

AGENDA

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

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

Call to order

- Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of 7/2/25
- Review and approval of the July 2025 invoices
- Public Comments
- City Council Liaison's report
- Library Director's report
- Old Business
 1. Discussion of the 2026 library budget
 2. Discussion and update on the Library Space Needs Assessment
- New Business
 1. Discussion and possible action regarding the Community Bulletin Board policy

Library Board Meeting Notes

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

Attendees:

Present: Burkart, Conwell, Hopp, Jones, Spencer, Franke

Absent:

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

Election of Officers for following 12 months

Board nominated and completed voting for the following representation

President Chris Hopp

Vice President Rikki Conwell

Secretary Kyle Jones

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of 06/04/25

Spencer moved / Jones Seconded / Motion carries

Review and approval of the June 2025 invoices

Jones Moved / Franke Seconded / Motion Carries

Public Comments

None

City Council Liaison's report

None

Library Director's report

Review of contents of director's report.

Discussed continuation of solar panel investigation

Old Business

1. Discussion of 2026 Library Budget

Discussed pending citywide staff wage assessment status and potential impact.

New Business

1. Discussion and update on the Library Space Needs Assessment

Discussed upcoming sessions with OPN and next step plans.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Spencer, Seconded by Conwell, Adjournment approved at 8:10pm.

Director's Report

Verona Public Library

July 2025

Circulation

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

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	46,806	43,352	44,226	42,775	32,633
June	58,000	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	297,784	591,618	594,132	561,749	483,708

New Library Cards: The number of new library accounts created each month for patrons who reside in the City of Verona, does not reflect patrons "home library" selection.

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	108	124	142	140	71
June	197	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	954	2,072	2,073	2,038	1,017

Holds Filled: Number of items checked out from our hold shelves per month, includes items pulled from our collection and items sent from other SCLS libraries.

Holds Filled	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
January	12,733	11,436	11,882	12,153	15,287
February	10,100	11,303	10,432	9,722	15,255
March	11,003	11,091	12,068	10,837	16,760
April	11,034	10,423	10,065	10,780	14,262
May	11,057	10,275	10,358	9,446	11,915
June	11,357	10,845	11,473	10,202	11,985
July		11,440	10,819	9,537	10,912
August		10,781	11,192	10,631	10,644
September		10,620	10,496	10,395	10,962
October		10,847	10,678	9,434	11,324
November		10,210	10,129	9,839	10,114
December		9,743	9,665	9,010	9,761
Total	67,284	129,014	129,257	121,986	149,181

Reference

Reference Statistics July 2025

Computer Lab Use: 832

Test Proctoring: 5 exams

Outer Library Loans: 35 requests

Personal Archiving Lab Sessions: 3

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

Library Visits	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	18,158	17,169	16,049	12,366	5,015
June	24,154	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	118,948	226,810	213,696	174,146	87,360

Reference Questions: Number of questions answered per month that qualify as reference questions as defined by the WI Department of Public Instruction.

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	1,223	1,995	2,031	1,117	1,085
June	1,678	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	7057	23,394	23,259	18,655	14,840

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

Meeting/Study 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	606	551	509	328	-
June	565	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	3,790	6,859	5,590	3,890	0

Collection Management

Number of items added to and deleted from the library collection in June 2025:

Item Type	Added	Deleted
Books	707	674
Audio	15	5
Software	11	13
Video/DVD	32	25
Other (kits, etc.)	7	0
Magazines	130	13
TOTAL	902	730
YTD	6181	6538

We switched out the subject divider signage in adult non-fiction to match with signage in the Children's department.

Personnel and Staff Development

Molly Jensen started as a new Library Assistant on July 8.

Tonja attended an FMLA webinar provided by CVMIC and *Introducing the New NovelList* from NovelList.

Kathy Ochowski put in her resignation as Page II. Her last day will be August 2.

Jette Thorson has been promoted to Page II and will start her new role on August 4.

The Page I job opening has been posted and we will be accepting applications through August 10.

Equipment and Physical Facilities

Three dead ornamental trees were replaced near the front of the library.

Administration and Internal Operations

Stacey and the management team continued to develop the 2026 budget proposal and reviewed and revised the Community Bulletin Board policy.

OPN Architects held two visioning sessions in July attended by library staff and board members along with some community organization members.

Marketing and Public Relations

This month Abby created 93 event graphics (website, Facebook, TV) with accompanying bookmarks, flyers, and signs.

June Events Newsletter 1: 8,838, recipients; In the spotlight: Summer Reading Begins June 1st!

June Events Newsletter 2: 8,822, recipients; In the spotlight: Summer Reading is Here!

Julia created a display spotlighting the “Color Our World” summer reading program and another focusing on American history. Circulation staff created a display to celebrate Pride month and another with a Jane Austen theme.

Library System and Interagency Cooperation

Tonja met with Bex Fabrizio from the Literacy Network for a mid-term briefing on the virtual Community English classes on June 26.

Tonja met with representatives from NovelList and EBSCO to review new database products.

The library participated in the statewide Speak Up for Libraries campaign. 20 filled out postcards were sent back to SCLS on June 19 and 36 were sent back to SCLS on July 21.

Fundraising

Nothing to report

Exhibits

No current exhibits this month due to summer reading program events taking place in the center area of the library.

Library Events and Programs

1000 Books before Kindergarten

33 kids were registered this month, bringing the total number of registrants to 2823.

Kids' Events

The **Summer Reading Program** is going well, with 2133 kids ages 0 -11 signed up. Participants have been picking up their prizes and free books for reaching their 20- and 40-days goals, with the 60-day goal coming up soon. Fifty volunteers are helping out with prize pickup.

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!

Attendees: 45

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.

Attendees: 7

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.

Attendees: 150

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!

Attendees: 25

Story Time Mending

Wednesdays and Thursdays, June 18 – July 31, 9:30 – 11:00 am

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, or let you know if she needs extra time or supplies. *Repairs have included a second repair on a well-loved blanket and a teddy bear eye removed by a dog.*

Attendees: 1, 1, 1, 1

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. *SmartyPants combined balloon tricks with magic and silliness; we got a lot of verbal post-show positive feedback, including one parent who specifically thanked us for hosting an evening performance.*

Attendees: 260, 208

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!

Attendees: 9

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! This program is geared to kids age 6-11.

Attendees: 84

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.

Attendees: 57

Music & Movement Story Time

Tuesday, July 1, 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.

Attendees: 102

Bubble Play Time

Tuesday, July 1, 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.

Attendees: 94

Minecraft Club

Thursday, July 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: 37

Lunch Bunch

Monday, July 7, 12:15 – 12:45 pm

Ages 5-9. Bring your lunch to the library and listen to a chapter book read aloud while you eat.

Attendees: 15

Shake, Rattle, and Roll with Mister Jim

Tuesday, July 8, 10:30 – 11:15 am

Join Mister Jim for a fun and lively concert full of playful movement, joy filled songs and lots of laughs along the way. Sponsored by the Friends of the Verona Public Library. *Mister Jim is new to the area and had a calming vibe and positive message with great music.*

Attendees: 200

Parent/Child Book Club: The Sherlock Society

Tuesday, July 8, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration required. In July, Parent/Child Book Club will discuss the novel *The*

Sherlock Society by James Ponti.

Attendance: 12

Crayon Scavenger Hunt

June 14 – July 8

Crayons modeled after those from the Drew Daywalt books were hidden throughout the children's area for kids to find, with fidget ring and rubber duck prizes for those who found them all.

Participants: 935

Tween Craft: Bath Bombs

Wednesday, July 9, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration required. The only explosions here will be the joy when you create your own homemade bath bomb. Choose from different scents and colors to mold your bomb to your liking.

Attendees: 29

Read to a Dog

Wednesday, July 9, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

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

Attendees: 8

Blue Heeler Story Time

Wednesday, July 9, 6:30 – 7:00 pm

Ages 2-6. You know who we're talking about, for real life! Join us for blue dog-themed stories and songs. No registration.

Attendees: 73

Pokémon Club

Thursday, July 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!

Attendees: 55

Dragonfly Walk

Friday, July 11, 3:00 – 4:00 pm

For age 6-11. Registration required. Join us at the Verona Library to learn about dragonflies. We will start out in our community room where we will learn about dragonflies from an Upper Sugar River Watershed volunteer. Then we'll walk over to the Silent Street pond and use our new knowledge to spot and identify dragonflies. *The weather made this an indoor program with a slide presentation and last-minute extra indoor activities created by Jess.*

Attendees: 11

Crafternoon: Recycled Art

Monday, July 14, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Ages 4-10. No registration. Drop in and get creative with different art projects each week. *Kids had some much fun with these projects that we might try to make this an annual theme.*

Attendees: 82

The Queen of Hearts & the Colorful Garden

Tuesday, July 15, 10:30 – 11:15 am

All ages. No registration. The Queen of Hearts is enlisting the help of Jolly the Jester to transform her plain grass lawn into habitat for bees, butterflies and birds! Corcoran Puppets presents an old-fashioned puppet show featuring needle felted puppets sure to charm audiences of all ages.

Attendees: 138

Science Stations: Dinosaurs

Tuesday, July 15, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

For ages 6-11. Registration suggested. Join us for hands-on science experiments and crafts about dinosaurs! This program is geared to kids age 6-11.

Attendees: 56

Wicked Sing-Along

Thursday, July 17, 6:00 – 8:45 pm

All ages. No registration. Warm up your pipes and join us for a Wicked sing-along screening, complete with onscreen lyrics.

Attendees: 15

Read to a Dog

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

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

Attendees: 16

Lunch Bunch

Monday, July 21, 12:15 – 12:45 pm

Ages 5-9. Bring your lunch to the library and listen to a chapter book read aloud while you eat.

Attendees: 6

Graphic Novel Party: InvestiGators

Monday, July 21, 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Ages 6-11. Registration suggested. Join us at the library for a celebration of the graphic novel series Investigators! The goofy graphic novel series that follows the super spy alligator duo the *InvestiGators* as they travel through the sewers and fight the forces of evil. We will have activity stations with crafts, snacks, and trivia. Please register so staff can prepare enough supplies.

Attendees: 58

Toddler Art and Play

Tuesday, July 22, 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.

Attendees: 104

Tween Snack: Waffles and Parfaits

Wednesday, July 23, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration required. Create an epic yogurt parfait bar with all kinds of toppings. And make your own mini-waffles too! Let's play with our food!

Attendees: 28

Famous Painting Remix

Thursday, July 24, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration requested. Add your own flair to a famous painting using art supplies provided by the library. Bring your creativity and silliness, and the library will provide printouts of paintings, drawing tools, stickers, and more to help you remix the art to create something new.

Attendees: 6

Crafternoon: Abstract Art

Monday, July 28, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

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

Attendees: 40

Read It and Eat: Doodleville

Monday, July 28, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Ages 8-11. Discuss the book *Doodleville*, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the book.

Attendees: 10

Silly Friends Story Time

Tuesday, July 29, 10:00 – 10:30 am

Ages 2-6. Join us for silly stories and songs about friends! Designed for ages 2-6. No registration.

Attendees: 91

ThunderHEADS Robotics

Tuesday, July 29, 4:00 – 4:45 pm

Geared to ages 5 - 13. THUNDERHeads from BadgerBots is excited to demo their First Tech Challenge game robot! Entered in an international robotics competition against 7000 teams, 14 students from the area worked together to design, build and program a robot to play a new game. The team will demonstrate their robot's capabilities, discuss the design process, show how robotics develop STEM and teamwork skills and more!

Attendees: 50

Upcoming Kids' Events

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

Eric Carle Story Time

Thursday, July 31, 6:30 – 7:00 pm

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

Lunch Bunch

Monday, August 4, 12:15 – 12:45 pm

Ages 5-9. Bring your lunch to the library and listen to a chapter book read aloud while you eat.

Music & Movement Story Time

Tuesday, August 5, 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.

Tween Snack: Pancake Balls

Wednesday, August 6, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration required. Mix up and cook some delicious, ooey-gooey pancake balls.

Choose from a variety of sweet and savory fillings and cook up your own one-of-a-kind pancake ball creation using our takoyaki griddles.

Minecraft Club

Thursday, August 7, 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.

Little Miss Ann

Friday, August 8, 10:30 – 11:15 am

All ages. No registration. Sing, jump, and dance along to the upbeat, interactive songs of Chicago-based musician Little Miss Ann. Sponsored by the Friends of the Verona Public Library.

Crafternoon: Sticker Art

Monday, August 11, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

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

Summer Dance Party

Tuesday, August 12, 10:30 – 11:15 am

Ages 0-5. Join us at our Summer Dance Party as we shake, wiggle, and dance along to kid-friendly tunes! No registration.

Reading is Magic

Wednesday, August 13, 10:30 – 11:30 am, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Ages 4 and up. No registration. Enjoy an entertaining magic show by Zack Percell of TnZ Magic. This show blends comedy, visual magic, escape artistry and more! Geared toward ages 4 and up but all are welcome. Sponsored by the Friends of the Verona Public Library.

Read to a Dog

Wednesday, August 13, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

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

Elephant and Piggie Story Time

Wednesday, August 13, 6:30 – 7:00 pm

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

Pokémon Club

Thursday, August 14, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

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

Read to a Dog

Saturday, August 16, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

Lunch Bunch

Monday, August 18, 12:15 – 12:45 pm

Ages 5-9. Bring your lunch to the library and listen to a chapter book read aloud while you eat.

Toddler Art and Play

Tuesday, August 19, 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.

Read to a Dog

Saturday, August 23, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

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

Read It and Eat: It's Boba Time for Pearl Li!

Monday, August 25, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Ages 8-11. Discuss the book *It's Boba Time for Pearl Li!*, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the book.

Skunk and Badger Party

Wednesday, August 27, 5:00 – 6:00 pm

Ages 5 - 10. No registration. Celebrate our youngest 2025 Verona Reads! pick at a Skunk and Badger party, with crafts, activities, and snacks! Drop-in any time during the event.

Teen Events

Crafty Tuesday

Tuesday, June 10, 4 pm

Stop by Teen Central for DIY projects. Create throughout the week, as supplies last. *Comments: Teens planted succulents into treasure chests and reused plastic ornament globes after decorating the containers and adding mini figurines!*

Attendees: 21

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! *Comments: From using shaping molds to wrapping rice balls in seaweed, teens tried traditional bento techniques but also made up their own. They used a variety of ingredients to make fun and healthy meals. They loved experimenting and getting creative!*

Attendees: 24

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.

Attendees: 10

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!

Attendees: 6

Quadball

Tuesday, July 1, 3:45 – 4:45 pm

Play Quadball, weather permitting! No experience necessary. *Meet behind the library.*

Quadball is a mixed-gender sport inspired by Quidditch from the Harry Potter books. It combines parts of ultimate, dodgeball, and tag, played on a field with hoops on each side.

Teams try to score by passing a ball through the hoops, while defending their own hoops from the opposition. *Comments: With parents on the side-line cheering them on, kids split into teams and took turns taking on different roles. They had a blast running, scoring, playing both offense and defense, and eventually chasing after a golden human snitch to end the game.*

Attendees: 6

Escape Room

Wednesday, July 2, 3:00 – 3:45 pm and 4:00 – 4:45 pm

Solve puzzles, find clues, and crack locks to escape an adventure! *Comments: Teens used teamwork and observational skills to complete this Harry Potter book-themed game. While they had fun with the props and decorations, they got to work problem-solving and sharing ideas.*

Attendees: 10, 7

Eat Your Words

Monday, July 7, 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 colorful pancakes and wrote stories based on simple word prompts, which they encouraged one another to share. Two teens were new to the area and had a great time making connections and gushing over shared interests.

Attendees: 6

Teen Craft: Melted Crayon

Wednesday, July 9, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Arrange Crayons on canvas and create a melted masterpiece! *Comments: No canvas looked alike in this workshop, even with some classic melted wax drip techniques. Teens spent time arranging recycled crayons, decorating their canvases with drawings, and creating tape resist areas. Then they directed adults in melting the wax in specific ways in order to bring their whole work together!*

Attendees: 14

Pixel Art

Tuesday, July 15, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Turn your favorite video game style into a pixelated masterpiece! Choose from sample ideas or make your own plan. Fill in building blocks with color and end up with fun, low-res art!

Comments: Starting with measuring and penciling a grid pattern on their canvases, teens then spent time planning color patterns and painting individual squares in order to create pixelated art pieces. Some kids were inspired by their favorite video games, while others went with pets and sunsets!

Attendees: 6

Teen Gaming & Pizza

Thursday, July 17, 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. *Comments: A bunch of new faces enjoyed playing board games together, gaming individually, and competing in Mario kart on the Switch!*

Attendees: 11

Teen Outdoor Movie

Friday, July 18, 8:45 – 10:45 pm

Snack on some popcorn while you watch *Kpop Demon Hunters* on a big screen in our parking lot theater! *Comments: Teens are so loving this Netflix hit that most of them could not help dancing and lip-syncing to their favorite parts of this musical animation. One teen even saved opening her soda in order to coincide with when this happens in the song, "Soda Pop."*

Attendees: 5

Teen Snack: Waffles & Parfaits

Wednesday, July 23, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Cook up your own mini-waffles and dish up an irresistible yogurt parfait with layers of delicious toppings. *Comments: After some quick safety tips and tricks, teens had a great time working independently to layer fruit and yogurt parfaits. Many teens did not have experience with a waffle iron, so it was great to see them build confidence in cooking. The room smelled amazing.*

Attendees: 11

Upcoming Teen Events:

Teen Snack: Pancake Bites

Wednesday, August 6, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Mix up a basic pancake batter and griddle up some round, Takoyaki-style bites! Experiment with delicious fillings and toppings, both savory and sweet!

Teen Outdoor Movie

Friday, August 8, 8:30 – 10:45 pm

Snack on some popcorn while you watch *Dungeons & Dragons* on a big screen in our parking lot theater!

Eat Your Words

Monday, August 11, 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!

Quadball

Tuesday, August 12, 3:45 – 4:45 pm

Play Quadball, weather permitting! No experience necessary. *Meet behind the library.*

Quadball is a mixed-gender sport inspired by Quidditch from the Harry Potter books. It combines parts of ultimate, dodgeball, and tag, played on a field with hoops on each side.

Teen Gaming & Pizza

Wednesday, August 13, 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.

Adult Events

Distance Learning English Classes for Adults

Mondays 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Level: Beginner, June 2 – May 16, 2025

Tuesdays 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Level: Intermediate, May 27 – May 16, 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.

June 23, attendees: 9

June 24, attendees: 3

June 30, attendees: 12

July 1, attendees: 2

July 7, attendees: 13

July 8, attendees: 1

July 14, attendees: 13

July 15, 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.

June 24, attendees: 1

July 1, attendees: 0

July 8, attendees: 0

July 15, attendees: 2

July 22, 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.

June 25, attendees: 15

July 2, attendees: 10

July 9, attendees: 12

July 16, attendees: 12

July 23, attendees: 12

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. Wisconsin author Sally Collins (*Muddled Cherries*) will lead this fun and interesting workshop.!

Attendees: 9

Fill ‘er Up: The Glory Days of Wisconsin Gas Stations

Thursday, July 10, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Step back to a time when a visit to a Wisconsin gas station meant service with a smile, a wash of the windshield, and the cheerful question, "Fill 'er up?" Author Jim Draeger will tell the story of the gas station's place in automobile culture and its evolution in tandem with American history. Enjoy this nostalgic look at 60 of Wisconsin's historic (and still standing) stations and consider their place in the 21st century and beyond.

Attendees: 27

Senior Case Management Outreach (Drop-in)

Monday, July 14, 10:00 – 11:00 am

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

Attendees: 0

VPL Cookbook Club: Picnic Foods

Tuesday, July 15, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

This month we will make picnic foods - think salads, wraps, fruit dishes, hand pies and more!

Attendees: 12

Chad Lewis: Weird Lake Superior Stories

Wednesday, July 16, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Come and enjoy as paranormal researcher and author Chad Lewis tells stories from his newest book: *Supernatural Lake Superior*.

Attendees: 52

Coffee with the Classics

Friday, July 18, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Enjoy popcorn, candy and iced coffee as we take in a classic of the cinema.

This month we will watch *12 Angry Men*.

Attendees: 3

Adult Crafternoon: Mini Book Jewelry

Friday, July 18, 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Make mini books and then make them into jewelry to keep or gift!

Attendees: 16

A Taste for Mystery Book Club

Monday, July 21, 10:00 – 11:00 am

This month we will read and discuss *The Woman in the Library*, by Sulari Gentill.

Attendees: 8

A Musical Performance by the Silver Morning Duo

Monday, July 21, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Back by popular demand! Come pass the early part of a summer evening listening to the beautiful stylings of this flute and guitar duo. This time, there will be a vocalist as well. Please register so we can set out enough chairs for everyone.

Attendees: 36

Hive Talkin': The Buzz on Bees

Tuesday, July 22, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Join Beekeeper Konni Vukelic of Three Bees in Illinois for an interactive presentation on bees. Learn about the lifespan of a bee, how honey is made, and what a day in the life of a honeybee is like. Hear about native bees and the value of bees in our world, plus enjoy a light honey sampling.

Attendees: 18

Verona Adult Art Club

Monday, July 28, 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 supportive, so come enjoy some social time while pursuing your artistic interests!

Attendees: 11

Achieving and Maintaining a Healthy Weight

Tuesday, July 29, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Struggling to lose weight? Dena Person, MS, RDN will offer useful advice on healthy eating, meal planning, perimenopausal diet optimization and more. Learn how to modify your eating habits to achieve and maintain a healthy weight without a drastic lifestyle change.

Attendees: 30

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.

Guided Zen Meditation

Wednesday, July 30, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Participants will receive instruction in basic Zen meditation from a trained practitioner.

The session will include about 30 minutes of instruction, followed by 15–20 minutes of practice and 5–10 minutes for questions.

Verona Aspiring Writers Group

Monday, August 4 and 18, 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!

Wisconsin Idols: 100 Heroes Who Changed the State

Tuesday, August 5, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Journalist Dean Robbins (*USA Today*, *The New York Daily News*) will discuss his new essay collection *Wisconsin Idols: 100 Heroes Who Changed the State, the World, and Me*, offering a unique perspective on legendary figures with surprising connections to the state, including Jackie Robinson, Oprah Winfrey, Harrison Ford, Bob Dylan, Ann Landers, and Joni Mitchell. With photos, videoclips and humorous anecdotes, the presentation establishes Wisconsin as a crossroads for people who changed the world. Come and learn more about the Wisconsin heroes you know and discover new ones to admire.

Books will be available for purchase.

Performance by the Madison Flute Club

Wednesday, August 6, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Enjoy an evening with the beautiful music of the Madison Flute Club!

Blood Pressure Screening with Fitch-Rona EMS

Thursday, August 7, 10:00 – 11:00 am

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

Northern Wisconsin Parks, Trails, & Forests

Thursday, August 7, 6:30 – 7:30 pm Sara Pearson, a Parks and Rec Supervisor for Wisconsin State Parks, will talk about some of the many parks, trails and forests in northern Wisconsin. This talk is meant to complement *Northwoods* (2025 **Verona Reads!** choice for adults), which is set in northern Wisconsin, but any and all who are interested in the topic are welcome to attend!

Spice Club

Monday, August 11

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. We will not actually meet - this is simply an opportunity to be introduced to a new spice, or possibly a new way of using it. Spices can be picked up from the service desk of the library beginning August 11. This month we will feature long pepper.

***Northwoods* Author Amy Pease**

Tuesday, August 12, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Join Amy Pease, author of the 2025 **Verona Reads!** choice for adults, *Northwoods*, for a visit to

discuss her critically acclaimed novel set in northern Wisconsin. Please let the library know if you can make it!

Volunteer Training for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Wednesday, August 13, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

In this volunteer orientation session, come learn how you can be a part of the work of saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide through education, advocacy, and community support.

A Family Guide to Nature Immersion in Wisconsin

Thursday, August 14, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Are you seeking places in Wisconsin to immerse yourself in nature? With the growing recognition of nature's extraordinary benefits, finding the right place to experience this is essential.

Writer Randy Hoffman, a seasoned nature expert, will discuss his new book, *Great Nature Wisconsin*, an essential guide to help nature enthusiasts of all ages and interests to find the perfect outdoor experience. ***Books will be available for purchase at the event.***

Coffee with the Classics

Friday, August 15, 10:00 – 12:00 pm

This month's feature: *Roman Holiday*

Enjoy coffee and a sweet treat as you watch classic cinema in the comfort of the library's Community Room.

Creative Writers Forum

Saturday, August 16, 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!

VPL Cookbook Club: Church & Community Cookbooks

Tuesday, August 19, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Remember when your church, fundraising group or employer put out a request for your best recipes to include in a cookbook? Remember how those little spiral-bound books were full of delicious recipes that you've made over and over? This month, we will celebrate these treasures by making our favorite from one of them. Bring in the cookbook you use, if you can, so we can pass them around!

Don't have such a cookbook? Email Maureen, who has many and she can get you a copy.

Forage Like a Bear with Author Chris Fink and Illustrator John Porcellino

Wednesday, August 20, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Author Chris Fink and Illustrator John Porcellino discuss *Forage Like a Bear*, their beautiful new

book of micro-essays (and illustrations) on nature, family and life, adapted from radio segments heard on Northern Public Radio in DeKalb, Illinois. Fink's writing has been called "luminous" and Porcellino's illustrations full of "inky grace". Hear selections from the book and enjoy its many insights and simple beauty. There will be an opportunity to ask questions as well as to purchase the book.

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 757 total views of programs in July.**

Author Talk: Katherine Applegate

Tuesday, June 24, 3:00 – 4:00 pm, total views: 20

Drawing Your World with Raúl the Third (PK-2nd Grade)

Tuesday, June 8, 1:00 – 1:30 pm & 3:00 – 3:30, total views: 21 in Spanish and 3 in English

Author Talk: Marie Lu (9th-12th Grade)

Thursday, July 17, 3:00 – 4:00 pm, total views: 9

Author Talk: Rex Ogle

Wednesday, July 23, 3:00 – 3:45 pm, total views: 3

Upcoming Events:

Author Talk: The Strangeness and wonder of Our Brains

Thursday, July 31, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

You're invited to virtually attend a fascinating conversation with neurologist Pria Anand to chat about her new book *The Mind Electric: A Neurologist on the Strangeness and Wonder of Our Brains*.

Author Talk: Stories, Science, & History of Birds

Tuesday, August 5, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Dr. Jay Jinsing Falk is an evolutionary biologist and behavioral ecologist fascinated by the diversity that can be found within species.

Author Talk: Returning to Romance with Casey McQuiston

Wednesday, August 20, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Bring an appetite for sizzling drama as we discuss *New York Times* bestselling author Casey McQuiston's latest romantic comedy, *The Pairing*.

Author Talk: How to Thrive in a World of Constant Chaos

Thursday, August 28, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Learn how to master the daily grind and become shatterproof in a tumultuous world with key insights from organizational psychologist Tasha Eurich as she talks about her newest book, *Shatterproof: How to Thrive in a World of Constant Chaos (And why resilience alone isn't enough)*.

Outreach

Outreach Events

Outreach story times:

Total daycare story time presentations: 40

Make Music Verona Day

Saturday, June 21, 10:00 – 10:30 am

Amy and Marissa presented a music and movement story time for Make Music Verona at Century School Park. *Comments: This is a new event in Verona, and despite the hot weather, the participants had a fun time singing along and using egg shakers.*

Attendees: 16

Four Winds Book Group

Tuesday, June 24, and Tuesday, July 22, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The residents met to discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus and *The Secret Book of Flora Lea* by Patti Callahan Henry.

Attendees: 10, 7

Prairie Oaks Book Group

Thursday, June 26, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

The group read *Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World* by Vicki Myron.

Attendees: 5

Books 'n Booze at Stone Porch Alehouse

Thursday, June 26, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

The group discussed *Symphony of Secrets* by Brendan Slocumb.

Attendees: 16

Nakoma Summer Reading Kids Club

Tuesday, July 1 and Tuesday, July 15, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Students checked out books, made several craft projects, and played games. *Comments: Despite hot weather for this outdoor program, attendance remained consistent and the students had a great time choosing new library books and working on the craft projects.*

Attendees: 18, 19

Story Time at The Sow's Ear

Tuesday, July 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: 31

Senior Center Book Group

Wednesday, July 9, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The group discussed *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. *Comments: Almost every participant loved the book; it was the favorite choice of the year so far.*

Attendees: 25

Noel Manor Book Group

Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 – 11:30 am

The group discussed *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* by Agatha Christie. *Comments: The group wanted to try an Agatha Christie book, but decided they prefer James Patterson!*

Attendees: 8

Book Bike Events

Harriet Park, July 10, 11:30 am – 12:15 pm

Comments: The kids were so excited to see the book bike arrive and spent a long time looking at the books and deciding what to check out. Several sat down right beside the book trailer and started reading while waiting for the Parks program to end for the day.

Attendees: 24

Cathedral Point Park, July 11, 11:30 am – 12:15 pm

Attendees: 26

Tollefson Park, July 17, 11:30 am – 12:15 pm

Attendees: 17

Verona Public Library
Community Bulletin Board Policy

The Verona Public Library provides space on its public bulletin board and brochure holders for notices, announcements, and community events.

Events appropriate for posting include concerts, cultural events, lectures, and workshops. This includes programs of a cultural, recreational, educational, or community service sponsored by a non-profit organization, including fundraisers, and free educational programs offered by for-profit organizations. Events occurring outside the city may be considered on a space available basis.

The library will not display commercial advertisements, legal notices, job postings, notices of sale, or listings of personal or professional services. Political campaign literature, religious proselytizing, and hate speech may not be posted. Materials must be appropriate for viewing by all ages.

All notices are subject to the following guidelines:

- All items must be dated.
- Only one copy of the same notice is allowed.
- Items may not be posted more than two weeks prior to the event.
- Due to space constraints, preference will be given to posters 8.5 x 11 and smaller.
- No signs or posters are allowed in other areas of the library or on the library grounds.

The library does not endorse any organization or individual displaying materials nor its beliefs or policies. All notices posted in the library become the property of the library and may be removed and discarded at any time. The library does not accept responsibility for returning notices and posters to their owners.

Library Board adopted on 4/2/2003

Revised on 12/4/19

Reviewed on 8/3/2022

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Events appropriate for posting include concerts, cultural events, lectures, and workshops. This includes programs of a cultural, recreational, educational, or community service sponsored by a non-profit organization, including fundraisers, and free educational programs offered by for-profit organizations. Events occurring outside the city may be considered on a space available basis.

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