

AGENDA

**Library Board of Trustees-Verona Public Library
500 Silent Street Verona, WI 53593
608-845-7180**

**Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Library Conference Room**

Call to order

- Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of 5/6/26
- Review and approval of the May 2026 invoices
- Public Comments
- City Council Liaison's report
- Library Director's report
- Old Business
 1. Discussion regarding donor recognition policy
 2. Preliminary discussion of 2027 library budget

Library Board Meeting Notes

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. Library Conference Room

Attendees:

Present: Stacey Burkart, Chris Hopp, Kyle Jones, Skylar Franke, Lisa Miller, Rikki Conwell, Spencer Harrison

Absent: Karen Spencer

Call to Order: Hopp called the meeting to order at 6:30

Introductions of new members

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of 4/8/26

Minutes Approval: Franke Moved / Miller Seconded / Motion carries

Review and approval of the October 2025 invoices

Invoice Approval: Jones Moved / Harrison Seconded / Motion carries

Public Comments

No visitors from the public

City Council Liaison's report

Harrison shared updates on city planning activities.

Library Director's report

Burkart reviewed the contents of directors report.

Reviewed new SCLS system rollout

Old Business

1. Discussion and update on the Library Space Needs Assessment

Board discussed OPN update and next steps for future.

2. Discussion regarding donor recognition policy

Board discussed future options around donor recognition and comparable policies elsewhere. Stacey to add the creation of a policy for future discussion.

New Business

1. Preliminary discussion of 2027 library budget.

Board discussed request for additional hours of operations. Reviewed patron usage of reservable rooms and the potential addition of POD spaces. Additional budget priorities being collected.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Conwell. Seconded by Harrison. Adjournment approved

Director's Report

Verona Public Library, May 2026

Circulation

Items circulated: this includes all items checked out and renewed from the library, including items requested by patrons from other libraries.

Items Circulated	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	Average
January	47,842	49,310	48,218	47,722	46,024	47,823
February	43,611	44,262	47,599	46,003	42,218	44,739
March	50,643	52,126	50,433	52,026	49,314	50,908
April	41,819	47,280	45,552	46,674	47,514	45,768
May		46,806	43,352	44,226	42,775	44,290
June		58,000	57,330	59,454	52,827	56,903
July		61,051	60,127	58,102	52,448	57,932
August		55,597	55,179	58,081	55,184	56,010
September		47,037	46,523	45,429	45,066	46,011
October		45,869	47,097	47,785	42,440	45,798
November		42,023	46,203	44,975	43,939	44,285
December		44,901	44,005	43,655	42,000	43,640
Total	183,915	594,262	591,618	594,132	561,749	585,438

New Library Cards: The number of new library accounts created each month for patrons who reside in the City of Verona, does not reflect patrons' "home library" selection. Due to the ILS migration, data for April is not available yet.

New Library Cards	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	Average
January	148	212	171	188	119	168
February	149	106	176	137	149	143
March	119	212	189	176	155	170
April		119	150	152	129	138
May		108	124	142	140	129
June		197	262	290	344	273
July		206	217	218	239	220
August		207	195	212	206	205
September		121	136	141	141	135
October		114	187	170	150	155
November		122	148	119	144	133
December		111	117	128	122	120
Total	416	1,835	2,072	2,073	2,038	2,005

Holds Filled: Number of items checked out from our hold shelves per month, includes items pulled from our collection and items sent from other SCLS libraries. Due to the ILS migration, data for April is not available yet.

Holds Filled	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	Average
January	11,477	12,733	11,436	11,882	12,153	11,936
February	10,552	10,100	11,303	10,432	9,722	10,422
March	11,038	11,003	11,091	12,068	10,837	11,227
April		11,034	10,423	10,065	10,780	10,576
May		11,057	10,275	10,358	9,446	10,284
June		11,357	10,845	11,473	10,202	10,969
July		11,910	11,440	10,819	9,537	10,929
August		10,827	10,781	11,192	10,631	10,858
September		10,740	10,620	10,496	10,395	10,563
October		10,363	10,847	10,678	9,434	10,337
November		9,431	10,210	10,129	9,839	9,902
December		9,909	9,743	9,665	9,010	9,952
Total	33,067	130,464	129,014	129,257	121,986	127,680

Reference

Reference Statistics April 2026

Computer Lab Use: 721

Test Proctoring: 4 exams

Outer Library Loans: 55 requests

Personal Archiving Lab Sessions: 4

Library Visits: the number of people who pass through the front entrance of the library, as recorded by the automated people counting sensor.

Library Visits	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	Average
January	18,202	18,476	16,183	16,114	10,780	15,951
February	17,722	17,627	18,492	15,945	11,193	16,196
March	20,100	20,406	19,457	18,160	13,628	18,397
April	18,925	20,127	17,727	18,062	16,488	18,266
May		18,158	17,169	16,049	12,366	15,936
June		24,154	23,528	22,204	16,624	21,628
July		25,821	23,261	20,232	17,057	21,593
August		23,134	22,187	22,619	18,830	21,693
September		17,974	17,053	14,958	13,890	15,969
October		19,427	19,832	17,011	14,009	17,570
November		16,624	16,116	16,152	15,729	16,155
December		17,187	15,805	16,190	13,552	16,434
Total	74,949	239,115	226,810	213,696	174,146	213,442

Reference Questions: Number of questions answered per month that qualify as reference questions as defined by the WI Department of Public Instruction. Changes reference question criteria were implemented in September 2024.

Reference Questions	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	Average
January	1,464	1,338	1,929	1,640	1,061	1,486
February	1,351	1,260	2,161	1,638	1,653	1,613
March	1,540	1,489	1,989	1,830	1,758	1,721
April	1,582	1,747	2,004	1,896	1,226	1,691
May		1,223	1,995	2,031	1,117	1,592
June		1,678	2,638	2,487	2,183	2,247
July		1,734	2,144	2,058	1,691	1,907
August		1,519	2,242	2,331	2,075	2,042
September		1,491	1,490	1,837	1,341	1,540
October		1,492	1,804	1,840	1,566	1,676
November		1,235	1,340	1,836	1,628	1,510
December		1,307	1,431	1,835	1,356	1,482
Total	4,355	17,513	23,394	23,259	18,655	20,649

Meeting/Study Room Use: The total number of meeting room reservations for the Community Room, Conference Room, and Study Rooms each month as recorded by library room reservation software.

Room Use	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	Average
January	568	647	560	474	164	483
February	604	636	674	487	206	521
March	575	661	575	524	272	521
April	626	675	569	506	305	536
May		606	551	509	328	499
June		565	519	422	314	460
July		636	490	423	316	466
August		565	499	538	411	534
September		588	521	172	327	402
October		664	676	512	398	563
November		554	634	528	453	542
December		529	591	495	396	503
Total	2,373	7,326	6,859	5,590	3,890	5,952

Collection Management

Two mini-Yoto kits were introduced to our children’s kit collections, one for big kids and one for little kids. The Facebook posts introducing them received over 400 positive responses. They currently have 10 and 16 holds and we’re ordering another little kids’ kit right away. We’re also looking into circulating individual Tonies and Yotos, which have storage, shelving, and circulation decisions associated with them.

Number of items added to and deleted from the library collection through March 2026. Due to the software migration, a technical services freeze started March 31 and lasted through April 16. Due to the ILS migration, data for April is not available yet.

Items Added	Books	Audio	Video games	Video	Other	Magazines	Total
January	881	2	4	21	0	107	1,015
February	930	6	3	13	12	112	1,076
March	1,046	23	14	31	4	88	1,206
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
Sept.							
October							
November							
December							
Total	2,857	31	21	65	16	307	3,297

Items Deleted	Books	Audio	Video games	Video	Other	Magazines	Total
January	1129	2	0	24	7	209	1,371
February	456	3	0	3	1	50	513
March	986	22	13	20	4	48	1,093
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
Sept.							
October							
November							
December							
Total	2,571	27	13	47	12	307	2,977

Personnel and Staff Development

A reference staff member attended WAPL as tech chair and co-hosted the program, *More Than Play: Gaming in Public Libraries*.

Staff members attended a Ryan Dowd webinar, *Science of Conflict*.

Equipment and Physical Facilities

Staff worked with Envisionware to install the four new self-check-out machines on May 7.

The LED light bulb replacement project is starting this week and we hope to see significant energy and cost savings once the project is complete.

Administration and Internal Operations

Staff continue to learn the new ILS system and report system downtime and issues.

The library management team continued discussions of 2027 budget priorities.

Marketing and Public Relations

Facebook graphics & web/tv slides: 84

Fliers and bookmarks: 69

FB posts: 101

Instagram posts/reels: 10

FB followers: 5,935

Insta followers: 2,051

April Events Newsletter 1: 8,890 recipients;

In the spotlight: A new version of LINKcat will go live on April 17

April Events Newsletter 2: 8,868 recipients;

In the spotlight: A new version of LINKcat will go live on April 17

Staff attended our internal monthly marketing meeting on April 28.

Library System and Interagency Cooperation

Youth Services staff worked with BRMS librarian Melanie Galdes to facilitate programming at the middle school.

Management staff attended several South Central Library System committee meetings this month.

Fundraising

The donor mural at the entrance to the children' area was completed and donor leaves were attached to the wall.

Exhibits

Frank Lloyd Wright's Unitarian Meeting House at 75

April 27 – May 8

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Unitarian Meeting House, widely regarded as one of Frank Lloyd Wright's most significant achievements. Through a blend of narrative and archival photographs and documents, this exhibit explores the planning, construction, and preservation of this deeply personal work—a National Historic Landmark that redefined the concept of sacred space since its completion in 1951.

Library Events and Programs

1000 Books before Kindergarten

10 kids were registered this month, bringing the total number of registrants to 2964.

Kids' Events

Spring Story Time

March 30 – May 8

Baby Story Time: Fridays at 10:30 am and 1:00 pm

Toddler Story Time: Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:30 am

Preschool Story Time: Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Sensory Story Time: Thursdays at 9:30 am

Everybody Story Time: Thursdays at 10:30 am

Baby Story Time: 12 story times, attendees: 162, average: 14

Toddler Story Time: 11 story times, attendees: 386, average: 35

Preschool Story Time: 10 story times, attendees: 335, average: 34

Sensory Story Time: 7 story times, attendees: 319, average: 46

Everybody Story Time: 6 story times, attendees: 164, average: 27

Total: 46 story times, 1366 attendees

Spring Story Time

Saturday, April 25, 9:30 – 10:00 am

Designed for ages 0-5. Join us for a spring-themed story time with books, songs, and rhymes.

Attendees: 33

Read to a Dog

Saturday, April 25, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Ages 5-11. Registration required. Grab your favorite book and read to a furry friend.

Attendees: 2

Favorite Books & Bites: Chronicles of Narnia

Monday, April 27, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

For ages 8-11. Discuss the Chronicles of Narnia series, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the books. Pick up a copy of the first book of the series, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis at the children's desk to read in advance, or if you're already a fan, just sign up and join us.

Attendees: 11

Child Development Story Time

Tuesday, April 28, 10:30 – 11:00 am

Designed for ages 2-5. Join a member of CI Pediatric Therapy Centers' staff for an interactive story time of books, songs, movement, crafts and fun!

Attendees: 42

Story Time Mending

Wednesday, April 29 and May 6, 9:30 – 11:00 am

For adults. Does your child have a favorite toy with a dangling arm or missing eye? Has their beloved baby quilt sprouted a hole or a torn binding? Does your child insist on wearing that sweatshirt with the loose pocket? Local resident Nancy will offer free mending services during story time on Wednesdays.

Attendees: 0

Free Comic Book Day

Saturday, May 3, 10:30 am – 3:00 pm

Designed for ages 6-17. Drop by the Verona Library to pick up some free comics for kids and teens. Comics available while supplies last. Thanks to Westfield Comics for partnering with us so we could provide comics for our community!

Participants: 112

Music & Movement Story Time

Tuesday, May 5, 10:30 – 11:00 am

For ages 1-5. Join us for an active Music and Movement Story Time, which includes singing, dancing, instruments, and stories.

Attendees: 32

Parent/Child Book Club: Island of the Blue Dolphins

Tuesday, May 5, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

For ages 8-11. In May, Parent/Child Book Club will discuss the novel *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell.

Attendees: 10

Birthday Story Time

Wednesday, May 6, 6:30 – 7:00 pm

For ages 2-6. Join us for stories and songs about birthdays!

Attendees: 37

Minecraft Club

Thursday, May 7, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

For ages 7-11. Play Minecraft in both creative and survival worlds! Join the library's shared Realm and play with other kids in the club.

Attendees: 26

Crochet Workshop

Friday, May 8, 3:30 – 4:30 pm

All ages. Registration required. Crochet help for if you're stuck, need guidance on a new skill or stitch, or just picking out a new project! Please register for one 15-minute session per person.

Assistance provided by Mara from the Sow's Ear.

Attendees: 5

Beginning Crochet

Friday, May 8, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Ages 8-15. Registration required. Learn the basics of crochet like holding the yarn and hook, chaining, and the single crochet stitch with Mara from the Sow's Ear. Yarn and tools will be provided.

Attendees: 9

Read to a Dog

Friday, May 8, 4:00 – 5:30 pm and Saturday, May 9, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Ages 5-11. Registration required. Grab your favorite book and read to a furry friend.

Attendees: 4, 11

Child Development Story Time

Tuesday, May 12, 10:30 – 11:00 am

Designed for ages 2-5. Join a member of CI Pediatric Therapy Centers' staff for an interactive story time of books, songs, movement, crafts and fun! *We took advantage of this week between our story time session and school visits to schedule special morning story times and collaborative events, which were all well-attended.*

Attendees: 64

Kindermusik

Wednesday, May 13, 9:30 – 10:00 am

For ages 0-5. The Wonder Studio presents a demo Kindermusik class for ages 0-5 and accompanying adult. Come sing, play, and move with us!

Attendees: 52

Chat & Chew Book Club: The Holes Series

Wednesday, May 13, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

For ages 12-14. Calling all 12-14 year-olds! We are starting a new book club just for you!! Each month we will discuss a standalone book or a series, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the book(s). In May, we will discuss the Holes series by Louis Sachar.

Attendees: 2

Spanish Story Time/Hora de Cuentos

Thursday, May 14, 10:30 – 11:00 am

Designed for ages 3-6. Para edades 3-6. Join Mr. Ricardo for Spanish story time, an event where kiddos and caregivers can participate in interactive activities such as music and songs, finger plays, bounces, rhythms, rhymes, puppets and more.

Attendees: 34

Pokémon Club

Thursday, May 14, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Ages 6-11. Join fellow Pokémon fanatics for a Pokémon related activity each month. Bring your Gameboy, Switch, or learn to play the trading card game and compete against other kids! Bring your own deck or borrow one of ours. No registration.

Attendees: 23

Daniel Tiger: Angry Feelings Story Time

Friday, May 15, 10:00 – 10:30 am

Designed for ages 2-5. Hear Daniel Tiger stories and sing songs about coping with angry feelings, then join in an activity, discussion, and a brief Q&A with child therapists from Kind Therapy, LLC. *Julie had been wanting to do an emotional regulation story time since attending a conference session presented by PBS Kids, and when Kind Therapy reached out about doing a program, it seemed like a good chance to work together. Participants seemed to appreciate the stories and songs about angry feelings plus the opportunity to hear from the therapists and talk with them at the end. It was a good example of how collaboration can work well.*

Attendees: 70

Favorite Books & Bites: The Lemonade War Series

Monday, May 18, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

For ages 8-11. Discuss the Lemonade War series, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the books.

Attendees: 13

Utka Ensemble: Storybook Music Project

Monday, May 18, 4:30 – 5:15 pm

For all ages. Join the Utka Ensemble for a free musical story time at the library! A great way to introduce children to the power (and fun!) of classical music, the Utka musicians will present diverse children's picture books alongside carefully curated music. From beloved classics like Peter Rabbit to newer favorites, it's an experience for the whole family to enjoy. The ensemble features piano, oboe and violin. This event is sponsored by Beyond the Page, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Madison Community Foundation.

Attendees: 38

Toddler Art and Play

Tuesday, May 19, 10:00 – 11:00 am

For ages 1-3. Toddler Art and Play is a drop-in program that includes messy process art and

sensory play for toddlers ages 1-3. We recommend wearing clothes that can get messy.

Attendees: 73

Read to a Dog

Saturday, May 19, 4:00 – 5:30 pm and Wednesday, May 20, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Ages 5-11. Registration required. Grab your favorite book and read to a furry friend.

Attendees: 5, 7

Tween Craft: Comics Club

Thursday, May 21, 5:00 – 6:00 pm

For ages 8-11. Write your own graphic novel or comic book and connect with other comics fans.

Continue a story you already started or invent something brand new!

Attendees: 0

Ocean Story Time

Saturday, May 23, 9:30 – 10:00 am

Designed for ages 1-5. Join us for an ocean-themed story time with books, songs, and rhymes.

Attendees: 28

Upcoming In-Library Kids' Events

Summer Reading Program school visits began on May 20 and are scheduled through June 9.

Teen volunteers are steadily signing up to volunteer for the summer through our volunteer application on our web page, with trainings in early June and shifts beginning June 20. Slight modifications have been made to the reading program log, but it's essentially the same as last year, with kids tracking any day that they do reading, earning coupons and free books at the 20, 40 and 60-day thresholds. There will be new coupons this year from Ian's Pizza, Sugar River Pizza, and JonnyO's Pizzeria in Belleville (can there be too much pizza? We think not). This summer's theme is "Unearth a Story," so some summer programming focuses on dinosaurs.

Robotics and STEM with StemForce

Saturday, May 30, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

Designed for ages 6-11. The StemForce robotics team of local middle schoolers will bring their team's First Tech challenge robot and allow participants to learn more about STEM and robotics, plus get hands-on experience with their robot. Caregivers are welcome but do not need to register.

Music & Movement Story Time

Tuesday, June 2, 10:30 – 11:00 am

For ages 1-5. Join us for an active Music and Movement Story Time, which includes singing, dancing, instruments, and stories.

Parent/Child Book Club: The Summer of June

Tuesday, June 2, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

For ages 8-11. In June, Parent/Child Book Club will discuss the novel *The Summer of June* by Jamie Sumner.

Chat & Chew Book Club: The Lions' Run

Wednesday, June 3, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Calling all 12-14 year-olds! We are starting a new book club just for you!! Each month we will discuss a standalone book or a series, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the book(s). In June, we will discuss *The Lions' Run* by Sara Pennypacker.

Minecraft Club

Thursday, June 4, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

For ages 7-11. Play Minecraft in both creative and survival worlds! Join the library's shared Realm and play with other kids in the club.

Story Time with Author Avani Chhaya

Friday, June 5, 9:30 – 10:00 am

For ages 2-5. Soak up the sunny season with summertime books, along with a read-aloud of *Lakshmi at the Lake*, with picture book author Avani Chhaya. Hands-on activity stations will be provided after the *story* time.

Dinosaur Story Time

Wednesday, June 10, 6:30 – 7:00 pm

For ages 2-6. Join us for stories and songs about dinosaurs!

Read to a Dog

Thursday, June 11, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Ages 5-11. Registration required. Grab your favorite book and read to a furry friend.

Pokémon Club

Thursday, June 11, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Ages 6-11. Join fellow Pokémon fanatics for a Pokémon related activity each month. Bring your Gameboy, Switch, or learn to play the trading card game and compete against other kids! Bring your own deck or borrow one of ours.

Summer Reading Kick-Off

Saturday, June 13, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

For all ages. Celebrate the beginning of summer reading! Enjoy ice cream sundaes, balloon twisting, a visit from a Verona fire truck and more! Adults: come and pick up a fun piece of "swag" from the adult reading challenge table, and learn how to participate in this summer-long program! Sponsored by the Friends of the Verona Public Library.

Summer Story Time

June 15 – July 31

Baby Story Time: Fridays at 10:30 am and 1:00 pm

Toddler Story Time: Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:30 am

Preschool Story Time: Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Sensory Story Time: Thursdays at 9:30 am

Outdoor Story Time: Thursdays at 10:30 am

Read It & Eat: The Nine Moons of Han Yu and Luli

Monday, June 15, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

For ages 8-11. Discuss the book *The Nine Moons of Han Yu and Luli* by Karina Yan Glaser, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the book.

Bubble Play Time

Tuesday, June 16, 11:00 – 11:45 am

For ages 0-5. Stop by the library between 10:30-11:15 AM and enjoy our outdoor space behind the library with your little one and socialize with other caregivers. We will have our bubble machines set up to provide bubble fun. Bring your own blanket in case the grass is wet.

Tween Craft: Bling It On!

Wednesday, June 17, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

For ages 8-11. Join us at the library for a sparkling hour of creativity! Tweens will decorate a free pair of sunglasses with colorful gems and charms to create a one-of-a-kind accessory.

Read to a Dog

Saturday, June 20, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Ages 5-11. Registration required. Grab your favorite book and read to a furry friend.

Crafternoon: Celebrate America

Monday, June 22, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

For ages 4-10. Drop in for a fun crafternoon and get creative with different art projects each week.

Toddler Art and Play

Tuesday, June 23, 10:00 – 11:00 am

For ages 1-3. Toddler Art and Play is a drop-in program that includes messy process art and sensory play for toddlers ages 1-3. We recommend wearing clothes that can get messy.

Family Fun Magic with Glen Gerard

Tuesday, June 23, 4:00 – 5:00 pm and 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Designed for ages 3-11. Super fun magic for kids of all ages, with tons of audience participation and involvement! Sponsored by the Friends of the Verona Public Library.

Tween Snack: Butter Believe It!

Wednesday, June 24, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

For ages 8-11. Move over snacks—there's butter fun happening! Kids will learn how butter is made and help shake up their very own homemade batch. Then it's time to get creative by mixing in tasty flavors like sweet, savory, or cheesy to make a mini butter board. Participants will sample their creations with bread, crackers, or veggies while exploring different flavor combinations.

Read to a Dog

Thursday, June 25, 4:00 – 5:30 pm and Saturday, June 27, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Ages 5-11. Registration required. Grab your favorite book and read to a furry friend.

Prehistoric Paintings

Thursday, June 25, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

For ages 6-11. Paint a picture of a dinosaur or any prehistoric creature of your choice! Bring your imagination and be ready to make mistakes and get messy. Painting instruction not included.

Dino Dance Party

Tuesday, June 30, 10:00 – 10:45 am

Designed for ages 1-5. Shake, stomp, and roar like a dinosaur! Join us for a roarin' good time at our Dino Dance Party.

Bubble Play Time

Tuesday, June 30, 11:00 – 11:45 am

For ages 0-5. Stop by the library between 10:30-11:15 AM and enjoy our outdoor space behind the library with your little one and socialize with other caregivers. We will have our bubble machines set up to provide bubble fun. Bring your own blanket in case the grass is wet.

Teen Events

Donuts & Gaming

Thursday, April 30, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Snack on donuts and more! Face off on the Nintendo Switch or SNES, try a board game or puzzle, or bring your own device. Stay and enjoy the good vibes or drop in for a sweet treat!

Attendees: 9

Crafty Tuesday

Tuesday, May 5, 4:00 pm

Stop by Teen Central for DIY projects. Create throughout the week, as supplies last. *Comments: Teens decorated glass terrariums with mini figurines, preserved moss, rocks, and air plants! This was a favorite for many!*

Attendees: 32

Chat & Chew Book Club: Holes Series

Thursday, April 16, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Calling all 12-14 year-olds! Each month we discuss a book or a series, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the book(s). In May, we will discuss the Holes series by Louis Sachar.

Comments: readers enjoyed dirt cups, discussion, and a Holes-themed digital escape room.

Attendees: 2

BRMS Make'n'munch

Thursday, May 21, 11:00 – 1:30 pm

Students at Badger Ridge Middle School who have signed up for library during lunch can enjoy some crafting time. *Comments: teens decorated slap bracelets and created DIY stickers.*

Attendees: 27

Upcoming Teen Events

Donuts & Gaming

Thursday, May 28, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Snack on donuts and more! Face off on the Nintendo Switch or SNES, try a board game or puzzle, or bring your own device. Stay and enjoy the good vibes or drop in for a sweet treat!

Chat & Chew Book Club: The Lions' Run

Wednesday, June 3, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Each month we will discuss a standalone book or a series, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the book(s). In June, we will discuss The Lions' Run by Sara Pennypacker.

Crafty Tuesday

Tuesday, June 9, 4:00 pm

Stop by Teen Central for DIY projects. Create throughout the week, as supplies last.

Ice Cream Making & Sidewalk Painting

Monday, June 15, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Shake up your own ice-cream-in-a-bag, and then add tasty toppings (yum)! Then spend a relaxing moment decorating our sidewalks with temporary paint colors.

Teen Craft: Bedazzled Sunglasses

Wednesday, June 17, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Add some sparkle and shine to your summer by bedazzling a free pair of sunglasses with gems!

Donuts & Gaming

Thursday, June 18, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Snack on donuts and more! Face off on the Nintendo Switch or SNES, try a board game or puzzle, or bring your own device. Stay and enjoy the good vibes or drop in for a sweet treat!

Teen Snack: Butter Days Ahead

Wednesday, June 24, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Move over charcuterie. Butter has arrived! Learn how easy it is to make homemade butter, and then create your own butter board recipes. Make it sweet, spicy, herby, or cheesy! Add ingredients and enjoy trying the different styles with dipping choices of bread, crackers, or vegetables.

Friday Night: Capture the Flag

Friday, June 26, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Come to the library after-hours for capture the flag and other classic games! Form teams and work together to defend and advance your side's goals. Wear comfortable clothing!

*Please note this event may involve running, crouching, crawling, etc. among library stacks.

Escape Room

Wednesday, June 30, 3:00 – 4:00 pm and 4:15 – 5:15 pm

Solve puzzles, find clues, and crack locks to escape an adventure!

Adult Events

Distance Learning English Classes for Adults

Mondays 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Level: Beginner, January 26 – April 28, 2026

Tuesdays 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Level: Intermediate, January 20 – April 28, 2026

This free group English class will be offered mostly online using Zoom. You will practice speaking, listening, reading, writing and new vocabulary in English. This class is presented in partnership with Literacy Network. The last class of session meets in-person at the library.

April 28, attendees: 9

Drop-In Tech Help

Tuesdays, 9:00 – 11:00 am

Struggling with your phone, tablet or laptop? Simply drop by the library on a Tuesday or Thursday between the hours of 9:00 -11:00 am for help from a knowledgeable librarian. Bring your questions about topics like getting started with the Libby app, setting up an email account, word processing, storing pictures, navigating social media platforms, and troubleshooting software issues.

April 28, attendees: 6

May 5, attendees: 5

May 12, attendees: 2

May 19, attendees:

Memory Café

Tuesday, May 5, 3:30 – 5:00 pm

A "memory café" is a social gathering designed for individuals experiencing early dementia and memory loss, along with their caregivers or loved ones. Come to connect, socialize, and build support networks in a comfortable and welcoming environment centered around conversation over coffee.

Attendees: 6

Library Yarns Craft Group

Wednesdays, 4:30 – 6:00 pm

If you enjoy knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or another needlecraft, please join us at this weekly drop-in stitching circle hosted by the library. Meet up with other fiber art enthusiasts, learn new techniques, exchange ideas, or find inspiration for your next project.

April 29, attendees: 12

May 6, attendees: 16

May 20, attendees: 11

Verona Public Library 20th Building Anniversary Party

Wednesday, May 6, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

The library building is turning 20! Come and celebrate all of the wonderful things that have

happened so far within these walls! There will be cake and punch to enjoy, crafts and activities in which to participate, and a special birthday story time at 6:30 pm for little kids to follow!

Attendees: 260

Frank Lloyd Wright's Unitarian Meeting House at 75

Wednesday, May 6, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Unitarian Meeting House, widely regarded as one of Frank Lloyd Wright's most significant achievements. Through a blend of narrative and archival photographs and documents, this presentation explores the planning, construction, and preservation of this deeply personal work—a National Historic Landmark that redefined the concept of sacred space since its completion in 1951.

Attendees: 23

White Jasmine Cooking Class

Thursday, May 7, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Join us for another delicious evening with White Jasmine's Huma Siddiqui-Seitz as she demonstrates the steps and shares the recipes for traditional Pakistani dishes.

This program's menu will feature Mediterranean vegetable tagine and couscous with green onions, spinach and cilantro with Tandoori Masala.

Attendees: 24

Historical Fiction Book Club

Friday, May 8, 10:00 – 11:00 am

This month we will read and discuss What the Wind Knows, by Amy Harmon.

Attendees: 6

Celebrating 250 Years of Tea in America

Saturday, May 9, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Do you like tea? Do you like history? What about delicious and elegant food? If you answered yes to one or all of these questions, this is definitely the event for you! Author, Journalist and Speaker Veronica Hinke will highlight the history of tea and tea parties in America, with a particular focus on the Victorian, Edwardian, and Prohibition eras.

Attendees: 37

Mosaic Knit Along

Monday, May 11, 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Join Library Yarns for a mosaic knit along with the popular Pressed Flowers motif. Mosaic knitting is a colorwork knitting technique with only one color worked per row, invented by late knitting revolutionary Barbara G Walker. Over three sessions, we will learn the history and basics of mosaic knitting with the Pressed Flowers project of your choice. This program is appropriate for intermediate knitters comfortable with casting on and binding off, knitting and purling, and basic increases and decreases. You will be responsible for your own materials for your project; yarn, needles, etc.

Attendees: 11

Stop the Bleed

Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Stop the Bleed training, led by members of the Fitch-Rona EMS, empowers people to act quickly and be the help until help arrives. You will learn how to use your hands, dressings and tourniquets to control bleeding to immediately assist people with massive or uncontrolled bleeding until professional responders arrive.

Attendees: 9

Library Yarns: Yarn and Materials Swap

Wednesday, May 13, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Got extra yarn or yarn-related projects/supplies you aren't using? Others do too! Bring your unwanted things and take a look around for something you might be able to use.

Attendees: 21

A Taste for Mystery Book Club

Monday, May 18, 10:00 – 11:00 am

This month we will read and discuss *The Maid*, by Nita Prose.

Attendees: 12

Selecting and Growing Annuals

Wednesday, May 20, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Join master gardener and UW Horticulture Extension volunteer Katie Hartman to learn which annuals to select and when/where to plant them for maximum garden health and beauty.

Attendees: 13

Coffee with the Classics

Friday, May 22, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

This month we will watch *An American in Paris*.

Attendees: 11

Upcoming Adult Events

Distance Learning English Classes for Adults

May 26 – August 11

Mondays 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Beginner

Tuesdays 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Intermediate

This class is offered mostly online using Zoom. Practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing in English. Students will receive free English textbooks by mail. In partnership with Literacy Network.

Drop-In Tech Help

Tuesdays, 9:00 – 11:00 am

Struggling with your phone, tablet or laptop? Simply drop by the library on a Tuesday or Thursday between the hours of 9:00 -11:00 am for help from a knowledgeable librarian. Bring your questions about topics like getting started with the Libby app, setting up an email account, word processing, storing pictures, navigating social media platforms, and troubleshooting software issues.

Memory Café

First Tuesday of each month, 3:30 – 5:00 pm

A "memory café" is a social gathering designed for individuals experiencing early dementia and memory loss, along with their caregivers or loved ones. Come to connect, socialize, and build support networks in a comfortable and welcoming environment centered around conversation over coffee.

Library Yarns Craft Group

Meets each Wednesday. Drop-in between 4:30 – 6:00 pm

If you enjoy knitting, crochet, embroidery, or another needlecraft, please join us at a drop-in stitching circle. Meet up with other fiber art enthusiasts, learn new techniques, exchange ideas, or find inspiration for your next project. All skill levels welcome.

Verona Aspiring Writers Group

May 11 and June 1, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

The Aspiring Writers Group offers constructive feedback and inspiration to writers and aspiring writers of all genres.

Want to get a blog started or grow one? Hoping to be published in a magazine? Trying to finish or fine-tune the next great American novel? We welcome all!

Guided Zen Meditation

Tuesday, June 2, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Learn basic Zen meditation from a trained practitioner including how to position the body for stable and comfortable meditation, how to breathe correctly, and an overview of meditation benefits. The session will include about 30 minutes of instruction, followed by 15–20 minutes of practice and 5–10 minutes for questions.

Local Author Visit: Kathie Giorgio

Wednesday, June 3, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Kathie Giorgio is the author of eight novels, two story collections, an essay collection, and five collections of poetry. Awards include Pushcart Prize nominations in fiction and poetry, the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Library Association (*The Home for Wayward Clocks*), and the Pencraft Award for Literary Excellence (*In Grace's Time* and *If You Tame Me*). She is the founder and director of AllWriters' Workshop and Workplace, a creative writing studio based in Waukesha, Wisconsin offering classes for writers in all genres and abilities. Kathie will share a selection of readings from her newest book, *Birth of a Widow*.

Card Making Workshop: Butterflies & Botanicals

Thursday, June 4, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Join Traci Raether of Plum Crazy Stamping for another fun and creative workshop during which you will make four beautiful cards.

Journaling for Joy Workshop

Tuesday, June 9, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Want to create and experience more joy in your life? This 1-hour program offers experiential exercises that elicit joy along with journaling for joy practice. Participants are encouraged to bring their own journal, but there will be journals available for everyone.

AI Workshop: Building Confidence Through Practice

Wednesday, June 10, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Artificial intelligence (AI) is showing up everywhere, and it can feel confusing or intimidating to know where to begin. This workshop series offers a supportive, beginner-friendly introduction to AI in a guided and low-pressure setting. Each session focuses on practical understanding, thoughtful use, and building confidence through practice. Rather than rushing or getting technical, we'll take time to explore how AI works, how to use it responsibly, and how to use it as a tool.

The Historical Fiction Book Club

Friday, June 12, 10:00 – 11:00 am

This month we will read and discuss *As Bright As Heaven*, by Susan Meissner.

A Taste for Mystery Book Club

Monday, June 15, 10:00 – 11:00 am

In June we will read and discuss *The Thursday Murder Club*, by Richard Osman.

VPL Cookbook Club: Light & Healthy Food

Tuesday, June 16, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Let's start the summer off on a healthy note by making lightened up versions of dishes this month.

MG&E EV 101 Show and Tell

Wednesday, June 17, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Interested in learning more about EVs (electric vehicles)? Join Madison Gas and Electric for a presentation on EVs with time to chat with the owners of popular EVs on display in the parking lot.

Local Author Visit: LGBTQ Rights Advocate Kathy LaPlante

Wednesday, June 17, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Celebrate Pride Month and a beautiful storyteller by coming to hear from local author Kathy

LaPlante. Kathy is a Navy veteran, retired archaeologist, and advocate for/historian of LGBTQ+ rights in the US military. Her book, *The Summons: A Call to Love*, is a powerful novel of found family, redemption, and the enduring strength of women in war in the face of discrimination against members of the LGBTQIA community. Learn the fascinating story of how Kathy brought this book to publication at the age of 72 and hear about how her life experiences shaped its narrative.

Coffee with the Classics

Friday, June 19, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

This month we will watch *Mary Poppins*. Enjoy coffee and a sweet treat as you watch classic cinema in the comfort of the library's Community Room.

The Firehose of Falsehood and the Spread of Extremism

Saturday, June 20, 10:00 – 11:00 am

As part of a year-long celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States, Beyond the Page is sponsoring a visit from author Teri Kanefield, who will discuss the spread of disinformation in politics and give the audience insight into how to identify and defend against it. In her graphic novel, *A Firehose of Falsehood: The Story of Disinformation*, Ms. Kanefield uses examples from ancient rulers, modern political figures and internet trolls to show how disinformation can operate and emphasizes that a healthy democracy depends on being able to reach a shared understanding of the truth.

Spanish for Beginners: Ordering at Restaurants

Tuesday, June 23, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Join Spanish instructor Shannon Lucy for another fun and educational opportunity to learn some Spanish. This class will focus on ordering at restaurants.

Forensic Science & the Wisconsin Crime Lab

Wednesday, June 24, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

TV shows like the CSI series glamorize (and expedite) the process of using forensic science to help solve crimes. This presentation will illustrate the real-life work of forensic scientists at the Wisconsin Crime Laboratory. Robert Block, who spent 34 years as an expert crime lab forensic analyst, will recount tales of unusual drug evidence analysis as well as chilling and haunting crime scene investigation details. If you love true crime and crime solving, this talk is for you!

THE BETTY J. KARWEICK VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS SERIES

Welcome to *The Betty J. Karweick Virtual Author Talks Series*, presented in partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium. Here you will have access to live virtual visits including interactive questions and answers with bestselling authors and talks on a broad assortment of topics given by experts in their fields. Recordings of talks will be available for viewing after live event.

Author Talk: Jason Reynolds

Thursday, April 30, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Total Views: 13

Author Talk: The Transformative Power of Love with Marjan Kamali

Thursday, May 7, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Total Views: 4

Author Talk: Robot-Proof Your Kids (and Yourself) with Dr. Vivienne Ming

Tuesday, May 12, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Total Views: 12

Author Talk: Reshape Your Beliefs with Nir Eyal

Tuesday, May 19, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Total Views: 6

Upcoming Events:

Author Talk: Your Ticket to the Best State Fair Crafts

Wednesday, June 3, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Join us for a fascinating discussion with Smithsonian Curator Mary Savig on the history and significance of craft at state fairs—from blue-ribbon quilts to sculpted butter cows, and so much more!

Author Talk: Matt Dinniman

Thursday, June 11, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Hold onto your heart-patterned boxers! Matt Dinniman, *New York Times* bestselling author of the wildly popular (and just plain wild) *Dungeon Crawler Carl* series, joins us to chat about his latest book, *A Parade of Horribles*.

Author Talk: Nurturing Future Generations with Ted Page

Thursday, June 18, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Join us in conversation with this popular blogger and wonderful storyteller.

Author Talk: Simple, Sustainable, and Powerfully Delicious Meals

Tuesday, June 23, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Join the chat with Sana Javeri Kadri and Asha Loupy about *The Diaspora Spice Co. Cookbook*, which celebrates beautiful, simple, and seasonal cooking with 85 recipes adapted from India and Sri Lanka's best family spice farms.

Outreach

Outreach Events

Outreach story times:

Total daycare story time presentations: 13

Books 'n Booze at Stone Porch Alehouse

Thursday, April 23, 6:00–7:00 pm

The group discussed *The Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Attendees: 17

Four Winds Book Group

Tuesday, April 28, 10:00–11:00 am

The residents met to discuss *Framed* by John Grisham and Jim McCloskey. Comments: One new resident attended.

Attendees: 8

Literacy Night at Glacier Edge

Thursday, April 30, 5:00–7:00 pm

The library provided an activity and library information for students at Glacier Edge. Comments: Students loved decorating a bookmark and receiving a library-branded “mood” pencil.

Attendees: 96

YMCA After School Program at New Century/Verona Area International School

Monday, May 4, 2:45–3:15 pm

Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at New Century/Verona Area International School.

Attendees: 32

Always There Fair

Saturday, May 9, 9:00 am–12:00 pm

The library had a table with information and a craft project at this event at Badger Ridge Middle School, presented by the GSAs from schools around the district.

Attendees: 71

Story Time at The Sow's Ear

Tuesday, May 12, 10:00–10:30 am

Join us for story time at The Sow's Ear! Enjoy a story time, craft project, and other activities for children and their caregivers. Geared toward ages 2-5, siblings welcome.

Attendees: 18

YMCA After School Program at Sugar Creek

Tuesday, May 12, 3:00–3:30 pm

Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at Sugar Creek.

Attendees: 17

Senior Center Book Group

Wednesday, May 13, 10:00–11:00 am

The group discussed The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams.

Attendees: 23

Bilingual Community Resource Fair at Verona Area High School

Monday, May 18, 10:30 am–1:30 pm

The library had a table at the high school to promote library resources and teen volunteer opportunities. Comments: Governor Evers stopped by this event and mentioned his love of libraries.

Attendees: 48

Girl Scout Group Visit

Monday, May 18, 5:45–6:15 pm

A local homeschool group visited the library to take a tour, listen to a few books, and learn about the work librarians do.

Attendees: 7

YMCA After School Program at Glacier Edge

Tuesday, May 19, 3:15–4:00 pm

Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at Glacier Edge. Comments: The students loved creating a frog craft project.

Attendees: 22

YMCA After School Program at Core Knowledge Charter School

Tuesday, May 19, 3:45–4:15 pm

Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at Core Knowledge Charter School.

Attendees: 12

YMCA After School Program at Country View

Thursday, May 21, 2:40–3:10 pm

Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at Country View.

Attendees: 17

Upcoming Outreach Events:

Four Winds Book Group

Tuesday, May 26, 10:00–11:00 am

The residents will meet to discuss *The Cherry Harvest* by Lucy Sanna.

Noel Manor Book Group

Wednesday, May 27, 10:30–11:30 am

The group will be discussing *The Cold Millions* by Jess Walter.

Books and Booze at Stone Porch Alehouse

Thursday, May 28, 6:00–7:00 pm

The group will be discussing *The Unmaking of June Farrow* by Adrienne Young.

Country View Reading Celebration

Tuesday, June 2, 8:30–9:30 am

The library will provide summer reading information as part of Country View's annual reading celebration.

Core Knowledge Charter School Field Trip

Thursday, June 4, 9:30–10:30 am

First graders from Core Knowledge will visit the library for a read aloud, craft project, and buddy read.

Prairie Oaks Book Group

Thursday, June 4, 1:30–2:30 pm

The group will be reading *The Mystery Guest* by Nita Prose.

Story Time at The Sow's Ear

Tuesday, June 9, 10:00–10:30 am

Join us for story time at The Sow's Ear! Enjoy a story time, craft project, and other activities for children and their caregivers. Geared toward ages 2-5, siblings welcome.

Senior Center Book Group

Wednesday, June 10, 10:00–11:00 am

The group will be reading *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks.

SPRING ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

April 20 – May 31



Workshops

Memory and Narrative Art Workshop

Thursday, April 30, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Attendees:

Scraps Workshop

Saturday, May 16, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Attendees:

Pennsylvania Pastoral: Discussing Childhood Memory and Place

Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Attendees: