleton, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute, Menasha and Neenah are offering book discussions and community conversations, courtesy of Celebrate Diversity Fox Cities, to encourage our communities to discuss the issues of poverty and homelessness.

Ashley Thiem-Menning is the assistant director of the Kaukauna Public Library.

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