

AGENDA

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

**Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
Library Conference Room**

Call to order

- Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of 5/1/24
- Review and approval of the May 2024 invoices
- Public Comments
- City Council Liaison's report
- Library Director's report
- Old Business
 1. Discussion of library strategic planning
 2. Discussion and possible action regarding Donor Recognition Opportunities
 3. Preliminary discussion of the 2025 library budget
- New Business

Verona Public Library Board Meeting Minutes
Library Board of Trustees-Verona Public Library
500 Silent Street Verona, WI 53593
Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Attendees: Hopp, Spencer, Conwell, Jones, Braithwaite

Call to order: Hopp called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of 4/3/24

- Spencer moved, Jones 2nd. Motion carries

Review and approval of the April 2024 invoices

- Conwell moved, Spencer 2nd. Motion carries

Public Comments

None

City Council Liaison's report

- Public hearing coming up regarding Epic pursuing another interchange on Countryview Rd.
- County Parks looking to redo playground and shelter at park near library up the hill.
- Update on possible solar array near RC field.

Library Director's report

- Inservice at Oregon Public Library.
- Temporarily moved children's shelving units to prepare for carpet updates.
- Summer reading program being updated according to feedback; no grand prize drawing. Everyone is getting the same prizes.

Old Business

- Preliminary discussion of the 2025 library budget
- Discussion regarding sorter replacement costs and timeline.
- Role of strategic plan conversation in formation of '25 budget; still ongoing.
- Possible outreach to City of Verona/Parks, Sugar River Gardeners, UW, or other organization to support efforts with landscaping needs.
- Brandon to reach out to Parks dept.

New Business

None

Conwell moved to adjourn, Spencer 2nd. Motion carries

Spencer to take notes next meeting.

VERONA PUBLIC LIBRARY
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
May 2024

I. Collection Management

The library purchased inClusive diversity audit software and will be getting the initial collection report data shortly.

Number of items added and deleted in April 2024:

Item Type	Added	Deleted
Books	806	228
Audio	21	417
Software	6	0
Video/DVD	15	650
Other (kits, etc.)	29	0
Magazines	129	179
TOTAL	1006	1474
YTD	4027	5105

II. Circulation

Circulation

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
January	48,218	47,722	46,024	29,669	49,255
February	47,599	46,003	42,218	28,925	46,500
March	50,433	52,026	49,314	36,647	29,964
April	45,552	46,674	47,514	31,448	2,021
May		44,226	42,775	32,633	8,861
June		59,454	52,827	52,142	18,507
July		58,102	52,448	52,220	29,609
August		58,081	55,184	51,007	31,025
September		45,429	45,066	42,894	31,115
October		47,785	42,440	43,527	34,075
November		44,975	43,939	43,507	28,171
December		43,655	42,000	39,089	28,194
Total	191,802	594,132	561,749	483,708	337,297

New Library Cards

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
January	171	188	119	27	184
February	176	137	149	36	161
March	189	176	155	24	74
April	150	152	129	36	9
May		142	140	71	18
June		290	344	179	33
July		218	239	160	58
August		212	206	129	57
September		141	141	105	51
October		170	150	99	50
November		119	144	64	18
December		128	122	87	31
Total	686	1,423	2,038	1,017	744

Holdings

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
January	15,085	14,929	15,139	18,260	14,651
February	13,421	13,005	11,617	17,130	12,246
March	13,282	13,586	12,878	18,193	7,277
April	12,906	12,658	12,098	15,698	5,645
May		13,483	11,820	14,236	10,869
June		13,854	11,984	13,328	13,616
July		14,445	11,735	11,621	15,910
August		13,607	13,389	13,510	15,672
September		13,587	12,506	13,252	16,166
October		12,645	11,924	13,304	16,502
November		12,971	12,888	12,679	16,108
December		11,054	10,313	11,069	14,567
Total	54,964	119,516	148,291	172,280	159,229

III. Reference

Reference Statistics, April 19 – May 23

Computer Lab Use: 777

Test Proctoring: 8 exams

Outer Library Loans: 42 requests

Personal Archiving Lab Sessions: 14

Library Visits

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
January	16,183	16,114	10,780	0	18,887
February	18,492	15,945	11,193	0	18,969
March	19,457	18,160	13,628	0	0
April	17,727	18,062	16,488	2,889	0
May		16,049	12,366	5,015	0
June		22,204	16,624	11,757	2,850
July		20,232	17,057	13,407	6,765
August		22,619	18,830	13,267	*
September		14,958	13,890	10,746	*
October		17,011	14,009	10,346	*
November		16,152	15,729	9,371	0
December		16,190	13,552	10,562	0
Total	71,859	213,696	174,146	87,360	47,471

Reference Transactions

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
January	1,929	1,640	1,061	821	3,152
February	2,161	1,638	1,653	924	1,632
March	1,989	1,830	1,758	1,347	1,974
April	2,004	1,896	1,226	948	24
May		2,031	1,117	1,085	116
June		2,487	2,183	2,200	846
July		2,058	1,691	2,365	2,431
August		2,331	2,075	1,847	2,039
September		1,837	1,341	1,543	2,521
October		1,840	1,566	581	2,045
November		1,836	1,628	458	1,060
December		1,835	1,356	721	1,092
TOTAL	8,083	23,259	18,655	14,840	18,932

Meeting Room Use

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
January	560	474	164	-	616
February	674	487	206	-	565
March	575	524	272	-	286
April	569	506	305	-	-
May		509	328	-	-
June		422	314	-	-
July		423	316	-	-
August		538	411	-	-
September		172	327	-	-
October		512	398	-	-
November		528	453	-	-
December		495	396	-	-
TOTAL	2,378	5,590	5,912	2,021	3,487

IV. Personnel and Staff Development

The library had an all-staff in-service on April 29. The first part of the day was spent moving the children's collection onto carts for re-carpeting and in the afternoon staff toured the new Oregon Public Library.

Ronda held a Circulation Team meeting on May 21. Topics discussed were shelving holds, study room reservations, and the new lactation pod.

Stacey and Tonja conducted interviews with Reference Assistant candidates the week of May 6.

Izzy Marini was hired as a part-time Reference Assistant and her first day was Tuesday, May 28.

Tonja attended the Southwest Regional Equity Team Meeting at DCLS on May 21.

Mark attended the following webinars: *How Holds Work in LINKcat* and *CircRefereshes - Reports*

Jess attended the webinars *SLJ's Manga PowerPoint Party*, *Libraries without Limits: Insights from OTs, PTs and SLPs*, *Serving Kids with Disabilities*, and *ASL for Storytime*, plus the Connecting Wisconsin Libraries meeting.

V. Equipment and Physical Facilities

Carpet installation has been completed. The two-week long project went very well and we've gotten a lot of positive comments about the refreshed look of the children's area. Library staff worked very hard to move tens of thousands of books onto carts so the shelves could be moved and the new carpet installed. It was also quite an effort on the part of the staff to reshelve all the books at the end of the project.

Bibliotheca sent a tech out to fix the sorter diverter and the repair was completed.

VI. Administration and Internal Operations

Stacey spent the first two weeks of May focused on the carpet project, which was successfully completed. The 2025 budget and strategic planning will be the next administrative focuses.

VII. Marketing and Public Relations

Abby created 45 event graphics (website, Facebook, TV) along with related event bookmarks/flyers/signs.

Abby spotlighted the upcoming start of Summer Reading programs.

Jenny created a display highlighting nonfiction graphic novels. Circulation staff created a Mother's Day themed display and another on Summer Horror.

Facebook: 5,130 followers, 48 posts/events

Instagram: 1,674 followers, 4 posts/reels/stories

Events Newsletter (A): 9,850 recipients

Events Newsletter (B): 9,845 recipients

VIII. System and Interagency Cooperation

Theresa was part of a group of librarians from around the South Central Library System that attended the ILS (integrated library system) Vendor Demonstrations for SirsiDynix on May 8 and 9. There will be one more virtual demonstration on June 18 for the topics they weren't able to get to at the in-person demonstrations. The demonstrations for Polaris ILS are May 29 - 30.

Tonja attended the South Central Library System ILS Discovery Layer demo on May 9.

The library has partnered with the American Players Theater to offer the first wave of free vouchers to patrons on May 15. Vouchers will be offered again on July 15.

Abby joined the City of Verona website redesign team.

Ronda attended the SCLS Circulation Services Sub-committee meeting on May 15.

Leah collaborated with both Teresa Voss and Melanie Galdes to host makerspace programs at Verona Area High School and Badger Ridge Middle School, along with an escape room type activity at BRMS. Leah is also partnering with BRMS to get library card applications & library cards to any interested middle school students. Leah will be visiting Savannah Oaks Middle School for summer reading promotion.

IX. Fundraising

Nothing to report.

X. Events, Programs and Exhibits

Kid's Events and Programs:

1000 Books before Kindergarten

21 kids were registered this month, bringing the total number of registrants to 2626.

Family Story Time

Saturday, April 20, 9:30 – 10:00 am

Join us for a family story time, once a month, with books, songs, and rhymes. For ages 0 - 5.

Attendees: 44

Graphic Novel Book Club

Monday, April 22, 4:00 – 4:45 pm

For ages 8 - 11. Discuss the graphic novel *Awkward* by Svetlana Chmakova, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the book.

Attendees: 14

Toddler Art and Play

Tuesday, April 23, 9:30 – 10:00 am

Join us at the library for messy process art and sensory play! Wear clothes that can get messy and drop in for some fun toddler activities. Ages 1-3.

Attendees: 69

Swiftie Story Time

Wednesday, April 24, 6:30 – 7:00 pm

Calling all young Swifties and Taylor Tots! Join us as we "shake it off" to Taylor Swift stories and songs! Geared toward ages 3-8. "There will be no registration. There will just be reputation." *The library received this email after the program: Our family has been loving the evening storytime series. The 6:30pm timeslot is perfect for us. My two and a half year old has been more engaged than I could have ever hoped. She regularly asks to sing the Bingo song from Bluey storytime. I hope these special week day evening events for young families continue. They are such a treat.*

Attendees: 82

Lego Party

Thursday, April 25, 4:15 – 5:15 pm

For ages 5-11. Join fellow Lego fanatics for a Lego celebration with building challenges and snacks. Lego bricks will be provided for use during the event.

Attendees: 31

Read to a Dog

Saturday, April 27, 10:00 – 12:00 pm

Ages 5 and up. Grab your favorite book and read to a furry friend. Independent readers can sign up for a 15-minute spot to read to a registered therapy animal.

Attendees: 13

Spring Scavenger Hunt

An I Spy scavenger hunt introduced patrons to new spots in the children's area.

Participants: 250

Poem in your Pocket

Patrons were encouraged to pick up a rolled-up surprise poem at a display of poetry books.

Participants: 272

Free Comic Book Day

Saturday, May 4, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

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

Participation: 269 comics were given away

Music and Movement Story Time

Tuesday, May 14, 10:30 am

Join us for singing, dancing, instruments, and stories in this active story time for children and their caregivers. Ages 1-5.

When Lizzy realized the carpet project would be done early freeing up the community room, she scheduled this story time just a few days in advance, and nonetheless a large crowd showed up.

Attendees: 79

Read to a Dog

Thursday, May 16, 4:00 – 5:30 pm and Saturday, May 18, 10:00 – 12:00 pm

Ages 5 and up. Grab your favorite book and read to a furry friend. Independent readers can sign up for a 15-minute spot to read to a registered therapy animal.

Attendees: 6, 12

Baby Playtime

Friday, May 17, 10:00 – 11:00 am and 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Meet new friends at Baby Playtime! We will provide toys and books for babies to play with and space for caregivers to socialize. For ages 0 to 18 months.

Attendees: 10, 8

Favorite Books and Bites: The Land of Stories

Monday, May 20, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Discuss The Land of Stories series, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the books. Ages 8 - 11. Pick up a copy of the first book of the series at the children's desk to read in advance, or if you are already a fan, just sign up and join us.

Attendees: 10

Child Development Story Time: Space

Thursday, May 23, 10:30 am

Join a member of CI Pediatric Therapy Centers' staff for an interactive story time of books, songs, movement, crafts and fun! Activities will be geared towards 2-5 year olds, but all ages are welcome! No registration.

Attendees: 35

Upcoming Kids' Events

Family Story Time

Saturday, May 25, 9:30 – 10:00 am

Join us for a Family Story Time, once a month, with books, songs, and rhymes. For ages 0 - 5. No registration.

Read to a Dog

Saturday, May 25, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Ages 5 and up. Grab your favorite book and read to a furry friend. Independent readers can sign up for a 15-minute spot to read to a registered therapy animal. Families may share a time slot. Please come early (especially if you're picking out a book to read), as time slots are short. Check-in at the Children's Desk.

Pigeon Story Time

Wednesday, May 29, 6:30 – 7:00 pm

Join us for Pigeon-themed stories and songs! Designed for ages 2-5. No registration.

Read to a Dog

Saturday, May 30, 4:00 – 5:30 pm and Friday, June 7, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Ages 5 and up. Grab your favorite book and read to a furry friend. Independent readers can sign up for a 15-minute spot to read to a registered therapy animal. Families may share a time slot. Please come early (especially if you're picking out a book to read), as time slots are short. Check-in at the Children's Desk.

Summer Reading Program

Registration begins June 1

Youth services is looking forward to implementing a few changes and simplifications we hope will improve this year's program. For the reading program, all kids ages 0 – 11 will receive the same paper reading record when they register. Instead of tracking books or minutes, they will mark off each day they read on a calendar. This encourages a daily reading habit and is more equitable to those who aren't stronger readers. Coupons and a free book are earned when kids have read a total of 25 and 50 days.

In another effort to simplify the program and minimize the disappointment many kids feel at the end of the summer, we won't be doing a grand prize drawing this year. This \$1000 savings will be used for other prizes and books.

Volunteer applications opened up a few weeks ago for our teen summer reading volunteers, who hand out coupons and free books to kids. We've had about 50 sign up so far.

Minecraft Club

Thursday, June 6, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Ages 6 - 11. Have fun playing Minecraft and interacting with peers. Build in Minecraft based on a new challenge each session! Minecraft Club does not include instructions on how to play or a shared server. Bring a device to play on or borrow one of ours. Please note that while it is possible to play on a public server at Minecraft Club, library staff recommend players create their own world to play in on their devices to maximize online safety.

Summer Reading Kick-off

Saturday, June 8, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Celebrate the beginning of summer at this all-ages event! Enjoy animals from Havens Petting Farm, shaved ice from the Kona Ice truck, a scavenger hunt, crafts 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 Times

June 10 – August 2

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 (through August 22)

Crafternoon: Camping

Monday, June 10, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Drop in and get creative with different art projects each week. Ages 4 - 10. No registration.

Tween Craft: Make Your Own Stamp

Wednesday, June 12, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Tweens are invited to come and make their own stamps out of potatoes, and decorate a canvas bag and paper with a DIY design! Explore patterns and colors. Try sharing designs with fellow participants. Ages 8-11. Registration is required.

Pokémon Club

Thursday, June 13, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

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. Ages 6-11. No registration.

Taylor Swift Dance Party

Friday, June 14, 2:00 – 2:45 pm

Are you ready for it? Come shake it off with fellow Swifties as we dance and sing through the eras. Bring your besties and come party in style! Ages 3-11. *Already at an early school visit, two students asked if Taylor Swift would be at this event (the answer is no.)*

Read to a Dog

Saturday, June 15, 10:00 – 12:00 pm and Wednesday, June 19, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Ages 5 and up. Grab your favorite book and read to a furry friend. Independent readers can sign up for a 15-minute spot to read to a registered therapy animal. Families may share a time slot. Please come early (especially if you're picking out a book to read), as time slots are short. Check-in at the Children's Desk.

Lunch Bunch

Monday, June 17, 12:00 – 12:30 pm

Bring your lunch to the library and listen to a chapter book read aloud while you eat. A small snack will be provided. Geared toward ages 5-9.

Read It & Eat: Sisterhood of Sleuths

Monday, June 17, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Discuss the book *Sisterhood of Sleuths*, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the book. Ages 8 - 11. Pick up a copy of the book at the children's desk to read in advance.

Toddler Art and Play

Tuesday, June 18, 10:00 – 11:00 am

Join us at the library for messy process art and sensory play! Wear clothes that can get messy and drop in for some fun toddler activities. Ages 1-3.

Early Reader Book Club

Tuesday, June 18, 4:30 – 5:00 pm

For children ages 5-7. Library staff will read aloud longer books, lead a discussion about them, and we'll do a fun activity together. No pre-reading required.

Parent/Child Book Club: Framed!

Thursday, June 20, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Share the love of reading! This book club is for kids ages 8-11 and their parents/caregivers. We will discuss the novel *Framed!* by James Ponti plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the book. Books will be available for check out approximately one month prior to the event. Stop by the youth services desk to request one. Registration begins 5/23.

Family Story Time

Saturday, June 22, 9:30 – 10:00 am

Join us for a Family Story Time, once a month, with books, songs, and rhymes. For ages 0 - 5. No registration.

Teen Events:

Teen Gaming

Tuesday, April 23, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Snack on pizza and more! Face off on the Nintendo Switch or SNES, try a board game, or bring your own device. *Comments: Teens were really excited about the Pizza Pizazz – which can make fresh pizza on the spot!*

Attendees: 8

Badger Ridge Middle School Career Fair

Wednesday, May 24, 1:45 – 3:30 pm

Students at BRMS had the opportunity to hear about what a Youth Services Librarian at a public library entails. *Comments: Students had thoughtful questions about censorship and whether VPL has received challenges – and what we've done in those situations.*

Attendees: 60

Badger Ridge Middle School Library Introduction Lockbox Activity

Wednesday, May 1, 8:45 – 12:45 pm

Students at Badger Ridge Middle School received an introduction to Verona Public Library services and collections via a game where they solved clues and opened locks. *Comments: Students broke into teams and found color-coded clues hidden throughout the library. Even groups who had showed little interest in doing a library activity initially became engaged with the scavenger hunt aspect.*

Attendees: 77

Free Comic Book Day Teens

Saturday, May 6, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Teens had the opportunity to pick out free comics for their home collections.

Attendees: 91

VAHS Makerspace Visit

Students at Verona Area High School scoured recycled books for good button material. They also designed and drew their own buttons. *Comments: Students loved being able to complete the entire process of making a button themselves. A few students who had signed up for library time but had little interest in the activity asked to make buttons after seeing how much fun fellow students were having.*

Tuesday, May 14, attendees: 9

Wednesday, May 15, attendees: 14

Japanese Marbling

Wednesday, May 15, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Teens tried the art of Suminagashi – floating ink on water and transferring it onto rice paper to make swirling, one-of-a-kind works of art. *Comments: Teens socialized in groups while playing with this art form. While some were able to get the technique right away, others were excited with each new print they made which had improved!*

Attendees: 18

Badger Ridge Middle School Make'n'munch

Thursday, May 16, 11:00 – 1:15 pm

Students at Badger Ridge Middle School created air dry clay creatures, plants, pots, and more. *Comments: It's so fun to play with this material that even when kids fail the first time and need to start over, they enjoy the entire process.*

Attendees: 14

Teen Time for All Abilities

Sunday, April 14, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

This event was for teens and young adults with additional needs or learning disabilities, accompanied by caregivers and siblings. *Comments: Participants chatted about summer plans and challenges at school while feeling different -- while building wooden plank structures, and creating with clay.*

Attendees: 2

Badger Ridge Middle School Summer Reading Promotion Visit

Wednesday, May 29, 11 – 1:15 pm

Attendees: 197

Upcoming Teen Events:

Crafty Tuesday

Tuesdays, June 11, July 9, August 6, 4:00 pm

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

Teen Craft: DIY Stamping

Wednesday, June 12, 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Make your own stamps, and decorate a canvas bag and paper with your new designs! Explore patterns and colors using fabric paints, cookie cutters, and potatoes!

K-Drama Night

Friday, June 14, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Shenanigans and awkward moments of miscommunication. Not-so-subtle product placement. Fun romance and absurdity in equal measure! Celebrate on-screen Korean culture with other Hallyu fans.

Teen Gaming & Pizza

Tuesday, June 18, 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Snack on pizza and more! Face off on the Nintendo Switch or SNES, try a board game, or bring your own device.

Fantastical Mapmaking

Thursday, June 20, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Love studying a good map at the beginning of a book? Create mountains, rivers, and cities! What could happen to adventurers in these lands? Unleash your creativity and make your own fantasy world map!

Teen Outdoor Movie

Friday, June 21, 8:45 – 10:45 pm

Snack on some popcorn while you watch *Nimona* on a big screen in our parking lot theater! Bring a camp chair (we'll have some available), and dress for the weather. If it rains, we'll move the event indoors.

Teen Graphics & Grub

Monday, June 24, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Discuss a graphic novel while eating snacks and doing activities related to the book! We'll be reading *Last Pick*, by Jason Walz. Pick up a copy of the book at the children's desk to read in advance.

Teen Snack: Pancake Art

Tuesday, June 25, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Turn your plate into a canvas and touch up your griddle skills. Combine custom-design pancakes and other foods to create artwork!

Lawn Games & Frozen Treats

Thursday, June 27, 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Play lawn games behind the library with other teens, weather permitting. Enjoy a cool treat and face off in cornhole, ladder toss, Spikeball, giant Jenga, etc. Don't forget your sunscreen!

Adult Classes & Events:

Distance Learning English Classes for Adults

Mondays 6:00 - 7:30 pm & Tuesdays 6:00 - 8:00 pm, January 22 – April 30

April 22, attendees: 9

April 23, attendees: 6

April 30, attendees: 7

Library Yarns Craft Group

First and Third Tuesdays, 11:30 - 1:00 pm & Wednesdays, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Fiber art enthusiasts gathered to learn new techniques, exchange ideas, or find inspiration for their next project.

April 24, attendees: 15

May 15, attendees: 7

May 1, attendees: 12

May 22, attendees: 10

May 8, attendees: 13

Accessing Library Resources

Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Want to learn how to place books on hold, access Libby or use our library databases? This informative presentation will cover all three topics, with time allotted for Q & A.

Attendees: 1

Adult Crafternoon

Friday, April 26, 4:00 - 5:45 pm

Come in and craft with us! We will be making cross-stitch bookmarks - no experience is necessary.

Attendees: 14

Verona Aspiring Writers Group

Thursday, May 2, 7:00 - 8:00 pm; Monday, May 13, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

This group is to offer constructive feedback 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!

May 2, attendees: 10

May 13, attendees: 11

The Buzz About Cicadas – A Zoom Lecture

Wednesday, May 15, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

The big emergence of periodical cicadas is nearly here in Wisconsin! Bring a brown bag lunch, or just stop into the Community Room to learn about the biology and life cycle of these fascinating insects and their role in the ecosystem. We'll also take a look at when and where to expect cicada activity in the state and what it could mean for your own yard. Presented by: PJ Liesch, Director, UW Insect Diagnostic Lab

Attendees: 2

Long Term Care Options for Seniors

Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Please join us to learn more about the Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long-Term Care (BOALTC). The purpose of this agency is to help seniors understand their options regarding aging, long-term care, Medicare, and prescription drug coverage. The presenters will give an overview of the services this agency provides. To learn more about BOALTC, please feel free to visit their website

at <https://longtermcare.wi.gov/Pages/Home.aspx>

Attendees: 12

Being in the Moment & Diminishing Anxiety

Thursday, May 16, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

What if we approached our anxious thoughts differently? Join Joey Donovan Guido, author of the book, *GUTS: Getting Under The Surface to Prevent Burnout, Reduce Stress & Boost Resilience*, and host of the GUTS podcast, as he facilitates a thought-provoking conversation that focuses on improving mental health by digging into the connection between mindfulness, meditation, self-care and relationships — including the relationship you have with yourself.

Attendees: 14

Movie Screening of *Cyrano*

Saturday, May 18, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Come and enjoy a movie at the library! This month we will watch *Cyrano* (the 2021 version), the classic and entertaining tale of brains vs looks and what makes people fall in love. Popcorn provided!

Attendees: 3

A Taste of Mystery Bookclub

Monday, May 20, 10:00 - 11:00 am

In this book club for mystery enthusiasts, we read the first book in a series by a variety of mystery authors and then discuss over coffee, fruit and pastries. Books will be available for checkout both at the meetings and behind the circulation desk during the month they are featured.

Attendees: 6

Wisconsin's Gangster Past **CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER**

Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Join us as author and speaker Chad Lewis recounts the many Wisconsin connections to gangster history, including hideouts, murder, mayhem and even vacations. Zoot suits optional! Presenter plans to reschedule the program.

Helping Our Pets to Live Longer, Healthier Lives

Wednesday, May 22, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Join Dr. Miranda Braithwaite, owner of SagePet Mobile Veterinary Care as she explains how to keep our pets happy and healthy as they age.

Attendees: 6

Livestream: Poetry and the Natural World with U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limon

Thursday, May 23, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

WATCH PARTY! Hosted by Wisconsin Farmers Union and the Verona Public Library. Poetry and the Natural World is a special event with readings by United States Poet Laureate Ada Limón. Held at the Overture Center for the Arts in Madison, Wisconsin, this event focuses on the connections between nature, the changing environment, and poetry. Through Limón's work, the Academy will bring people together to explore these themes and the intersection of the letters and sciences.

Attendees: 14

Afro-Colombian Music Showcase with Angela Puerta

Tuesday, May 28, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Join Angela Puerta and her vibrant 4-piece Latin band for a fun and educational musical experience. Learn about Afro-Colombian rhythms like Cumbia, Bambuco, and Vallenato, and develop a profound appreciation for cultural diversity. Puerta's performances act as a bridge between tropical Latin American rhythms and the familiar beats of American rock and pop. She encourages the audience to dance and sing in both English and Spanish, creating an interactive and lively atmosphere.

Attendees: 64

Upcoming Adult Classes & Events

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.

Distance Learning English Classes for Adults

Mondays 6:00 - 7:30 pm, Beginner, Beginner, June 3 – August 13

Tuesdays 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Intermediate, Intermediate, May 28 – August 13

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.

Senior Case Management Outreach

Second Monday of each month, drop in between 2:00 - 3:00 pm

A case manager from the Verona Senior Center will answer questions and provide resources for older adults and their caregivers. Information on Medicare/Medicaid, nutrition, housing, assistance in the home, and resources in Verona and Dane County will be available.

A Taste of Mystery Bookclub

Third Monday of each month. 10:00 - 11:00 am

In this book club for mystery enthusiasts, we read the first book in a series by a variety of mystery authors and then discuss over coffee, fruit and pastries. Books will be available for checkout both at the meetings and behind the circulation desk during the month they are featured.

Author Visit – Peggy Joque Williams

Wednesday, May 29, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Meet the (Wisconsin-based) author of the new historical fiction book *Courting the Sun*, and listen to her discuss this well-researched and captivating tale. Books will be available for sale and signing! This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Verona Public Library.

Psychedelics and Mental Health

Thursday, May 30, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Dr. Wenthur's lab at UW-Madison is working on new approaches to improve mental healthcare and mental wellness through better understanding of how psychedelics and other psychoactive drugs can be used alongside therapy. This approach has the potential to address the staggeringly high rates of depression, anxiety, overdose, and suicide that exist in Wisconsin and across the globe, and has the potential to change how we manage access to mental healthcare and address widespread health disparities. Come and learn as he details what has been discovered.

Verona Aspiring Writers Group

Thursday, June 3 & Monday, June 17, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

This group is to offer constructive feedback 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! The first meeting will be for introduction and planning purposes; after this we will meet regularly and share our creations with one another for input. Limit 15 participants.

Adult Event: Screening of Netflix's Damsel Starring Millie Bobby Brown

Sunday, June 2, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Come and enjoy a screening of Netflix's *Damsel*, starring Millie Bobby Brown! Set in medieval times, a young woman marries a prince, fights a dragon and rescues herself in this dark but atmospheric take on a fairy tale. Popcorn will be provided!

Adulting 101: Health and Wellness with Dr. Traese Kuhl of rootsMD

Tuesday, June 4, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Join us as we kick off our TDS-sponsored "Adulting 101" series of talks from local experts on topics related to thriving in young adulthood. In this talk, Dr. Traese Kuhl of Verona's rootsMD will present tips and advice on how to stay healthy including information on how often you should be checking in with your provider, dealing with stress, sleep hygiene, nutrition and more! Light refreshments will be provided.

Growing Tomatoes in Wisconsin

Thursday, June 6, 6:45 - 7:45 pm

Master gardener Valerie Kozel will present tips and tricks for successfully growing tomatoes in Wisconsin.

Blood Pressure Screening with Fitch-Rona EMS

Thursday, June 13, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Drop in between 10:00 - 11:00 am and Fitch-Rona EMS will check your blood pressure free of charge.

Antiques and Collectible Appraisal Event

Saturday, June 15, 10:00 - 1:00 pm

Verona Public Library presents an antique and collectibles appraisal event featuring author and antiques expert, Mark F. Moran. Bring your antique/collectible item to see what, if any, historical or monetary value they may have. Moran was a guest expert on the PBS program, *Antiques Roadshow*, for nine seasons and is the author or co-author of more than 25 books on antiques and collectibles. Reservations are required. Please call the Reference Desk at 608-845-7180 #2 to reserve your slot and for information on included and excluded items.

Container Gardening Tips and Tricks from a Master Gardener

Tuesday, June 18, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Want container gardens that go the distance this summer and look beautiful while doing it? Join us for a presentation from Master Gardener and UW Extension Volunteer Mary Collet and learn how!

The Armchair Tourist: Paris's Latin Quarter

Wednesday, June 19, 6:45 - 7:45 pm

Paris will be hot and more crowded than ever with the Olympics this summer, but you can participate in a tour of one of its most interesting areas from the comfort of the Community Room! This event features an informative, narrated video tour of Paris's Latin Quarter, which you can take in while you enjoy chocolate croissants and iced café au lait!

Tea Tasting Party

Thursday, June 20, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Learn about tea from Erin Ulrich of Mount Horeb's fabulous tea shop, [Telsaan](#). She will provide some tea samples to try, and VPL will provide a "full tea" of treats, both sweet and savory, to feast on! Registration required. Class size is limited to 30 participants.

Adult Crafternoon – Tiny Ombré Flower Pots

Friday, June 21, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Adults need arts and crafts too! This month: ombré paint a tiny flower pot! Registration required. Class size is limited to 20 participants.

VPL Cookbook Club Informational Session

Wednesday, June 26, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Do you love to cook and try new recipes? Come get in on the ground floor of a brand new Cookbook Club which will take place monthly at the library! This brief event is for laying some informational groundwork. Moving forward, we will get into cooking themed recipes, bringing them to meetings to enjoy potluck-style and reviewing the recipe and/or the cookbook in which it was found. Hope to see you there, but if you can't make it, feel free to email Maureen Hilquist mhilquist@veronapubliclibrary.org for a recap of what was discussed!

Summer Salad and Dessert with Chef Laura Eyler

Friday, June 28, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Get your picnic baskets ready! Chef Laura Eyler of Thyme Savor Cuisine will demonstrate how to make a summer pasta salad and a delicious berry trifle, which the audience can then enjoy. Registration required. Class size is limited to 20 participants.

Exhibits

Verona Area Educational Foundation Student Banner Display

May 6 – 31

Enjoy the extraordinary submissions to Verona's 2024 Banner Art Contest, now on display at the Verona Public Library. Students from around the Verona area have created art depicting their favorite things to do in the Verona area. Following their display at the library, winning banners will hang along Verona's Main St, for the remainder of 2024!

Coordinated by Verona Area Education Foundation in partnership with the City of Verona and Verona Area School District. Sponsored by Verona Area Chamber of Commerce, Ice Age Trail Alliance, Northpointe Development, Steve Brown Apartments and anonymous donors.

Outreach Events

Outreach story times:

Total daycare story time presentations this month: 12

Four Winds Book Group

Tuesday, April 23, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The residents discussed *The Lost Apothecary* by Sarah Penner. *Comments: A new resident checked out the discussion and decided to join the book group.*

Attendees: 6

Noel Manor Book Group

Wednesday, April 24 and Wednesday, May 22, 10:30 – 11:30 am

The group read *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate and *Spare* by Prince Harry. *Comments: "The book ruined my life for three weeks because I stayed up late every night reading it because I couldn't put it down!"*

Attendees: 6, 6

Prairie Oaks Book Group

Thursday, April 25 and Thursday, May 23, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

The group met to discuss *Our Last Days in Barcelona* by Chanel Cleeton and *Sold on a Monday* by Kristina McMorris.

Attendees: 1, 4

Books 'n Booze at Stone Porch Alehouse

Thursday, April 25, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

The group discussed *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds. *Comments: "I never would have chosen this book to read myself, but I'm glad I read it."*

Attendees: 17

Senior Center Book Group

Wednesday, May 8, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The group discussed *Good Night, Irene* by Luis Alberto Urrea.

Attendees: 18

Charter Senior Living Book Group

Tuesday, May 14, 2:30 – 3:30 pm

Vikki led this book group for the first time and got to know the reading interests of some of the residents interested in joining the group.

Attendees: 11

Book Bike at the Verona Bike Safety Rodeo

Saturday, May 18, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

The book bike went out for the first time this season to the Verona Bike Safety Rodeo.

Attendees: 14

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

Monday, May 20, 4:15 – 4:45 pm

Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at NC and VAIS. *Comments: "Ms. Marissa! Two hundred thousand thank you's for coming!"*

Attendees: 26

Upcoming Outreach Events

Books 'n Booze at Stone Porch Alehouse

Thursday, May 23, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

The group will be discussing *The Overnight Guest* by Heather Gudenkauf.

Four Winds Book Group

Tuesday, May 28, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The residents will meet to discuss *The Lager Queen of Minnesota* by J. Ryan Stradal.

Country View Reading Celebration

Tuesday, June 4, 8:30 – 9:30 am

Marissa will attend the Country View Reading Celebration to sign families up for the summer reading program.

Nakoma Kids Club Summer Reading Kickoff Party

Tuesday, June 4, 3:00 – 4:00 pm

A donut-themed kickoff for the students at Nakoma Heights to sign up for library cards, register for the summer reading program, and participate in crafts and activities.

Core Knowledge First Grade Field Trip

Wednesday, June 5, 9:30 – 10:30 am

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

Charter Senior Living Book Group

Tuesday, June 11, 2:30 – 3:30 pm

The group will be reading *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray for their first book discussion.

Senior Center Book Group

Wednesday, June 12, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The group will be reading *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder* by David Grann.

Noel Manor Book Group

Wednesday, June 26, 10:30 – 11:30 am

The group will be reading *The Heirloom Garden* by Viola Shipman.

Prairie Oaks Book Group

Thursday, June 27, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

The group will be reading *The Nature of Fragile Things* by Susan Meissner.