

AGENDA

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

**Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
Library Conference Room**

Call to order

- Introduction and discussion with OPN Architects regarding the Space Needs Assessment
- Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of 4/30/25
- Review and approval of the May 2025 invoices
- Public Comments
- City Council Liaison's report
- Library Director's report
- Old Business
 1. Preliminary discussion of the 2026 library budget
- New Business
 1. None

VPL Board Meeting Minutes
Library Board of Trustees-Verona Public Library
500 Silent Street Verona, WI 53593
Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

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

Call to order: Hopp called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Franke, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of 04/02/2025. Motion carried. Frey motioned, seconded by Spencer, to approve the April 2025 invoices. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

City Council Liaison Report:

Planning for old library building's return to city use, possible adaptive ballfield.

Library Director's Report:

Bird collision dots installed, study carrels arrived, Artist in Residence program

Old Business:

1. Discussion of Space Needs RFP. Motion by Conwell, second by Braithwaite, to accept OPN for space needs study. Board members are excited!

New Business:

1. 2026 Budget discussion

Adjournment: A motion was made by Conwell, seconded by Braithwaite, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm. The next meeting will be held on June 4, at 6:30pm.

Post meeting the board viewed the new carrels, Artist in Residence workspace and bird avoidance dots.

Director's Report

Verona Public Library

April 2025

Circulation

Ronda held a Circulation team meeting on May 16, and the following topics were discussed: sorter room & sorting book trucks, patron card registration reminders, how to place a kit on hold, and changes to adult fiction call number labels

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	47,280	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	192,978	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	119	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	649	2,072	1,423	2,038	1,017

Holds Filled	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	13,308	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	54,795	159,001	119,516	148,291	172,280

Reference

Reference Statistics April 2025

Computer Lab Use: 826

Test Proctoring: 2 exam

Outer Library Loans: 58 requests

Personal Archiving Lab Sessions: 1

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	20,127	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	76,636	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	1,747	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	5,834	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	675	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	2,619	6,941	5,590	5,912	0

Collection Management

Jenny won a grant to receive the game, *Winter Rabbit*. "It's a semi-cooperative game set in the world of Cherokee animal stories." Because it's a bilingual game designed by members of the Cherokee Nation, one of their pledge tiers was to donate a copy of the game to a cultural institution. Jenny applied, and Verona was one of the places chosen to receive a copy.

Number of items added and deleted in April 2025:

Item Type	Added	Deleted
Books	1077	613
Audio	3	323
Software	9	1
Video/DVD	34	551
Other (kits, etc.)	13	1
Magazines	129	116
TOTAL	1265	1605
YTD	3992	4468

Personnel and Staff Development

Hannah Flanders began her position as summer youth library assistant on May 19.

Hank Stephenson was hired and started on May 19, 2025, as a new Library Assistant.

Maureen attended the UW-Madison conference, *Lead the Way: Libraries at the Heart of the Community* on April 21-22. Of particular interest were programming ideas focusing on differently abled, unhoused, LGBTQ+, and native populations.

Stacey and Julie attended the WAPL (Wisconsin Association of Public Librarians) conference in Oshkosh on May 1-2, participating in administrative, building projects, and youth services related sessions. They also toured the newly renovated Appleton Public Library.

Stacey, Leah, Abby and Tonja attended the city Social Media Policy Training on May 8.

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

Tonja attended the WLA webinar, *Exploring Library Home Delivery Services* on May 19

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.

Jenny also enjoyed bringing in her child for Take Your Child to Work Day.

Equipment and Physical Facilities

Stacey is working with city administration on the possibility of adding solar panels to the library.

The library will be getting an energy use assessment from a Focus on Energy advisor in June.

The city has applied for a grant through Dane County to add EV charging stations at several locations, including the library.

The bird dot installation project has been completed, and the library has received a lot of thanks and positive comments from community members.

The new people counter from Facility Sight was installed. Ronda and Tonja had onboarding training on April 1.

New interactive play panels were installed on two shelf ends in the children's area, using Epic grant money. They are high-quality interactives sold by Burgeon, which can be changed in the future if we decide to purchase more.

Administration and Internal Operations

OPN Architects was awarded the contract for the library space needs assessment and their work on the project will begin in June.

Marketing and Public Relations

Wisconsin Public Radio featured a story about the bird dots on the library windows.

<https://www.wpr.org/news/verona-library-stickers-windows-birds>. The city Communications Coordinator also put together a nice video about the bird dots that was shared on city social media.

This month Abby created 50 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 displays celebrating National Poetry Month highlighting works from African-American poets, another commemorating Earth Day; and on with a May Flowers theme.

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

Library System and Interagency Cooperation

At their May 15 meeting, the SCLS Library Directors voted to accept the lead workgroup recommendation to end our contract with Biblioovation and migrate to SirsiDynix

SymphonyWeb/BlueCloud. The migration will take place before May 1, 2026. We appreciate all the work that Theresa and Tonja contributed during their two years serving on the ILS evaluation committees.

Theresa served on the Lead Workgroup that made the ultimate recommendation to migrate to the new system.

The Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance hosted a pop-up informational program "Migration Celebration" on May 9 at the library.

New Century School put up a display above the magazines in the children's area in late April, featuring art made from trash. It was featured in the Verona Press.

Leah collaborated with MG at Badger Ridge Middle School to provide lunch programming.

On Friday, April 11, she also hosted a roundtable meeting of some fellow Youth Services Librarians – specializing in teens -- from South Central Library System.

Maureen and Leah collaborated with the parks department and planted trees for the library to celebrate Arbor Day.

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. Distribution will begin May 5.

Theresa attended the Collection Maintenance Subcommittee meeting on May 14.

Fundraising

Nothing to report

Exhibits

2025 Artist-in-Residence Program featuring artist Dawn Wians

Spring: April 28 - June 6

Library Events and Programs

Kids' Events

1000 Books before Kindergarten

8 kids were registered this month, bringing the total number of registrants to 2775.

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

Baby Story Time: 12 story times, attendees: 286, average: 24

Toddler Story Time: 12 story times, attendees: 586, average: 49

Preschool Story Time: 12 story times, attendees: 395, average: 33

Sensory Story Time: 7 story times (4/3 – 5/22), attendees: 243, average: 35

Everybody Story Time: 6 story times, attendees: 173, average: 29

Total: 49 story times, 1683 attendees

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

Spring Scavenger Hunt

The children's area scavenger hunt involved locating paper bunnies dressed as book characters, which were located where those characters' books would be found.

Participants: 424

Favorite Books & Bites: *Misfits*

Monday, April 21, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Ages 8 - 11. 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.

Attendees: 63

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? Local resident Nancy offers free mending services during story time.

Attendees: 3, including a crocheted blanket that was almost in two pieces

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?

Attendees: 6

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.

Attendees: 19

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. Thanks to Westfield Comics for partnering with us so we could provide comics for our community!

Participants: 199

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.

Attendees: 14

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.

Attendees: 52

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.

Attendees: 13

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.

Attendees: 41

The Prairie Life Cycle with the Artist-in-Residence

Saturday, May 10, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Ages 5-10. Join us for a fun and educational opportunity to learn about the prairie and create art that reflects it! Artist-in-Residence Dawn Wians will lead participants through a study of dormant prairie plants and then help them to create plant-material collages of how these look beneath the ground and will look when they are in full bloom. These will be hung in the windows of the Children's Area for all to admire and enjoy.

Attendees: 16

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.

Attendees: 49

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.

Attendees: 11

Panda Story Time with VAIS

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.

Attendees: 38

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.

Attendees: 9

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.

Attendees: 4

Toddler Art and Play

Tuesday, May 20, 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.

Attendees: 64

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.

Attendees: 12

"Pembutton and Griseldinea" 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.

Attendees: 15

Upcoming In-Library Kids' Events**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.

Summer Reading sign up begins on June 1. The challenge will be similar to last year, with a paper form that ages 0 – 12 will pick up to track the days that they read. After 20, 40 and 60 days, they may return for coupons and a free book (we added one free book this year – last year they returned after 25 and 50 days of reading). We have one new coupon this year, for free bowling from Spare Time, plus a return to Pizza Ranch coupons.

Minecraft Club

Thursday, June 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.

Read to a Dog

Saturday, June 7, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

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

Parent/Child Book Club: We Are Big Time

Tuesday, June 10, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration required. In June, Parent/Child Book Club will discuss the graphic novel *We Are Big Time* by Hena Khan.

Read to a Dog

Wednesday, June 11, 4:00 – 5:30 pm and Thursday, June 12, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

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

Pokémon Club

Thursday, June 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.

Summer Reading Kick-off

Saturday, June 14, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Celebrate the beginning of summer at this all-ages event! Enjoy a bounce house, cotton candy, face painting, 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 Time

June 16 – August 1

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 21

Crafternoon: Color Art

Monday, June 16, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

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

Music & Movement Story Time

Tuesday, June 17, 10:00 – 10:30 am

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

Bubble Play Time

Tuesday, June 17, 10:30 – 11:00 am

Ages 0-5. Stop by the library between 10:30 – 11 am after Music & Movement Story Time and enjoy our outdoor space behind the library with your little one and socialize with other caregivers. We will have our bubble machines set up to provide bubble fun. Bring your own blanket in case the grass is wet.

Tween Craft: Bead Animals

Wednesday, June 18, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Ages 8-11. Make pony bead animals! Keep your pet on a keychain as an easy accessory for any bag!

Taylor Swift Dance Party

Monday, June 23, 2:00 – 2:45 pm

Ages 5-11. 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!

Read It and Eat: Da Vinci's Cat

Monday, June 23, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Ages 8-11. Discuss the book *Da Vinci's Cat*, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the book.

Toddler Art and Play

Tuesday, June 24, 10:00 – 11:00 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.

Tween Snack: Bento

Tuesday, June 24, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration required. Practice your chopping skills! Create a Japanese-style bento boxed lunch with rice and sides. Make it fun with shape cutouts and molds. Let's play with our food!

Big Balloon Show

Wednesday, June 25, 1:30 pm and 6:00 pm

All ages. No registration. Prepare to be amazed and entertained by this one-of-a-kind show featuring magic, all-ages comedy, interactive storytelling and of course, Smarty Pants' award-winning, larger-than-life balloon props. Sponsored by the Friends of the Verona Public Library.

We Love Scary Stories

Thursday, June 26, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration requested. Join us at the Verona Public Library for a celebration of scary stories. Staff will read scary stories aloud and show participants how to make a spooky craft. Sign up...if you dare!

Science Station: Birds

Friday, June 27, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

For ages 6-11. Registration suggested. Join us for hands-on science experiments and crafts about birds! Learn how a bird's beak is adapted to their diet, compare different species' wingspans, ask a real Falconer (a person who trains birds of prey) questions about birds, and more!

Read to a Dog

Saturday, June 28, 1:30 - 3:00 pm

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

Crafternoon: Collage Art

Monday, June 30, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

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

Teen Events**Crafty Tuesday**

Tuesday, April 8, 4:00 pm

Stop by Teen Central for DIY projects. Create throughout the week, as supplies last. *Comments: Kids created their own stamps by carving into thin sheets of foam, and then using ink pads, they pressed their designs into muslin bags!*

Attendees: 11

National Park Art

Monday, April 21, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

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. *Comments: Teens learned how to start an embroidery hoop, and they explored combining basic sewing and recycled materials!*

Attendees: 5

Cupcakes & Queer Eye

Monday, April 28, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Decorate cupcakes, make happy rocks, and create friendship bracelets while watching Queer Eye with other teens! *Comments: kids had a lovely time practicing with piping bags and putting together meaningful bracelets while sharing difficulties at school – all in a safe space.*

Attendees: 6

Eat Your Words

Monday, May 12, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

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

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. *Comments: Students spent their time chatting and playing with watercolor painting, taking a much-needed mental break!*

Attendees: 16

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.

Attendees: 8

Upcoming Teen Events:**Japanese Marbling**

Tuesday, May 27, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

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

Eat Your Words

Monday, June 9, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

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!

Crafty Tuesday

Tuesday, June 10, 4:00 pm

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

Teen Craft: Bracelets and Beads

Wednesday, June 18, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Spend a relaxing hour making beaded bracelets, mini bead animals, and other wearable creations!

Teen Snack: Bento

Tuesday, June 24, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Chop and eat! Create a Japanese-style bento boxed lunch with rice and sides. Make it fun with shape cutouts and molds!

Teen Gaming & Pizza

Wednesday, June 25, 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.

Teen Outdoor Movie

Friday, June 27, 8:45 – 10:45 pm

Snack on some popcorn and other movie treats while you watch *Uglies* 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.

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.

April 21, attendees: 14

April 22, attendees: 2

April 29, attendees: 9

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 22, attendees: 0

May 13, attendees: 2

April 29, attendees: 1

May 20, attendees: 0

May 6, attendees: 0

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. As outdoor conditions permit, we'll meet in back of library near the picnic tables, otherwise please find us in the library's Conference Room.

April 23, attendees: 15

May 14, attendees: 21

April 30, attendees: 18

May 21, attendees: 9

May 7, attendees: 14

Verona Aspiring Writers Group

Monday, April 28 and May 12, 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.*

April 28, attendees: 13

May 12, attendees: 10

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

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: 19

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.

April 29, attendees: 3

May 6, attendees: 3

Artist in Residence Opening Reception

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

Come meet our wonderful new Artist-in-Residence, Dawn Wians, and listen as she discusses her nature-inspired art. Dawn is not just extraordinarily talented -- she is also a very warm and friendly person!

Enjoy her stories and find out more about this exciting new program.

Attendees: 11

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!

Attendees: 5

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.

Attendees: 28

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.

Attendees: 30

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.

Participants: 17

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.

Attendees: 7

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!

Attendees: 12

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.

Attendees: 12

Artist in Residence: Artist's Workshop - Line & Shape

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

In the first of a three-part workshop series (attend any one or all of them), our Artist-in-Residence, Dawn Wians, will take participants out to the prairie to forage for plant material and field sketch the dormant prairie using willow charcoal, oil pastel, and colored pencil. Following this, they will stencil and stamp nature-inspired note cards using spray inks. The finished project will be a beautifully collaged sketchbook.

Attendees: 13

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 Diplomat 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.

Attendees: 19

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!

Attendees: 3

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.

Attendees: 33

Artist in Residence: Artist's Workshop - Texture & Form

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

Prepare beautiful groupings of natural materials, then seal them in beeswax. Use them along our Prairie Tales path to decorate the way and tell their own story. These are decomposable.

Attendees: 11

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

May 27 – August 16

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.

***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 serve the public despite working in a contentious age of closures and book bans. Meet those who created a civic institution where everything is free & the doors are open to all.

Artist in Residence: Artist's Workshop - Color & Value

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

In the third of this workshop series (attend them all or any one of them), our Artist-in-Residence, Dawn Wians, will guide participants in the creation of hand-bound journals, curated from colorful images drawn onto a gelatin plate.

Artist in Residence: Open A.I.R. Studio

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

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!

AI for Newbies

Tuesday, June 3, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Want to know more about AI and the hype surrounding it? This talk will break down AI's capabilities and limitations, feature demonstrations of AI in action, and show you how to start using it today.

Swap it Like it's Hot: Summer Wardrobe Refresh Edition

Wednesday, June 4, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Looking for a sustainable, no cost way to refresh your warm weather wardrobe? Come and take part in our summer clothing swap!

Blood Pressure Screening with Fitch-Rona EMS

Thursday, June 5, 10:00 - 11:00 am

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

Group Support for Caregivers

Thursday, June 5, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

If you've ever taken care of a chronically ill spouse or elderly parent, grandparent, etc., you know how stressful and exhausting it can be. This program focuses on helping caregivers improve their mental,

physical and emotional health by digging into mindfulness, meditation, self-care and relationships — including the relationship they have with themselves, and the people they care for. The group setting allows participants to learn from, and also support, each other in a safe space that's free of judgement.

VPL Cookbook Club: Tea Party

Tuesday, June 9, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

This month we will fully commit to the delicacies, both sweet and savory, served at tea parties. To go with our treats, there will be hot and iced tea. Hope you can join us!

Putting AI to Work for You

Tuesday, June 10, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Learn about some of the practical and creative ways that AI can be used, including finding recipes that use what you have in your fridge, making weekend and vacation itineraries tailored to interests and budget, creating customized workouts, and more.

Lessons Learned from Flying with Author Diane Ballweg

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

Author, business leader and philanthropist Diane Ballweg will talk about some of her experiences as a pilot, the life lessons those experiences have taught, and how flying changed her perspective (literally and figuratively) on life. *Into the Wind, Above the Clouds, Love at First Flight* is Ballweg's beautiful new book - come listen and learn at this special event!

Puppy Yoga

Thursday, June 12, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Come Zen out with adoptable puppies from Wisconsin Bound Dog Rescue! Please bring a mat and be ready to give pets!

Coffee with the Classics

Friday, June 13, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Rewatch a favorite classic movie as you enjoy coffee and donuts in the cool of the library's community room! This month's feature: *National Velvet*.

Spice Club

Sunday, June 15, 12:00 - 9:00 pm

Interested in learning more about spices? This club will feature a different spice each month. Participants will be given a sample of the featured spice, a brief history of its use, and a recipe that incorporates it. Spices can be picked up from the service desk of the library beginning June 15th. This month's spice is TAMARIND.

A Taste for Mystery Book Club

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

By popular demand, this month instead of reading a book we will watch and discuss the movie *Gone Girl*, comparing it in particular to March's book, *Sandrine's Case*. There will be candy, popcorn and lemonade to enjoy during the movie.

Verona Aspiring Writers Group

Monday, June 16 and 23, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

The Aspiring Writers Group offers constructive feedback and inspiration to writers and aspiring writers

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

Musical Performance: Les Cordes en Blue

Wednesday, June 18, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Consisting of a violin, an upright bass and an acoustic guitar, *Les Cordes en Blue* will entertain with jazz standards as well as French swing. Come and enjoy the syncopated stylings of this talented musical trio!

Verona Adult Art Club

Thursday, June 19, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

New at VPL! Feeling crafty but seeking a little camaraderie as you create? This is the club for you! Bring in whatever project (sewing, knitting, drawing, etc.) you're working on, or select from provided supplies to do adult coloring, Zentangle and collages. The atmosphere is informal and light refreshments will be served, so come and enjoy some social time while pursuing your artistic interests!

Community Blood Drive with Impact Life

Saturday, June 21, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Did you know that about every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood, a single blood donation can save up to 3 lives, only 3% of age-eligible individuals in the U.S. give blood each year. Giving blood is simple, safe and vitally important to those in need of transfusions. Sign up today and save a life!

Novel Outlining 101 with Author Sally Collins

Tuesday, June 24, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

"Writing a novel is like driving a car at night. You can see only as far as your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way," said E.L. Doctorow. But a map helps, maybe some moonlight... Let's make the journey smoother with Novel Outlining 101. Basic and technical - we'll examine the arc of scenes and stories, the importance of getting to know your characters, and various methods to (loosely) plan and plot. We'll also take a peek at how famous authors outlined their novels to remind ourselves not many (if any) can sit and write a brilliant novel from start to finish. Wisconsin author Sally Collins (*Muddled Cherries*) will lead this fun and interesting workshop, which all are welcome to attend!

2025 Artist-in-Residence Program with artist Dawn Wians
April 28 - June 6

Welcome to VPL's very first Artist-in-Residence program! Dawn Wians is a well-respected local artist who works in mixed media to express abstract landscapes and nature-inspired art. During her residency, Dawn will be leading workshops, teaching classes, and helping patrons 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 during Studio Time. Her artwork will be on display throughout the library during the residency. This series and programs are brought to you by the Verona Public Library Endowment Fund.

Studio Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

Open A.I.R. Studio

Thursdays, May 15, 22, and 29, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

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!

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 1038 total views of programs in April.**

Author Talk: Gregg Hurwitz

Thursday, April 24, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, views: 15

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

Wednesday, May 7, 1:00 - 2:00 pm, views: 37

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

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

Author Talk: How Judy Blume Rewrote Childhood with Rachelle Bergstein

Wednesday, May 21, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, views: 1

Upcoming Events:

Extinctopedia: A Discovery of What We Have Lost, What is at Risk, and What to Do About It with Smithsonian Scientists

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

You're invited to grab your family and friends and join us as Smithsonian scientists highlight information found in the Smithsonian's book, *Extinctopedia: Discover what we have lost, what is at risk, and how we can preserve the diversity of our fragile planet.*

Author Talk: Lisa Jewell

Tuesday, June 10, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

You're invited to an exclusive preview event as Lisa introduces readers to her forthcoming title *Don't Let Him In* (Out June 24, 2025!). Along with an introduction to her newest bone-chilling, psychological thriller, Jewell will chat about her life as a writer and her critically-acclaimed body of work

Author Talk: Katherine Applegate

Tuesday, June 24, 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Katherine Applegate is the Newbery Medal-winning and #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of numerous books for young readers, including *The One and Only Ivan*, *Wishtree*, *Crenshaw*, the *Endling* series, the *Roscoe Riley Rules* chapter books series, and the *Animorphs* series. Join us as she talks to viewers about her enthusiastically heartwarming novel in verse, *Odder*.

Outreach

Summer reading program school visits began on May 22. Youth services staff and outreach staff share information about the summer challenge and events at all Verona elementary schools.

Outreach story times:

Total daycare story time presentations: 15

Verona Eggstravaganza

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

The library had 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, 23

Noel Manor Book Group

Wednesday, April 23, 10:30 – 11:30 am

The group discussed *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman.

Attendees: 6

Prairie Oaks Book Group

Thursday, April 24, and Thursday, May 21, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

The group met to discuss *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb and *Mrs. Quinn's Rise to Fame* by Olivia Ford.

Attendees: 5, 5

Books 'n Booze at Stone Porch Alehouse

Thursday, April 24, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

The group discussed *The Stranger in the Woods* by Michael Finkel.

Attendees: 19

Guidepost Field Trip

Tuesday, April 29, 10:00 – 11:00 am

Two classes from Guidepost Montessori walked over to the library for a story time, tour, and time to check out books.

Attendees: 36

Four Winds Book Group

Tuesday, May 6, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The residents met to discuss *Where the Sky Begins* by Rhys Bowen. *Comments: One resident was so excited for next month's pick that she opened it and began reading on the spot.*

Attendees: 7

Sugar Creek Love to Read Night

Thursday, May 8, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

The library had card applications and library information at Sugar Creek's literacy night for families.

Attendees: 100

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.

Attendees: 11

YMCA After School Program at Country View

Tuesday, May 13, 2:40 – 3:10 pm

Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at Country View.

Attendees: 15

Senior Center Book Group

Wednesday, May 14, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The group discussed *The Maid* by Nita Prose. *Comments: Several members commented how much they enjoy the group, even though there is a large number of participants.*

Attendees: 21

YMCA After School Program at Glacier Edge

Tuesday, May 19, 3:15 – 3:45 pm

Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at Glacier Edge. *Comments: The students loved this month's read aloud, Don't Trust Fish by Neil Sharpson.*

Attendees: 15

Upcoming Outreach Events**Books 'n Booze at Stone Porch Alehouse**

Thursday, May 22, 6:00–7:00 pm

The group will be discussing *The Cemetery of Untold Stories* by Julia Alvarez.

Noel Manor Book Group

Wednesday, May 28, 10:30–11:30 am

The group will be discussing *Miss Morgan's Book Brigade* by Janet Skeslien Charles.

Four Winds Book Group

Tuesday, June 3, 10:00–11:00 am

The residents will meet to discuss *The Waiting* by Michael Connelly.

Nakoma Kids Club Summer Reading Kickoff Party

Tuesday, June 3, 3:00–4:00 pm

A dinosaur-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

Thursday, 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.

Bilingual Community Resource Fair at Verona Area High School

Friday, June 6, 8:00 am–12:00 pm

The library will have a table at the high school to promote library resources and teen volunteer opportunities.

Story Time at The Sow's Ear

Tuesday, June 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.

Senior Center Book Group

Wednesday, June 11, 10:00–11:00 am

The group will be reading *The Long Flight Home* by Alan Hlad.

Prairie Oaks Book Group

Thursday, June 26, 1:30–2:30 pm

The group will be reading *Dewey* by Vicki Myron.