

AGENDA

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

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

Call to order

- Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of 4/2/25
- Review and approval of the April 2025 invoices
- Public Comments
- City Council Liaison's report
- Library Director's report
- Old Business
 1. Discussion and possible action regarding the Space Needs Assessment RFP
- New Business
 1. Preliminary discussion of the 2026 library budget

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

Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
Library Conference Room

Call to order, 6:34pm

1. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of 3/5/25

Move to approve by Karen Spencer. Second by Kyle Jones. Motion passes.

2. Review and approval of the March 2025 invoices

Move to approve by Andrea Frey. Second by Skyler Franke. Motion passes.

3. Public Comments

None

4. City Council Liaison's report

Brandon Braithwaite provided an update that Christine Posey and Brent Kyser-McHenry Alder positions will be replaced by Lachlann Swanson and Chris Weiss respectively. Very likely a new City Council rep will be assigned to Library Board in April or May 2025.

5. Library Director's report

Attached. Building cameras, Artist in Residence, room reservation updates.

6. Old Business

Discussion of Library Strategic Plan.

Ready to send to printers.

7. New Business

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the 2025 Adjacent County Reimbursement Requests

Move to approve by Rikki Conwell. Second by Karen Spencer. Motion passes.

2. Discussion regarding Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) funding

Updates by Kyle Jones and Stacey Burkart regarding federal funding cuts to IMLS and how it impacts library science research nationally and Verona Public Library specifically. Letter to the Editor to Verona Press will be drafted, reviewed by individual members, revised, and submitted.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the Space Needs Assessment RFP

A subcommittee, consisting of Chris Hopp, Kyle Jones, Brandon Braithwaite, and Stacey Burkart, will respond to RFP questions and set up meetings to review RFPs.

4. Adjournment. Motion by Karen Spencer, seconding by Andrea Frey. Motion passes. Adjournment at 7:49pm.

Director's Report

Verona Public Library

April 2025

Circulation

Items Circulated	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
January	49,310	48,218	47,722	46,024	29,669
February	44,262	47,599	46,003	42,218	28,925
March	52,126	50,433	52,026	49,314	36,647
April		45,552	46,674	47,514	31,448
May		43,352	44,226	42,775	32,633
June		57,330	59,454	52,827	52,142
July		60,127	58,102	52,448	52,220
August		55,179	58,081	55,184	51,007
September		46,523	45,429	45,066	42,894
October		47,097	47,785	42,440	43,527
November		46,203	44,975	43,939	43,507
December		44,005	43,655	42,000	39,089
Total	145,698	591,618	594,132	561,749	483,708

New Library Cards	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
January	212	171	188	119	27
February	106	176	137	149	36
March	212	189	176	155	24
April		150	152	129	36
May		124	142	140	71
June		262	290	344	179
July		217	218	239	160
August		195	212	206	129
September		136	141	141	105
October		187	170	150	99
November		148	119	144	64
December		117	128	122	87
Total	530	2,072	1,423	2,038	1,017

Holds	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
January	15,371	15,085	14,929	15,139	18,260
February	12,054	13,421	13,005	11,617	17,130
March	14,062	13,282	13,586	12,878	18,193
April		12,906	12,658	12,098	15,698
May		12,364	13,483	11,820	14,236
June		13,958	13,854	11,984	13,328
July		14,280	14,445	11,735	11,621
August		12,759	13,607	13,389	13,510
September		13,527	13,587	12,506	13,252
October		12,639	12,645	11,924	13,304
November		13,020	12,971	12,888	12,679
December		11,760	11,054	10,313	11,069
Total	41,487	159,001	119,516	148,291	172,280

Reference

Reference Statistics

Computer Lab Use: 820

Test Proctoring: 1 exam

Outer Library Loans: 53 requests

Personal Archiving Lab Sessions: 7

Library Visits	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
January	18,476	16,183	16,114	10,780	0
February	17,627	18,492	15,945	11,193	0
March	20,406	19,457	18,160	13,628	0
April		17,727	18,062	16,488	2,889
May		17,169	16,049	12,366	5,015
June		23,528	22,204	16,624	11,757
July		23,261	20,232	17,057	13,407
August		22,187	22,619	18,830	13,267
September		17,053	14,958	13,890	10,746
October		19,832	17,011	14,009	10,346
November		16,116	16,152	15,729	9,371
December		15,805	16,190	13,552	10,562
Total	56,509	226,810	213,696	174,146	87,360

Reference questions	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
January	1,338	1,929	1,640	1,061	821
February	1,260	2,161	1,638	1,653	924
March	1,489	1,989	1,830	1,758	1,347
April		2,004	1,896	1,226	948
May		1,995	2,031	1,117	1,085
June		2,638	2,487	2,183	2,200
July		2,144	2,058	1,691	2,365
August		2,242	2,331	2,075	1,847
September		1,490	1,837	1,341	1,543
October		1,804	1,840	1,566	581
November		1,340	1,836	1,628	458
December		1,431	1,835	1,356	721
TOTAL	4,087	23,394	23,259	18,655	14,840

Meeting Room Use	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
January	647	560	474	164	-
February	636	674	487	206	-
March	661	575	524	272	-
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	-
TOTAL	1,944	6,941	5,590	5,912	2,021

Collection Management

Number of items added and deleted in March 2025:

Item Type	Added	Deleted
Books	711	758
Audio	50	267
Software	14	0
Video/DVD	54	7
Other (kits, etc.)	1	19
Magazines	129	132
TOTAL	959	1,183
YTD	2,727	2,863

The library inventory project has been completed. Only 0.2% of our collection was missing in inventory.

Connie finished moving all Red Hot (children's walk-in) materials to generic records.

Personnel and Staff Development

Lanier Brooks resigned her position as Library Assistant, her last day will be May 1.

Theresa attended a webinar, *Inventory is Not Scary*, on March 25.

Theresa attended the COSUGI (Customers of SirsiDynix User Group) conference April 15-17.

Mark attended the SCLS webinar, *PDF Accessibility 101: Making Your Document More Inclusive*.

Tonja attended the SCLS webinar, *The Nuts and Bolts of Social Work Internships in Libraries*

Jenny attended several webinars: *Ingram Mastering iPage for Adult Selectors*; the Indiana State Library *Video Game Collections in Libraries*, and ILS Reports training through SCLS.

Equipment and Physical Facilities

New semi-private study carrels were installed near the study rooms and have been getting a lot of use and positive comments so far.

Removal and replacement of overgrown shrubs in the library parking lot has begun.

Bird/window collision deterrence dots are being installed the week of April 28.

Administration and Internal Operations

Stacey and Tonja are participating in the library board subcommittee to review the space needs assessment RFP submissions.

Marketing and Public Relations

This month Abby created 49 event graphics (website, Facebook, TV) with accompanying bookmarks, flyers, and signs.

April was a busy month, with special focus on preparing marketing materials and online resources for the Strategic Plan, Artist-in-Residence, Verona Reads! and social media highlighting National Library week.

April Events Newsletter 1: 8,897 recipients; In the spotlight: Outerlibrary Loan

April Events Newsletter 2: 8,883, recipients; In the spotlight: Artist in Residence

Julia created a celebrating National Poetry Month highlighting works from African-American poets.

Circulation staff created an *Artsy April* display featuring craft books and another focusing on gardening books.

Library System and Interagency Cooperation

Stacey and Maureen attended the Verona Chamber of Commerce luncheon to promote the Artist in Residence program on April 9.

Leah collaborated with Verona Area High School and Badger Ridge Middle School librarians to facilitate teen programming at the schools.

Mark attended the bi-yearly ILL Subcommittee meeting via Zoom on March 25.

Jenny attended the monthly SCLS Adult and Inclusive Services Check In meeting.

Tonja attended the SCLS Southwest Regional Equity Team meeting via Zoom on April 15.

The library is again participating in the DCLS collaboration with the American Players Theater, *Check Out APT 2025*. The program supplies vouchers to Dane County libraries for distribution to patrons. Each voucher is for 2 complimentary tickets to any Hill show.

Fundraising

Nothing to report

Exhibits

2025 Artist-in-Residence Program featuring artist Dawn Wians

Spring: April 28 - June 6

Fall: October 10 - November 24

Library Events and Programs

Kids' Events

1000 Books before Kindergarten

6 kids were registered this month, bringing the total number of registrants to 2767.

Family Story Time

Saturday, March 22, 9:30 – 10 am

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

Attendees: 50

Graphic Novel Party: Dog Man and Cat Kid

Monday, March 24, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Ages 8-11. Join us at the library for a celebration of the graphic novel series Dog Man and Cat Kid Comic Club! We will have activity stations with crafts, snacks, and trivia. *A mom with two school age kids and a baby came to the Dog Man party. She thanked Amy and Jess for hosting the event and told us that with the new baby AND older kids these events are the only thing that gets her and them out of the house.*

Attendees: 68

Music Together Madtown

Tuesday, March 25, 9:30 – 10:15 am

Ages 0-5. Registration required. Join Music Together Madtown for a demo class for kids! Geared toward ages 0 - 5 with parents or caregivers.

Attendees: 44

Ken Lonnquist

Wednesday, March 26, 10:30 – 11:15 am

All ages. No registration. High energy story-songs come to life when Ken opens up his original song-bag! Ken will be accompanied by local drummer Rand Moore. *Ken is a calm, seasoned performer who keeps the crowd engaged. This was a perfect crowd size and attendees expressed appreciation that we hosted him during spring break.*

Attendees: 187

Minecraft Club

Thursday, April 3, 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: 29

Our Food Grows

Saturday, April 5, 10:00 – 11:00 am

Ages 3-5. No registration.

Meet local author Sarah White and local illustrator Tessa Gibbs! Hear their new picture book *Our Food Grows*, then enjoy different activity stations like collage making, a planting activity, and more! Geared to ages 3 -5, but all ages are welcome. *Combining the author reading with craft and activity stations was a successful formula.*

Attendees: 90

Read to a Dog

Saturday, April 5, 1:30 - 3:00 pm

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

Attendees: 12

March Madness

March 3 – April 7

Library patrons were asked to vote with pom poms on their favorite characters each week, choosing between two or four contenders as the winners were narrowed down, NCAA basketball tournament style. The winner was *Penelope the Dinosaur* by Ryan T. Higgins.

Weekly participants: 243, 310, 358, 250, 218

Child Development Story Time: Wild Animals

Tuesday, April 8, 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.

Attendees: 45

Parent/Child Book Club: Pax

Tuesday, April 8, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Ages 8-11. Parent/Child Book Club discussed the novel *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker.

Attendees: 10

Read to a Dog

Wednesday, April 9, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

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

Attendees: 8

Flamingo Story Time

Wednesday, April 9, 6:30 – 7:00 pm

Ages 2-6. Join us for flamingo-themed stories and songs! Designed for ages 2-6. No registration.

Attendees: 20

Pokémon Club

Thursday, April 10, 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: 22

Read to a Dog

Friday, April 11, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

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

Attendees: 11

Family Story Time

Saturday, April 12, 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: 9

Music & Movement Story Time

Tuesday, April 15, 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: 83

Drop-In Family Crafts

Tuesday, April 15, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Ages 6-11. Families can drop in at the library between 4:00-5:00 PM to get crafty together! Staff will provide a variety of supplies and a few project ideas. Stop by for a few minutes or stay the entire hour, it's up to you! Recommended for families with children age 6-11.

Attendees: 19

Story Time Mending

Thursday, April 17

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 and Thursdays. No zipper replacements please. Bring the item along and Nancy will try to fix it on the spot. If she needs extra time or supplies, she'll talk that through with you.

Attendees: 4

We Love Worms

Thursday, April 17, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration required. Worms are awesome! Learn more about them by creating a mini, take-home wormery -- a place where worms can grow, make more worms, and recycle food waste into fertilizer! Celebrate Earth Day by trying out a sustainable way of composting while learning about the habits of worms. This project will be a temporary wormery but will help you gain knowledge about the process if you're interested in trying worm composting at home!

Attendees: 9

Read to a Dog

Saturday, April 19, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

Attendees: 15

Favorite Books & Bites: Misfits

Monday, April 21, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Ages 8 - 11. Registration required. Discuss the Misfits series, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the books. Pick up a copy of the first book of the series, A Royal Conundrum by Lisa Yee at the children's desk to read in advance, or if you're already a fan, just sign up and join us.

Attendees: 3

Toddler Art and Play

Tuesday, April 22, 9:30 – 10:30 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: 63

Upcoming Kids' Events**Spring Story Time, March 31 – May 9**

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

Story Time Mending

Wednesdays and Thursdays, April 23, 24, and 30, May 1, 7 and 8

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 and Thursdays. Bring the item along and Nancy will try to fix it on the spot.

Riddle Challenge

Thursday, April 24, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration required. Test your skills with tricky riddles designed to stump you! You'll also get the chance to write your own riddles and rhymes. Will you accept the challenge?

Minecraft Club

Thursday, May 1, 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.

Free Comic Book Day

Saturday, May 3, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Drop by the Verona Library to pick up some free comics for kids and teens. 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!

Read to a Dog

Saturday, May 3, 1:30 - 3:00 pm

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

Music & Movement Story Time

Tuesday, May 6, 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.

Read to a Dog

Wednesday, May 7, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

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

Pokémon Club

Thursday, May 8, 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.

Child Development Story Time: Pete the Cat

Tuesday, May 13, 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.

Parent/Child Book Club: The Chocolate touch

Tuesday, May 13, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration required. In May, Parent/Child Book Club will discuss the novel *The Chocolate Touch* by Patrick Skene Catling.

Panda Story Time with Verona Area International School

Wednesday, May 14, 6:30 – 7:00 pm

Join us as we pair with VAIS to present a Panda-themed story time and craft! Designed for ages 2-6. No registration.

Read to a Dog

Saturday, May 17, 1:30 - 3:00 pm

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

Favorite Books & Bites: Merci Suárez Changes Gears

Monday, May 19, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Ages 8 - 11. Registration required. Discuss the Merci Suárez series, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the books. Pick up a copy of the first book of the series, *Merci Suárez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina at the children's desk to read in advance, or if you're already a fan, just sign up and join us.

Spanish Story Time/Hora de Cuentos

Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 – 7:00 pm

Ages 3 - 6. No registration. Join Mr. Ricardo for Spanish story time filled with rhymes, songs and bounces designed for ages 3 – 6, but all are welcome.

Pembutton and Griseldinea - Judy Clough Author Event

Thursday, May 22, 6:30 – 7:00 pm

Verona's Azura Memory Care's program "Mosaic Dreams" allows residents to dream up and realize their "best day ever." Azura resident Judy Clough's dream was to write and publish a book. At this special event, Judy will read the first chapter of her new children's book, *Pembutton & Griseldinea* and then books will be available for sale and signing. All proceeds from the sale of this book go directly to the Alzheimer's Association. Light refreshments will be served.

Read to a Dog

Friday, May 23, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

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

Family Story Time

Saturday, May 24, 9:30 – 10:00 am

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

Teen Events**Teen Gaming & Pizza**

Thursday, April 24, 4:00 – 5:30pm

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

Attendees: 6

Eat Your Words

Monday, April 14, 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 collaborative comics, colorful pancakes, and wrote stories based on simple word prompts, which they encouraged one another to share.*

Attendees: 6

VAHS Makerspace

Wednesday, April 16, 12:35 – 1:05pm

Students signed up for library time at Verona Area High School will have the opportunity to design, create, and socialize. *Comments: Students carved potatoes into homemade stamps. Then they covered them in fabric paint and decorated canvas totes with colorful patterns!*

Attendees: 10

BRMS Make'n'munch

Thursday, April 17, 11:00 – 1:15pm

Students at Badger Ridge Middle School who have signed up for library during lunch can enjoy some crafting time. *Comments: Students spent a relaxing lunch period coloring Shrinky-Dinks – plastic which will shrink down to make window ornaments, backpack charms, earrings, etc.*

Attendees: 24

Upcoming Teen Events:**National Park Art**

Monday, April 21, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Celebrate our National Parks with Saguaro-inspired art! Fill an embroidery hoop with colorful cacti made of recycled fabrics, and then embellish with stitches and fabric paints.

Monday, April 28, 7:00 – 8:00pm

Decorate cupcakes, make happy rocks, and create friendship bracelets while watching Queer Eye with other teens!

Crafty Tuesday

Tuesday, May 6, 4:00 pm

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

Eat Your Words

Monday, May 12, 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, May 15, 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 Gaming & Pizza

Thursday, May 22, 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.

Japanese Marbling

Tuesday, May 27, 7:00 – 8:00pm

Try Suminagashi: the art of Japanese water marbling! We'll create paper ink prints.

Adult Events

Distance Learning English Classes for Adults

Mondays 6:00 - 7:30 pm, Level: Beginner, January 27 – May 3, 2025

Tuesdays 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Level: Intermediate, January 21 – May 3, 2025

This free group English class will be offered mostly online using Zoom. The last class will take place in-person at Verona Public Library on Tuesday, May 3. You will practice speaking, listening, reading, writing and new vocabulary in English. This class is presented in partnership with Literacy Network.

March 31, attendees: 8

April 7, attendees: 13

April 4, attendees: 1

April 8, attendees: 1

Drop-in Tech Help

Tuesdays, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Struggling with your phone, tablet or laptop? Drop by the library 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 1, attendees: 0

April 8, attendees: 0

April 15, attendees: 2

Library Yarns Craft Group

Wednesdays, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

If you enjoy knitting, crochet, 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. All skill levels welcome. Registration not required. As outdoor conditions permit, we'll meet in back of library near picnic tables, otherwise please find us in the library's Conference Room.

March 26, attendees: 18

April 9, attendees: 14

April 2, attendees: 14

April 16, attendees: 14

Verona Aspiring Writers Group

Monday, March 31 and April 14, 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? *Comments: several people from the group have formed a smaller group to write together for an hour before group meetings. It appears a close community has evolved.*

March 31, attendees: 12

April 14, attendees: 12

Talk Saves Lives: An Introduction to Suicide Prevention

Tuesday, March 25, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

A community-based presentation that covers the general scope of suicide, the warnings and risk factors, research on prevention, and what people can do to help save lives. Don't miss this important opportunity to become more educated on a critical topic.

Attendees: 5

White Jasmine Cooking Class: Fish Tacos

Thursday, March 27, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Join Huma Siddiqui-Seitz, cookbook author and founder of *White Jasmine*, for a cooking demonstration featuring fish tacos, pineapple salsa, and toppings. White Jasmine is a local company that offers unique spices, cheeses, cooking classes and the TV show *White Jasmine Everyday Cooking*.

Attendees: 22

Memory Café

Tuesday, April 1, 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: 0

Blood Pressure Screening with Fitch-Rona EMS

Thursday, April 3, 10:00 - 11:00 am

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

Attendees: 5

DIY Card Making Class: Cards for All Occasions

Thursday, April 3, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Jamie Statz-Paynter from *Stampin' Up* will be here to walk us through the creation of beautiful cards for various occasions. All supplies provided!

Attendees: 19

Spring Home Maintenance: What You Need to Know

Wednesday, April 9, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Once the snow has melted and spring has sprung, it's spring home maintenance time! At this class, experts from Project Home Wisconsin will discuss the things you need to check on, each year, in order to keep your home safe and functioning optimally. Staying on top of these maintenance tasks will help you avoid problems and costly repairs down the road. Bring your questions!

Attendees: 19

Effecting Positive Change in the Community with Authors Tom Mosgaller & Mike Breininger

Thursday, April 10, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

We can't always do much to control what is happening on a national or global level, but we sure as heck can make our communities better places. Long-time Wisconsin community builders, Tom Mosgaller & Mike Breininger, have authored a new book, *Pulling Together: A Handbook for Community Change*. Their shared vision for stronger communities transcends ideological divides and emphasizes the power of trust and relationship.

Attendees: 23

VPL Cookbook Club – Literary Recipes

Tuesday, April 15, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

This month we will make recipes found in literature! Any recipe found in a book that is not a cookbook is fair game!

Attendees: 11

Food & Stories on the 100th Anniversary of the Great Gatsby

Saturday, April 19, 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Presenter Veronica Hinke is a culinary and lifestyles journalist and instructor specializing in early late 19th Century and early 20th Century drinking, dining and entertainment. She is author of *The Great Gatsby Cooking and Entertaining*.

Attendees: 46

A Taste for Mystery Book Club

Monday, April 21, 10:00 - 11:00 am

This month we will read and discuss *None of This is True* by Lisa Jewell.

Attendees: 7

A Birthday Party for William Shakespeare

Monday, April 21, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Thou art invited! Join us as we celebrate the 460th birthday of William Shakespeare! Enjoy cake, punch and sonnets as we take turns reading a selection of favorites to the group. Play games and win prizes!

Attendees: 8

Envision Verona: Open House

Tuesday, April 22, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

The City of Verona's *Envision Verona* Comprehensive Plan is currently in phase one, soliciting a wide range of community voices to gain a complete understanding of Verona today and its aspirations. This event will feature stations dedicated to different topics regarding the City. Staff from the City and the planning firm MKSK will be on hand to talk about the *Envision Verona* process and answer any questions.

Metalsmithing Workshop

Wednesday, April 23, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Members of the Wisconsin Metalsmiths will be on hand demonstrating their techniques and skills, and will teach you how to produce your own wearable items or useful objects of art. Try your hand at transforming sheets of metal into something special, using hammers, pliers, stamps, torches, and more. Each participant will complete a lovely forged pendant and either a cuff bracelet or a bookmark.

Attendees: 14

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.

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.

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.

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.

Learn to Play Dungeons & Dragons for Adult Part 1

Tuesday, April 29 and May 6, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Dungeons and Dragons is a cooperative tabletop role playing game in which players can have creative and immersive adventures. Come and learn the basics from experienced players, and find out why this such a popular pastime. If interest is high, we can start our own adult D&D club! Light refreshments will be served.

Write On Verona!

Saturday, May 3, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Need a dedicated time and space to get some writing done? Come join us at the library! Enjoy coffee and light refreshments while you plug away on your latest piece in a quiet, reserved room. Very casual structure - drop in and out as it works for you!

Jerry Apps Presents Lunkers, Keepers and the Ones That got Away!

Saturday, May 3, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Join beloved Wisconsin author Jerry Apps for the launch of *Lunkers, Keepers and the Ones That Got Away: Fish Tales from Four Generations of Anglers*. Apps reflects on a lifetime of fishing and the memories and lessons netted along the way. As he recounts the simple pleasures of casting a line from shore on a warm summer evening or reeling in a "lunker" on opening day of trout season, he reminds us of the values fishing can teach people of all ages: persistence, resourcefulness, cooperation, and the importance of caring for our natural world.

Meet Local Poet Penni Klein

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

Penni is a descendant of a Wisconsin century farm and is devoted to democracy, freedom, women's rights and the LGBTQ+ community. Her poetry has been described as "*A captivating exploration of the intersection between politics, spirituality and love...*" and it illustrates "*how nature can lift one's mood, lead one to be curious, and more expressive of one's emotions.*" Don't miss this special chance to hear

Penni read from a selection of her poems and talk about her fascinating life's journey. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Backyard Birding

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

Join a naturalist from the Lussier Family Heritage Center for an overview of traits you can use to identify birds in your own backyard. This interactive presentation will review the basics of birding and then teach participants how to use binoculars while practicing bird identification. Please plan for a 20-minute birding hike at Badger Prairie County Park adjacent to the library. Bring your own binoculars or borrow one of ours! An All-Terrain Wheelchair is available for use during this program, please contact heritagecenter@danecounty.gov if you would like to reserve the chair for the hike, free of charge.

Spice Club

Thursday, May 8, 12:00 - 6:00 pm

Interested in learning more about spices? This club will feature a different spice each month. Participants will be given a sample of the spice, a brief history of its use, and a recipe that incorporates it. This month's spice will be GREEN CARDAMOM. Spices will be available for pick up at the library starting May 8.

Read to a Dog for Grown Ups

Thursday, May 8, 15-minute slots from 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Did you know that spending just 5-20 minutes with a dog, even if it's not your pet, can cause cortisol (stress hormone) levels to measurably drop? Come to meet Bear, our adorable "Read to a Dog" staff member at this special event just for grown-ups.

Adult Crafternoon: Mini Terrariums

Friday, May 9, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Come make tiny terrariums with fun embellishments including glass mushrooms, frogs and butterflies. Have fun putting these together and enjoy them throughout the summer!

VPL Cookbook Club: Recipes that Celebrate Mexico

Tuesday, May 13, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

This month, in honor of Mexican Independence Day, we will make food that celebrates Mexican recipes and heritage.

You're Not "Just Getting Old." Hormone Therapy and Thriving in Your 40s and Beyond.

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

Family physician and Diplomate of the College of Lifestyle Medicine, Dr. Anne DeGreve will talk about hormone therapy, what it is and how it can help you to thrive as you age. This program is for both men and women.

Creative Writers Forum

Saturday, May 17, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Want to share your writing and receive feedback in a supportive environment? Need to brainstorm an idea, character or scene with a group? Join us once a month for this informal foray into writing and creativity. Refreshments will be served!

Author Visit from Andrea Thalasinis

Tuesday, May 20, 6:30-7:30 pm

In *The Loneliness of Horses*, Andrea Thalasinis weaves a captivating multigenerational saga that transcends time and geography. Set against the rugged backdrop of Nova Scotia and the deserts of northern Arizona, this novel explores the profound connections between two women, centuries apart, whose lives are dramatically reshaped by their fierce love for horses. Whether you are a horse lover, or just love a great story, come and meet this talented author, listen to her talk about the inspiration for her gorgeously written novel, and buy a signed copy of the book!

Pakistani Tea Time

Wednesday, May 21, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Learn to make samosas, a traditional Pakistani tea time appetizer, with Huma Siddiqui-Seitz, owner of White Jasmine. Enjoy this delicious savory treat as you sip traditional Pakistani Chai.

***Free for All: The Public Library* Documentary Screening**

Wednesday, May 28, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Free for All: The Public Library tells the story of the quiet revolutionaries who made a simple idea happen. From the pioneering women behind the “Free Library Movement” to today's librarians who service the public despite working in a contentious age of closures and book bans. Meet those who created a civic institution where everything is free and the doors are open to all.

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. **There were 1156 total views of archived programs in March.**

Author Talk: Jennifer Weiner

Wednesday, March 26, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Live Views: 30

Author Talk: Jodi Picoult

Wednesday, April 2, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Live Views: 52

Smithsonian Talk: The Stories, Science, and History of Trees

Tuesday, April 8, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Live Views: 15

Upcoming Events:

Author Talk: Gregg Hurwitz

Thursday, April 24, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Gregg Hurwitz is the *New York Times* bestselling author of 24 thrillers including the Orphan X series. *Orphan X* introduces the world to the Nowhere Man. Now ten books in, fans cannot get enough of the *Orphan X* world and Hurwitz can't wait to tell us all about it.

Author Talk: How to Use Anxiety to Thrive with Dr. David Rosmarin

Wednesday, May 7, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Let's face it: Everyone has anxiety. Furthermore, our incessant quest to rid ourselves of this ubiquitous human emotion worsens it. What if, instead of fighting our anxiety, we could turn it into a strength? In this enlightening online webinar, you will learn how to use anxiety to become more self-accepting, connected to others, and resilient. Author of *Thriving with Anxiety*, Harvard trained psychologist Dr. Rosmarin's constructive, compassionate, and evidence-based approach will not make you less anxious. Instead, it will empower you to use anxiety to thrive.

Author Talk: Writing a Brilliant, Dark, and Diabolical Thriller with Liann Zhang

Wednesday, May 14, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Grab your popcorn, grab your friend, and join us for an propulsive online conversation with author Liann Zhang as she chats with us about her debut thriller *Julie Chan is Dead*. Julie Chan has nothing. Her twin sister has everything. Except a pulse. Julie Chan, a supermarket cashier with nothing to lose, finds herself thrust into the glamorous yet perilous world of her late twin sister, Chloe VanHuusen, a popular influencer.

2025 Artist-in-Residence Program with artist Dawn Wians

April 28 - June 6

Dawn Wians is a well-respected local artist who works in mixed media to express abstract landscapes and nature-inspired art. She has taught art at Iowa State University, The Shake Rag Alley School of Art in Mineral Point, the Adamah Art Studios in Dodgeville and more. She has exhibited her art widely, including at The Farley Center in Verona and, most recently, at The Overture Center in Madison.

During her residency, Dawn will be leading workshops, teaching classes, and helping patrons to pursue their own artistic aims. Patron projects will include sustainably incorporated found items from the prairie, and various elements of design will be introduced to guide participants as they create.

You will see Dawn working in her residency "studio" in the main area of the library (say hello and ask her questions), and can view her art exhibited nearby.

Opening Reception

Friday, May 2, 1:30 - 2:30 pm

The Prairie Life Cycle

Saturday, May 10, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Artist's Workshop: Line & Shape

Thursdays, May 15, 3:30 - 5:30 pm

Artist's Workshop: Texture & Form

Thursday, May 22, 3:30 - 5:30 pm

Artist's Workshop: Color & Value

Thursday, May 29, 3:30 - 5:30 pm

Studio Time

Throughout her residency, Dawn will spend time in her studio space at the library and work on her own projects. Stop by to see an artist in action and to ask questions about her art or art in general.

Thursday, May 1: 3:00 - 8:00 pm

Sunday, May 4: 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Friday, May 2: 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Saturday, May 10: 12:00 - 4:00 pm

Saturday, May 3: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday, May 30: 12:30 - 4:30 pm

Open A.I.R. Studio

Bring your own art project to work on or create one with available supplies with the Artist-in-Residence nearby to offer guidance or just companionship!

Thursday, May 15: 5:30-7:30 pm

Thursday, May 22: 5:30-7:30 pm

Thursday, May 29: 5:30-7:30 pm

Brought to you by the Verona Public Library Endowment Fund.

Outreach

Outreach story times:

Total daycare story time presentations: 11

Four Winds Book Group

Tuesday, March 25, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The residents met to discuss *The Spy Coast* by Tess Gerritsen. *Comments: The group had a lot to say about this book, and members are eagerly awaiting the sequel for a future discussion. One new resident also sat in on the discussion.*

Attendees: 8

Noel Manor Book Group

Wednesday, March 26, 10:30 – 11:30 am

The group discussed *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger.

Attendees: 5

Prairie Oaks Book Group

Thursday, March 27, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

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

Attendees: 5

Books 'n Booze at Stone Porch Alehouse

Thursday, March 27, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

The group discussed *The Plot* by Jean Hanff Korelitz.

Attendees: 17

Story Time at The Sow's Ear

Tuesday, April 8, 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: 13

Senior Center Book Group

Wednesday, April 9, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The group discussed *The Cold Millions* by Jess Walter.

Attendees: 19

YMCA After School Program at Country View

Thursday, April 10, 2:40 – 3:10 pm

Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at Country View.

Attendees: 15

YMCA After School Program at Glacier Edge

Tuesday, April 15, 3:15 – 3:45 pm

Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at Glacier Edge. *Comments: The students thoroughly enjoyed making sun catchers this month; it was their favorite craft project of the year so far.*

Attendees: 23

Verona Eggstravaganza

Saturday, April 19, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

The library will have a craft table and library information at the Chamber of Commerce's annual egg hunt for the community.

Attendees: 163

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

Monday, April 21 and Monday, May 19, 4:15 – 4:45 pm

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

Attendees: 19

Noel Manor Book Group

Wednesday, April 23, 10:30 – 11:30 am

The group will be discussing *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman.

Attendees: 6

Upcoming Outreach Events**Prairie Oaks Book Group**

Thursday, April 24, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

The group will be reading *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb.

Books 'n Booze at Stone Porch Alehouse

Thursday, April 24, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

The group will be discussing *The Stranger in the Woods* by Michael Finkel.

YMCA After School Program at Country View Elementary School

Thursday, May 8, 2:40 – 3:10 pm

Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at Country View.

Story Time at The Sow's Ear

Tuesday, May 13, 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, May 14, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The group will be reading *The Maid* by Nita Prose.

YMCA After School Program at Glacier Edge Elementary School

Tuesday, May 20, 3:15 – 3:45 pm

Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at Glacier Edge.