

**AGENDA**

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

**Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.  
Library Conference Room**

Call to order

- Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of 12/4/24
- Review and approval of the December 2024 and January 2025 invoices
- Public Comments
- City Council Liaison's report
- Library Director's report
- Old Business
  1. Discussion of library strategic planning
  2. Discussion of library by-laws
- New Business
  1. Discussion and possible action regarding 2024 and 2025 library director goals

## **VPL Board Meeting Minutes**

Library Board of Trustees-Verona Public Library 500 Silent Street Verona, WI 53593  
Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Burkart, Conwell, Hopp, Jones, Spencer, Braithwaite  
Absent: Frey, Fuller  
Guest: None

### **Call to order**

Hopp called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes and Invoices**

A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Conwell, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of 11/16/2024. Motion carried. Jones motioned, seconded by Fuller, to approve the November 2024 invoices. Motion carried.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **City Council Liaison Report**

Parks & Rec administrator. Possible support for plowing/snow support.

### **Library Director's Report**

Christmas tree up, donated by Summers. Wrap done on lactation pod. Needing November data.  
Report on in-service training.

### **Old Business**

#### *Discussion of library strategic planning*

Review alignment of drafted services goals, objectives, actions, and assessments. Edits to be sent for review before next meeting when discussion will take place.

### **New Business**

#### *Discussion of library by-laws*

Discussion of alignment of by-laws with current practices, new needs, and city ordinances. Focus on guidance surrounding open comment section in meetings.

#### *Discussion and possible action regarding the Public Computer and Electronic Device*

##### *Use policy*

A motion was made by Braithwaite, seconded by Fuller, to approve the policy with amendments. Motion carried.

#### *Discussion and possible action regarding the Dane County Library System Agreement for Extension of Library Service*

A motion was made by Conwell, seconded by Fuller, to approve the DCLS agreement. Motion carried.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Cronwell, seconded by Spencer to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. The next meeting will be held on January 8, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

Fueller next for minutes.

# Director's Report

## Verona Public Library

### December 2024

#### Circulation

Items Circulated	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	43,352	44,226	42,775	32,633	8,861
June	57,330	59,454	52,827	52,142	18,507
July	60,127	58,102	52,448	52,220	29,609
August	55,179	58,081	55,184	51,007	31,025
September	46,523	45,429	45,066	42,894	31,115
October	47,097	47,785	42,440	43,527	34,075
November	46,203	44,975	43,939	43,507	28,171
December	44,005	43,655	42,000	39,089	28,194
<b>Total</b>	<b>591,618</b>	<b>594,132</b>	<b>561,749</b>	<b>483,708</b>	<b>337,297</b>

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	124	142	140	71	18
June	262	290	344	179	33
July	217	218	239	160	58
August	195	212	206	129	57
September	136	141	141	105	51
October	187	170	150	99	50
November	148	119	144	64	18
December	117	128	122	87	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,072</b>	<b>1,423</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>744</b>

<b>Holds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
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	12,364	13,483	11,820	14,236	10,869
June	13,958	13,854	11,984	13,328	13,616
July	14,280	14,445	11,735	11,621	15,910
August	12,759	13,607	13,389	13,510	15,672
September	13,527	13,587	12,506	13,252	16,166
October	12,639	12,645	11,924	13,304	16,502
November	13,020	12,971	12,888	12,679	16,108
December	11,760	11,054	10,313	11,069	14,567
<b>Total</b>	<b>159,001</b>	<b>119,516</b>	<b>148,291</b>	<b>172,280</b>	<b>159,229</b>

## Reference

### Reference Statistics, December 2024

Computer Lab Use: 769

Test Proctoring: 15 exams

Outer Library Loans: 32 requests

Personal Archiving Lab Sessions: 6

<b>Library Visits</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
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	17,169	16,049	12,366	5,015	0
June	23,528	22,204	16,624	11,757	2,850
July	23,261	20,232	17,057	13,407	6,765
August	22,187	22,619	18,830	13,267	0
September	17,053	14,958	13,890	10,746	0
October	19,832	17,011	14,009	10,346	0
November	16,116	16,152	15,729	9,371	0
December	15,805	16,190	13,552	10,562	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>226,810</b>	<b>213,696</b>	<b>174,146</b>	<b>87,360</b>	<b>47,471</b>

Reference questions	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	1,995	2,031	1,117	1,085	116
June	2,638	2,487	2,183	2,200	846
July	2,144	2,058	1,691	2,365	2,431
August	2,242	2,331	2,075	1,847	2,039
September	1,490	1,837	1,341	1,543	2,521
October	1,804	1,840	1,566	581	2,045
November	1,340	1,836	1,628	458	1,060
December	1,431	1,835	1,356	721	1,092
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,394</b>	<b>23,259</b>	<b>18,655</b>	<b>14,840</b>	<b>18,932</b>

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	551	509	328	-	-
June	519	422	314	-	-
July	490	423	316	-	-
August	499	538	411	-	-
September	521	172	327	-	-
October	676	512	398	-	-
November	634	528	453	-	-
December	591	495	396	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,941</b>	<b>5,590</b>	<b>5,912</b>	<b>2,021</b>	<b>3,487</b>

## Collection Management

Number of items added and deleted in December 2024:

Item Type	Added	Deleted
Books	779	543
Audio	42	0
Software	11	0
Video/DVD	33	13
Other (kits, etc.)	4	0
Magazines	108	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>564</b>
<b>YTD</b>	<b>12,027</b>	<b>13,185</b>

## Personnel and Staff Development

Izzy Marini put in her notice of resignation as Reference Assistant on November 25 with a last day of work on December 6. Stacey and Tonja are working on filling this open position.

Amy attended the Ryan Dowd webinar “Managing Your Emotions During Conflict.”

Julie attended the virtual WLA Performer’s Showcase.

Chelsea Seagle finished her 120-hour practicum at the reference desk on November 27.

Maureen went to Summers Tree Farm with Public Works to pick up the donated Christmas tree. Connie and Mark once again did a beautiful job decorating the Christmas tree and we’ve received many compliments on it.

Maureen attended the Ryan Dowd training, *Managing Your Emotions During Conflict*.

Tonja attended the following webinars, *Hot Takes: Adult Services* from ALA; Ryan Dowd, *Mental Illness Short Course: High and Low Risk Situations*.

## Equipment and Physical Facilities

In November we set up the two new kids’ AWE computers with educational games that were purchased with 2025 Epic funds. They include over 100 games for pre-K and school-age kids, including some games in Spanish.

## Administration and Internal Operations

Work continues on the library strategic plan.

## Marketing and Public Relations

This month Abby created 35 event graphics (website, Facebook, TV) with accompanying bookmarks, flyers, and signs.

### ***Featured Statistics shared on social media and website:***

**Sorter:** “Have you returned any books at the library lately? You might have noticed the new sorter machine. The old sorter earned its retirement after checking in over 7.5 million items!”

**Collection Size:** “Did you know the Verona Public Library has over 120,000 books and other materials in our collection? With your free library card, you also have access to all the books in the other 53 libraries in the South Central Library System.”

Izzy added a display focusing on *Cozy Crafts*. Maureen created *Booked for the Holidays* display featuring holiday themed books. Tonja added a display, *How to Winter the Nordic Way* featuring Scandinavian lifestyle and history. Circulation staff created a display featuring winter themed books and *New Year Joy*.

### **Social media engagement:**

Facebook: 5,306 followers, 60 posts/events

Instagram: 1,731 followers, 6 posts/reel/story

## Library System and Interagency Cooperation

Tonja attended the South Central Library System SW Regional Equity Team meeting via Zoom on December 17.

Leah collaborated with the school librarian at Badger Ridge Middle School to host lunch programming.

Theresa attended the virtual ILS Vendor Evaluation Lead Workgroup meeting on December 4. We are still trying to come up with a viable option for a site visit for Blue Cloud (SirsiDynix). All the ILS Evaluation topic workgroups are meeting in November and December. ILS Staff will be using these meetings to determine where people are at with the ILS Evaluation. Then they will work on preliminary reports based on functionality. These would go to the lead group for review and then costs would be assessed as part of the final recommendation.

Theresa attended the Cataloging workgroup meeting on December 13.

## Fundraising

The end-of-year library endowment giving letter was mailed out to past donors in the beginning of December. The library received \$6920 in direct donations in December and raised \$29,065 in total for the endowment fund in 2024.

## Exhibits

No upcoming exhibits this month

## Library Events and Programs

### Kids' Events

#### **1000 Books before Kindergarten**

4 kids were registered this month, bringing the total number of registrants to 2724.

#### **Late Fall Story Time**

November 4 – December 13

Baby Story Time: 8 story times, attendees: 233, average: 29

Toddler Story Time: 12 story times, attendees: 567, average: 47

Preschool Story Time: 12 story times, attendees: 352, average: 29

Sensory Story Time: 9 story times (10/3 – 12/19), attendees: 228, average: 25

Everybody Story Time: 5 story times, attendees: 209, average: 42

Total: 46 story times, 1,589 attendees

#### **Favorite Books and Bites: The Forgotten Five**

Monday, November 25, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Ages 8 - 11. Discuss the *Forgotten Five* series, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the books. Pick up a copy of the first book of the series, *Map of Flames* by Lisa McMann at the children's desk to read in advance, or if you're already a fan, just sign up and join us. *After one 10-year-boy read the first book of this series, he loved it so much he read the other three books in the series right away.*

Attendees: 6

**Child Development Story Time: Things That Go**

Tuesday, November 26, 10:30 - 11:00 am

Ages 2-5. 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: 65

**Squishmallow Paint Party**

Tuesday, November 26, 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Ages 6-11. Registration required. Join us to paint your own Squishmallow art! Paint an adorable pre-drawn Squishmallow character or design one of your own. Give it a color scheme, detail, and a unique name, then take it home and hang it on your wall!

Attendees: 32

**Family Story Time**

Saturday, November 30, 9:30 - 10:00 am

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

Attendees: 30

**Music & Movement Story Time**

Tuesday, December 3, 10:30 - 11:00 am

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

Attendees: 69

**Parent/Child Book Club: Always, Clementine**

Tuesday, December 3, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration required. In December, Parent/Child Book Club will discuss the novel *Always, Clementine* by Carlie Sorosiak.

Attendees: 2

**Graham Cracker House Decorating**

Wednesday, December 4, 3:30 and 5:00 pm

Ages 6-11. Registration required. Let's get creative and enjoy a sweet treat by designing and decorating graham cracker houses. Each participant will get enough graham crackers to create a small house, and frosting and candy to decorate.

Attendees: 45, 42

**Read to a Dog**

Wednesday, December 4, 5:00 - 6:30 pm

Ages 5 and up. Grab your favorite book and read to a furry friend.

Attendees: 13

**Minecraft Club**

Thursday, December 5, 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.  
Attendees: 20

### **Young and the Restless**

Friday, December 6, 9:30 - 10:30 am

Ages 1-4. Get your wiggles out! Young and the Restless open indoor play time is an opportunity for kids to be active, develop motor skills, and make new friends. Geared to ages 1-4 and their caregivers. Drop in any time; no registration.

Attendees: 47

### **Read to a Dog**

Friday, December 6, 4:00 - 5:30 and Saturday, December 7, 1:30 - 3:00

Ages 5 and up. Grab your favorite book and read to a furry friend.

Attendees: 9, 11

### **Graphic Novel Book Club**

Tuesday, December 10, 5:00 - 5:45 pm

For ages 8 - 11. Registration required. Join us as we discuss the graphic novel *The First Cat in Space Ate Pizza* by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Shawn Harris, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the book. Books will be available for checkout approximately one month before the discussion. Stop by the youth services desk to request one.

Attendees: 6

### **Swiftie Bingo and Bracelets**

Wednesday, December 11, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Ages 6-11. Registration required. Join fellow Swifties to make bracelets, play Taylor-themed Bingo, and listen to her biggest hits! Bingo will begin around 6:20 pm.

Attendees: 52

### **Pokémon Club**

Thursday, December 12, 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: 16

### **Family Story Time**

Saturday, December 14, 9:30 - 10:00 am

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

Attendees: 7

### **Book Blasters**

Monday, December 16, 3:30 - 4:15 pm

Ages 5-7. Library staff will read aloud longer books, lead a discussion about them, and we'll do a fun craft together.

Attendees: 2

**Toddler Art and Play**

Tuesday, December 17, 9:30 am

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: 57

**Favorite Books & Bites: Mr. Lemoncello's Library**

Tuesday, December 17, 4 pm

Ages 8 - 11. Discuss the Mr. Lemoncello's Library series, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the books. Pick up a copy of the first book of the series, *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein at the children's desk to read in advance, or if you're already a fan, just sign up and join us.

Attendees: 6

**Olaf Story Time**

Wednesday, December 18, 6:30 pm

Ages 2-6. Join us for stories and songs about everyone's favorite snowman Olaf! Designed for ages 2-6.

No registration.

Attendees: 81

**Young and the Restless**

Friday, December 20, 9:30 - 10:30 am

Ages 1-4. Get your wiggles out! Young and the Restless open indoor play time is an opportunity for kids to be active, develop motor skills, and make new friends. Geared to ages 1-4 and their caregivers. Drop in any time; no registration.

Attendees: 42

**Read to a Dog**

Friday, December 20, 4:00 - 5:30 and Saturday, December 21, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Ages 5 and up. Grab your favorite book and read to a furry friend.

Attendees: 7, 10

**Paint a Snow Creature**

Thursday, December 26, 4:00 pm

Ages 6-11. Registration required. Paint a picture of your very own snow creature. Bring your imagination and be ready to make mistakes and get messy. Painting instruction not included.

Attendees: 30

**Winter Crafternoon**

Friday, December 27, 1:00 pm

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

Attendees: 81

**Noon Year's Eve Party**

Tuesday, December 31, 11:00am

All ages. Celebrate the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025 with dancing, activities, and refreshments! Throughout the library. No registration.

Attendees: 576

## **Upcoming Kids' Events**

### **Winter Story Time**

January 13 – March 7

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

### **Minecraft Club**

Thursday, January 2, 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.

### **Young and the Restless**

Friday, January 3, 9:30 - 10:30 am

Ages 1-4. Get your wiggles out! Young and the Restless open indoor play time is an opportunity for kids to be active, develop motor skills, and make new friends. Geared to ages 1-4 and their caregivers. Drop in any time; no registration.

### **Music & Movement Story Time**

Tuesday, January 7, 10:30 - 11:00 am

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

### **Parent/Child Book Club: Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All**

Tuesday, January 7, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration required. In January, Parent/Child Book Club will discuss the novel *Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All* by Chanel Miller.

### **Pajama Story Time**

Wednesday, January 8, 6:30 - 7:00 pm

Ages 2-6. Wear your pajamas, bring a stuffie, and join us for bedtime-themed stories and songs! No registration.

### **Pokémon Club**

Thursday, January 9, 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.

### **Read to a Dog**

Friday, January 10, 4:00 - 5:30 and Saturday, January 11, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

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

**Favorite Books & Bites: Out Of My Mind**

Monday, January 13, 4:00 pm

Ages 8 - 11. Registration required. Discuss the Out Of My Mind series, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the books. Pick up a copy of the first book of the series, *Out Of My Mind* by Sharon Draper at the children's desk to read in advance, or if you're already a fan, just sign up and join us.

**Child Development Story Time: Emotions**

Tuesday, January 14, 10:30 - 11:00 am

Ages 2-5. 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.

**Cozy Crafts**

Tuesday, January 14, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

For ages 6-11. Registration required. Join us at the library for cozy crafts! Staff will provide a few craft projects to work on and hot chocolate to sip on.

**Family Fort Night**

Wednesday, January 15, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

All ages. Join us for Family Fort Night! Come set up a fort in the children's area and crawl in for an evening of reading together. Some sheets and clips will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own sheets or lightweight blankets for building your fort. No registration.

**Tween Craft: Superhero Snowflakes**

Thursday, January 16, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

For ages 8-11. Registration required. Cold days are the best time to take your scissor skills to the next level by cutting SUPERHERO snowflakes at the library! Staff will provide paper and templates for participants to cut their own superhero snowflakes.

**Young and the Restless**

Friday, January 17, 9:30 - 10:30 am

Ages 1-4. Get your wiggles out! Young and the Restless open indoor play time is an opportunity for kids to be active, develop motor skills, and make new friends. Geared to ages 1-4 and their caregivers. Drop in any time; no registration.

**Read to a Dog**

Friday, January 18, 10:00 am -12:00 pm

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

**Morning and Afternoon Winter Tea Party**

Tuesday, January 21, 10:30 am and 4:00 pm

For ages 4-8 and their grown-ups. Registration required. Join us for a winter themed tea party at the library. Come as you are or dress up fancy- we'll have fun with music and treats either way! Staff will read a book or two, and provide a simple craft along with snacks.

### **Family Story Time**

Saturday, January 25, 9:30 - 10:00 am

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

### **Graphic Novel Party: Wings of Fire**

Monday, January 27, 4:30 - 5:30 pm

For ages 8-11. Registration required. Join us at the library for a celebration of the graphic novel series Wings of Fire! We will have activity stations with crafts, snacks, and trivia.

### **Read to a Dog**

Wednesday, January 29, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

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

### **Young and the Restless**

Friday, January 31, 9:30 - 10:30 am

Ages 1-4. Get your wiggles out! Young and the Restless open indoor play time is an opportunity for kids to be active, develop motor skills, and make new friends. Geared to ages 1-4 and their caregivers. Drop in any time; no registration.

## **Teen Events**

### **Crafty Tuesday**

Tuesday, November 5, 4:00 pm

Stop by Teen Central for DIY projects. Create throughout the week, as supplies last. *Comments: Teens built three dimensional wooden puzzles of different creatures.*

Attendees: 15

### **Crafty Tuesday**

Tuesday, December 3, 4:00 pm

Stop by Teen Central for DIY projects. Create throughout the week, as supplies last. *Comments: Teens used paint pens and Sharpies to decorate circular canvas magnets!*

Attendees: 16

### **Eat Your Words**

Monday, December 9, 5:30 - 7:00pm

Enjoy breakfast-for-dinner! Create pancake art and play storytelling games in a relaxed group setting. Eat your words – without judgement – in this writing workshop for teens! *Comments: Teens made colorful pancakes and ate their creations while writing short stories based on simple word prompts.*

Attendees: 4

### **Cookies & Happy Trees**

Tuesday, December 17, 6:30 - 8:00pm

Frost sugar cookies and turn a dreary night cheery by creating a mini tree with happy lights and decorations! *Comments: Teens relaxed and chatted while creating and decorating miniature evergreens. One teen who came late was very reluctant to attend. By the end she was not ready to leave, still invested in her creation. She proudly showed it to her parents!*

Attendees: 14

### **BRMS Make'n'munch**

Thursday, December 19, 11:00 - 1:15 pm

Students at Badger Ridge Middle School who have signed up for library during lunch can enjoy some crafting time. *Comments: Teens spent their lunch sorting through colorful scrapbook paper and recycled books, creating custom pinback buttons. Many made some as gifts for family members and friends!*

Attendees: 22

### **Teen Gaming & Pizza**

Thursday, December 26, 12:00 - 1:30 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 played video games, board games, and tried out some new wooden puzzles. The Mac & Cheese pizza was a favorite.*

Attendees: 8

## **Upcoming Teen Events:**

### **Crafty Tuesday**

Tuesday, January 7, 4:00 pm

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

### **Eat Your Words**

Monday, January 13, 5:30 – 7:00pm

Enjoy breakfast-for-dinner! Create pancake art and play storytelling games in a relaxed group setting. Eat your words – without judgement – in this writing workshop for teens!

### **BRMS Make'n'munch**

Thursday, January 16, 11:00 - 1:15 pm

Students at Badger Ridge Middle School who have signed up for library during lunch can enjoy some crafting time.

### **Teen Among Us IRL**

Friday, January 17, 7:30 - 9:30 pm

If you dare, come to the library after-hours for a dark, live-action game of Among Us. Someone is taking out browsers in the stacks. Find the imposter before it's too late! Costumes and ridiculous hats encouraged.

### **Teen Gaming & Pizza**

Thursday, January 23, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

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

## **Adult Events**

### **Distance Learning English Classes for Adults**

Mondays 6:00 - 7:30 pm, Level: Beginner, September 16 – December 10, 2024

Tuesdays 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Level: Intermediate, September 17 – December 10, 2024

Beginner Class:

November 25, attendees: 10

December 2, attendees: 12

December 10, attendees: 7 (in-person)

Intermediate Class:

November 26, attendees: 1

December 3, attendees: 2

December 17, attendees: 9 (rescheduled)

### **Drop-in Tech Help**

New at VPL! Struggling with your phone, tablet or laptop? Simply drop by the library on a Tuesday or Thursday between the hours of 9-11 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. \*Please bring your device and password information.

November 26, attendees: 0

December 3, attendees: 0

December 10, attendees: 0

December 17, attendees: 1

### **Library Yarns Craft Group**

First and Third Wednesdays, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Fiber art enthusiasts gathered to learn new techniques, exchange ideas, or find inspiration.

December 4, attendees: 8

December 11, attendees: 13

December 18, attendees: 8

### **Verona Aspiring Writers Group**

Monday, December 2, 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!

Attendees: 14

### **Meet with a HUD Housing Counselor**

Tuesday, December 3, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Thinking about buying a house? Movin' Out Housing Counselors **offer** help with developing a budget, setting your purchase goals, identifying funding assistance opportunities, advice throughout the home-buying process.

Attendees: 1

### **VASD Orchestra Winter Music Concert**

Thursday, December 5, 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Come and enjoy some festive sounds as soloists and small groups of Verona Area High School music students perform music for the season!

Attendees: 67

**VPL Cookbook Club – Holiday Cookie Swap**

Tuesday, December 10, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

To celebrate the holidays, this meeting will be a cookie swap! Make your favorite holiday cookies to exchange, and bring in the recipe to share and discuss. We will drink egg nog and hot cocoa while learning about one another's cookie-baking traditions! Once sign-ups have been completed, registrants will receive an email with additional instructions and how many cookies to bring. Hope you can join us for this festive evening!

Attendees: 16

**A Taste of Mystery Bookclub**

Monday, December 16, 10:00 - 11:00 am

In December, A Taste of Mystery Book Club will read and discuss the three short stories contained in *Christmas Sweets* by Joanne Fluke, Laura Levine, and Leslie Meier, as a nod to the holiday season. Get a "taste" of a mystery by reading the first book in a series each month. Enjoy pastries and coffee at our meetings as we discuss our book.

Attendees: 8

**UW Russian Folk Orchestra**

Monday, December 16, 6:45 - 7:45 pm

Join the UW Russian Folk Orchestra for an unforgettable evening of music. The UW Russian Folk Orchestra, is an official University of Wisconsin-sponsored ensemble specializing in live performances of Slavic and East-European music using authentic folk instruments such as balalaikas and domras.

*This event is sponsored by Beyond the Page, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Madison Community Foundation.*

Attendees: 106

**Smart Salt Use – CANCELLED BY PRESENTER DUE TO SNOW**

Thursday, December 19, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

This is an education/outreach event being put on by City staff and AECOM, the City of Verona's Engineering Consultant. Come learn about the environmental and economic costs of excessive salt use. See what your neighbors and City staff are doing to reduce excessive salt use in Verona while still promoting safe travel in the winter.

**Upcoming Adult 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.

**Library Yarns: Knit Along Cabled Pillow Cover**

Wednesday, January 29; February 5 and 19; March 5, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Join Library Yarns for a cable pillow cover knit along with traditional Aran cables. We welcome veteran cable knitters and new learners alike to share and learn new techniques among our Verona-area knitting community. Over four sessions, we will learn cable-knitting basics, including how to knit cables, how to read charts, and basic cable troubleshooting.



### **Distance Learning English Classes for Adults**

January 21 – May 3

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.

### **Verona Aspiring Writers Group**

Monday, December 30, 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. Registration required. Class size is limited to 15 participants.

### **Our Climate: The Science, Solutions and Community Possibilities**

Thursday, January 2, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Worried about climate change and wondering how you can have a positive impact on its progression? Join [Terra.do](#) Climate Fellow Whitney Bembenek, a Verona native, in this interactive presentation to explore what is happening in the earth's ecosystem, what solutions are happening locally and abroad, and to discuss what meaningful actions are possible.

### **Memory Café**

Tuesday, January 7, 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, with the primary goal of providing a safe space to interact without feeling embarrassed or misunderstood.

***No registration is required for this monthly event, so please just stop in!***

### **Inside the Roman Colosseum**

Thursday, January 9, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

The Colosseum is one of the New 7 Wonders of the World. Joe Fahey will take you through its 2,000-year history, including a tour of its recently opened hypogeum, the underground labyrinth which helped orchestrate the wild animal and gladiatorial spectacles.

**Author Event: Susan Apps-Bodilly & Jerry Apps**

Saturday, January 11, 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Long ago, huge trees filled the Northwoods. Then, in the mid-1800s came the logging boom, when millions of trees were cut to help build towns and cities. What was it like to live and work in the woods? How did giant logs get from the forests to the sawmills? What happened after the forests were cut down? The latest book for young readers from father-daughter duo Jerry Apps and Susan Apps-Bodilly explores this pivotal chapter in American history, its impacts on the Native people, westward expansion, early land restoration efforts. *Timber! A Northwoods Story of Lumberjacks, Logging, and the Land* will inspire readers to explore, protect, and learn about trees and forests in their own communities.

**Verona Aspiring Writers Group Session 1**

Monday, January 6 and January 27, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

This group welcomes writers of all genres. At meetings, we work on prompts and play games that encourage creativity in writing, discuss various aspects of writing, and learn about routes to publication. Outside of meetings, we take turns submitting and reading one another's writing for constructive feedback. Each session consists of four meetings, and registrants are asked to do their best to commit to attending all four. Writers can sign up for as many or as few sessions as they like throughout the year.

**Senior Case Management Outreach (Drop-In)**

Monday, January 13, 10:00 - 11:00 am

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. Stop in to talk and enjoy coffee and donuts. Contact a case manager at the Verona Senior Center at 608-845-7471 with questions.

**A Musical Performance by the Silver Morning Duo**

Monday, January 13, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Come and enjoy the beautiful combination of the guitar and the flute as this talented duo performs their music in the library.

**VPL Cookbook Club - Soup**

Tuesday, January 14, 6:30 - 8:00pm

For January, we will be making soup!

Join us as we explore cookbooks and recipes featuring a new theme each month. A selection of books will be on reserve at the circulation desk every month for you to check out, otherwise, feel free to use your own cookbook and let us know about it! Each participant will make a recipe and bring it to share and discuss.

**The Armchair Tourist: Cruising the Mediterranean**

Thursday, January 16, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Embark on a virtual cruise with Rick Steves as he takes us aboard a ship that stops in several Mediterranean ports. We will learn the dos and don'ts of time on a ship, how to save money on land excursions, what to pack and more, as well the pros and cons of a cruise vacation.

Enjoy orange ricotta cheesecake and lavender tea as you have a travel adventure from your seat!

**Self-Defense Workshop**

Saturday, January 18 and 25, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Chris Martingilio, of Martingilio Martial Arts in Verona will teach two self-defense workshops at the library (01/18 & 01/25). Participants will receive guidance regarding situational awareness, how best to avoid having to defend oneself and what to do if self-defense is required. This program is open to teens and adults, including college students home on break. Please register for both 2-hour workshops, and come in comfortable clothes.

**Jigsaw Puzzle Challenge**

Saturday, January 25, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Calling all puzzlers! Come to compete and have fun at Verona Library's Jigsaw Puzzle Challenge! Here are the details: Contestants must assemble their own teams of 3-5 people. Once a team is assembled, one representative will sign up for the team. Families are welcome, but there must be at least one person over 18 on each team. Space is limited to 6 teams. Each team will receive the same 500-piece puzzle in a sealed box. Winners are the first team to complete the puzzle or, if no one finishes in the 2 hours allotted, the team with the fewest pieces remaining will be declared the winners. Winners receive a prize and each team gets to keep the puzzle they worked on!

**A Taste of Mystery Book Club**

Monday, January 27, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Get a "taste" of a mystery by reading the first book in a series each month. Enjoy pastries and coffee at our meetings as we discuss our book. This month, we will read and discuss *Call for the Dead*, by John le Carre.

## 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. **880 patrons have accessed current and archived recordings.**

### **Exploring the Smithsonian National Gem Collection: A Virtual Presentation**

Wednesday, December 4, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Join us for an absolutely dazzling presentation with the emeritus curator of the Smithsonian's National Gem Collection, Dr. Jeffrey E. Post, as he talks about *The Smithsonian National Gem Collection Unearthed: Surprising Stories Behind the Jewels*.

Attendees: 13

### **Virtual Author Talk with Laura Dave**

Wednesday, December 11, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Join us for a captivating conversation with #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Last Thing He Told Me*, Laura Dave, as she chats with us online about her newest book, *The Night We Lost Him*. *The Night We Lost Him* focuses on estranged siblings who discover their father has been keeping a secret for over fifty years, one that may have been fatal...

Attendees: 6

### **Upcoming Virtual Talks**

#### **Virtual Author Talk with TJ Klune**

Wednesday, January 15, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Come have a magical moment with *New York Times* bestselling author TJ Klune as he chats about his *Cerulean Chronicles*, with special emphasis on his newest book in the series, *Somewhere Beyond the Sea*. *Somewhere Beyond the Sea*, is a story of resistance, lovingly told, about the daunting experience of fighting for the life you want to live and doing the work required to keep it.

#### **Virtual Author Talk with Amanda Montell**

Thursday, January 23, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Join us as we chat with the *New York Times* bestselling author, Amanda Montell about her newest book, *The Age of Magical Overthinking: Notes on Modern Irrationality*. "Magical thinking" can be broadly defined as the belief that one's internal thoughts can affect unrelated events in the external world: think of the conviction that one can manifest their way out of poverty, stave off cancer with positive vibes, thwart the apocalypse by learning to can their own peaches. In all its forms, magical thinking works in service of restoring agency amid chaos, but in *The Age of Magical Overthinking*, Montell argues that in the modern information age, our brain's coping mechanisms have been overloaded, and our irrationality turned up to an eleven.

## Outreach

### Outreach story times:

Total daycare story time presentations: 11

### Books 'n Booze at Stone Porch Alehouse

Thursday, November 21, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

The group read *His Only Wife* by Peace Adzo Medie. *Comments: One regular member noted that discussing the book heightened his opinion of it and made him appreciate the book a lot more.*

Attendees: 14

### Four Winds Book Group

Tuesday, November 26, 10:00 - 11:00 am

The residents met to discuss *Mother-Daughter Murder Night* by Nina Simon.

Attendees: 8

### Prairie Oaks Book Group

Thursday, December 5, 1:30 - 2:30 pm

The group read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

Attendees: 5

### Story Time at The Sow's Ear

Tuesday, December 10, 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: 37

### Senior Center Book Group

Wednesday, December 11, 10:00 - 11:00 am

The group discussed *The Spectacular* by Fiona Davis.

Attendees: 21

### YMCA After School Program at Country View

Thursday, December 12, 2:40 - 3:10 pm

Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at Country View.

Attendees: 17

### Reindeer Live!

Saturday, December 14, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

The library had a reindeer-themed craft project at the Chamber of Commerce's annual reindeer event. *Comments: "We love the library! My daughter insisted we had to go the other day to get more books."*

Attendees: 103

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

Monday, December 16, 4:15 - 4:45 pm

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

Attendees: 22

**YMCA After School Program at Glacier Edge**

Tuesday, December 17, 3:15 - 3:45 pm

Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at Glacier Edge.

Attendees: 19

**Noel Manor Book Group**

Wednesday, December 18, 10:30 - 11:30 am

The group discussed *Christmas Bells* by Jennifer Chiaverini. *Comments: Two new members joined the group, and they are enthusiastic about reading and participating in discussions.*

Attendees: 7

**Upcoming Outreach Events****Four Winds Book Group**

Tuesday, January 7, 10:00 - 11:00 am

The residents will meet to discuss *Camino Ghosts* by John Grisham.

**Senior Center Book Group**

Wednesday, January 8, 10:00 - 11:00 am

The group will be reading *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge.

**YMCA After School Program at Country View**

Thursday, January 9, 2:40 - 3:10 pm

Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at Country View.

**Story Time at The Sow's Ear**

Tuesday, January 14, 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.

**YMCA After School Program at Glacier Edge**

Tuesday, January 21, 3:15 - 3:45 pm

Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at Glacier Edge.

**Noel Manor Book Group**

Wednesday, January 22, 10:30 - 11:30 am

The group will be discussing *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict.

**Prairie Oaks Book Group**

Thursday, January 23, 1:30 - 2:30 pm

The group will be reading *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn.

**Books 'n Booze at Stone Porch Alehouse**

Thursday, January 23, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

The group will be discussing *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn.

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

Monday, January 27, 4:15 - 4:45 pm

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