

**AGENDA**

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

**Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.  
Library Conference Room**

Call to order

- Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of 8/6/25
- Review and approval of the August 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. none

## **Library Board Meeting Notes**

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

### **Attendees:**

Present: Burkart, Hopp, Jones, Spencer, Franke, Miller, Kellor

Absent: Conwell

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

Introductions of new board members:

Lisa Miller

Melissa Kellor

### **Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of 07/02/25**

Minutes Approval: Jones Moved / Franke Seconded / Motion carries

### **Review and approval of the June 2025 invoices**

Invoice Approval: Spencer Moved / Kellor Seconded / Motion carries

### **Public Comments**

Visit from the President of the New Glarus Library Board. Discussed their ongoing building project.

### **City Council Liaison's report**

Kellor shared updates on city planning activities and Art House opening ceremonies

### **Library Director's report**

Burkart reviewed the contents of directors report.

Discussed continuation of solar panel funding and implementation of electric car charging location.

### **Old Business**

1. Discussion of 2026 Library Budget

Discussed pending citywide staff wage assessment status and potential impact. Should be available for September meeting discussion

2. Discussion and update on the Library Space Needs Assessment

Shared notes from July visioning session with OPN. Ongoing workshops with staff scheduled for later August and early September.

### **New Business**

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the Community Bulletin Board Policy

Discussed edits and modifications to policy for additional clarity on allowable materials and process.

Policy Approval: Jones Moved / Spencer Seconded / Motion carries

### **Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Spencer Seconded by Kellor Adjournment approved

# Director's Report

## Verona Public Library

### August 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	61,051	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>358,835</b>	<b>591,618</b>	<b>594,132</b>	<b>561,749</b>	<b>483,708</b>

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	206	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>2,072</b>	<b>2,073</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>1,017</b>

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.

<b>Holds Filled</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
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	11,910	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,194</b>	<b>129,014</b>	<b>129,257</b>	<b>121,986</b>	<b>149,181</b>

## Reference

### Reference Statistics August 2025

Computer Lab Use: 887

Test Proctoring: 3 exams

Outer Library Loans: 54 requests

Personal Archiving Lab Sessions: 4

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

<b>Library Visits</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
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	25,821	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>144,769</b>	<b>226,810</b>	<b>213,696</b>	<b>174,146</b>	<b>87,360</b>

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

<b>Reference Questions</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
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	1,734	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,469</b>	<b>23,394</b>	<b>23,259</b>	<b>18,655</b>	<b>14,840</b>

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.

<b>Meeting/Study Room Use</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
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	636	490	423	316	-
August		499	538	411	-
September		521	172	327	-
October		676	512	398	-
November		634	528	453	-
December		591	495	396	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,426</b>	<b>6,859</b>	<b>5,590</b>	<b>3,890</b>	<b>0</b>

## Collection Management

Number of items added to and deleted from the library collection through July 2025:

<b>Items Added</b>	<b>Books</b>	<b>Audio</b>	<b>Video games</b>	<b>Video</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Magazines</b>	<b>Total</b>
January	589	3	2	23	12	130	759
February	863	1	2	4	11	128	1009
March	711	50	14	54	1	129	959
April	1077	3	9	34	13	129	1265
May	1119	3	12	23	5	125	1287
June	707	15	11	32	7	130	902
July	807	44	6	29	3	100	989
August							
Sept.							
October							
November							
December							
<b>Total</b>	<b>5873</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>7170</b>

<b>Items Deleted</b>	<b>Books</b>	<b>Audio</b>	<b>Video games</b>	<b>Video</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Magazines</b>	<b>Total</b>
January	612	2	0	5	35	482	1136
February	502	1	1	0	1	39	544
March	758	267	0	7	19	132	959
April	613	323	1	551	1	116	1605
May	1126	5	0	4	1	204	1340
June	674	5	13	25	0	13	730
July	1174	10	20	32	12	52	1300
August							
Sept.							
October							
November							
December							
<b>Total</b>	<b>5873</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>7170</b>

## Personnel and Staff Development

Mark attended the webinar, WISCAT & ISSI Configuration and Use.

## Equipment and Physical Facilities

The carpet was spot cleaned, which was needed after a very busy summer.

## Administration and Internal Operations

Stacey and the management team continued to develop the 2026 budget proposal.

OPN Architects met with library management staff to get feedback on library collections and projected growth targets.

A committee of library staff met and identified a top candidate for our fall Artist-in-Residence program.

## Marketing and Public Relations

This month Abby created 98 event graphics (website, Facebook, TV) with accompanying bookmarks, flyers, and signs.

July Events Newsletter 1: 8,926, recipients; In the spotlight: Fall Artist-in-Residence: Apply starting July 25

July Events Newsletter 2: 8,955, recipients; In the spotlight: Verona Reads! 2025 and Fall 2025 Artist-in-Residence

Julia created a display focusing on American History and another for Vacation Reads. Circulation staff created a display to celebrate Jane Austen and another highlighting Summer Cooking.

## Library System and Interagency Cooperation

Jenny attended the Wisconsin DPI's Play Make Learn Annual Conference in Madison on August 21 and 22.

## Fundraising

Nothing to report

## Exhibits

### **Unjust Deeds: A History of Racial Covenants in Dane County & Beyond**

September 2 – 30

For most of the 20th century, racial covenants were an insidious tool used nationwide to segregate whites from Blacks and other minorities in America's burgeoning suburbs and residential neighborhoods. Racial covenants were clauses inserted into property deeds to prevent non-whites and non-Christians from buying or occupying land. Although no longer valid or enforceable, they can still be found in the land deeds of almost every American community, including Dane County. Racial covenants were made illegal with the passage of the Fair Housing Act in 1968. Nevertheless, their impacts were pervasive and are still with us today.

Stop in to visit this traveling exhibit developed by the Dane County Historical Society and learn about the ordinances once in place in Dane County.

*This exhibit was created by the [Dane County Historical Society](#) and is sponsored by [Dane Arts](#), the [Evjue Foundation](#), [Beyond the Page](#), [National Endowment for the Humanities](#), and the [Madison Community Foundation](#).*

## Library Events and Programs

### **1000 Books before Kindergarten**

19 kids were registered this month, bringing the total number of registrants to 2842.

The **Summer Reading Program** is nearing the end, with prize pickup continuing until August 30. This is a slight decrease from last year, with 235 fewer sign-ups.

Ages 0-5 = 767

Ages 6-11 = 1428

Total children's participation = 2195

### **Summer Story Time**

June 16 – August 1

Baby Story Time: 12 story times, attendees: 250, average: 21

Toddler Story Time: 14 story times, attendees: 735, average: 53

Preschool Story Time: 14 story times, attendees: 456, average: 33

Sensory Story Time: 8 story times (5/29 – 7/24), attendees: 259, average: 32

Outdoor Story Time: 9 story times, attendees: 820, average: 91

Total: 57 story times, 2520 attendees

### **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. Please register. 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! *Three teen robotics team members presented to a very interested crowd of school-age kids and their adults, with lots of questions asked. We hope to collaborate on more programs in the future.*

Attendees: 50



**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.

Attendees: 38

**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.

Attendees: 14

**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.

Attendees: 71

**Bubble Play Time**

Tuesday, August 5, 10:30 – 11:00 am

Ages 0-5. Stop by the library between 10:30-11:00 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.

Attendees: 66

**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.

Attendees: 25

**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.

Attendees: 17

**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.

*Little Miss Ann's performance was upbeat, using a combination of guitar and recorded accompanying music, with bubbles and parachutes at the end.*

Attendees: 202

**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.

*Sticker art is fun for kids and also very easy for staff.*

Attendees: 83

**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. *This morning felt like one of the busiest mornings of the summer.*

*Door count during the 10:00 hour was 232.*

Attendees: 206

**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. *Zack was an excellent performer and very professional, with his own sound system and cued background music activated by remote. We didn't get the attendance numbers we would normally expect from a magician and we're not sure why.*

Attendance: 141, 55

**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.

Attendance: 38

**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.

Attendance: 32

**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.

Attendance: 8

**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.

Attendance: 9

**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.

Attendance: 108

**Upcoming Kids' Events****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.

**Music & Movement Story Time**

Tuesday, September 2, 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.

**Read to a Dog**

Thursday, September 4, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

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

**Minecraft Club**

Thursday, September 4, 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, September 6, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

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

**Fall Story Times**

September 8 – October 31

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

### **Child Development Story Time**

Tuesday, September 9, 10:30 – 11 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!

### **Parent/Child Book Club: Ferris**

Tuesday, September 9, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration required. In September, Parent/Child Book Club will discuss the novel Ferris by Kate DiCamillo.

### **Story Time Mending**

Wednesdays and Thursdays, September 10 – September 25, 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.

### **Read to a Dog**

Wednesday, September 10, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

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

### **Stitch Story Time**

Wednesday, September 10, 6:30 – 7:00 pm

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

### **Pokémon Club**

Thursday, September 11, 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.

### **Kid Stuff Mending**

Thursday, September 11, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

All ages. Is your Pikachu losing some stuffing? Does your favorite blanket have a hole in it? Local resident Nancy will offer free mending services during Pokémon Club. No zipper replacements please.

### **Toddler Art and Play**

Tuesday, September 16, 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**

Thursday, September 18, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

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

**Amy Timberlake author visit**

Thursday, September 18, 6:30 - 7:15 pm

All ages. Registration requested but not required. Join award-winning author Amy Timberlake in person for a reading from her upcoming Skunk and Badger book *Rock, Paper, Incisors* plus a question and answer session. Wisconsin native Timberlake was chosen as the author for both Verona Reads selections for youth - *Skunk and Badger* and *One Came Home*. Her novels for young readers have received a Newbery Honor, an Edgar Award, a Golden Kite Award, and the China Times Best Book Award. Kids and adults are welcome to attend. *Amy wasn't available during our Verona Reads event window but reached out last week to say she was passing through Madison was available September 18. We're just getting this together as an event but will promote it heavily to schools and the public.*

**Read to a Dog**

Saturday, September 20, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

**Favorite Books and Bites: Witchlings**

Monday, September 22, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

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

**Kindermusik**

Tuesday, September 23, 9:30 – 10:00 am

Ages 0-5. Registration required. The Wonder Studio presents a demo Kindermusik class for ages 0-5 and accompanying adult. Older siblings are welcome. Come sing, play, and move with us!

**Tween Craft: Flip Books**

Thursday, September 25, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration required. Create your own mini animation using flip books! Each participant will receive a small flip book to draw in. Just draw one frame (moment in time) on each page and you can flip through to see a moving picture.

**Beginning Crochet**

Friday, September 26, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Ages 8 - 17. Registration required. Learn the basics of crochet like holding the yarn and hook, chaining and the single crochet stitch with Mara from the Sow's Ear. Yarn and tools will be provided.

## **Teen Events**

### **Crafty Tuesday**

Tuesday, July 8, 4:00 pm

Stop by Teen Central for DIY projects. Create throughout the week, as supplies last. *Comments: Teens turned bookmarks into sparkly masterpieces by covering them with color-by-number gems.*

Attendees: 18

### **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! *Comments: Groups of teens worked together to mix up their own pancake batter from scratch and plan different filling options for small, round pancakes. They loved adding different toppings and attempting a new cooking method.*

Attendees: 10

### **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! *Comments: Teens had a great time creating shared comic stories together and making colorful pancake creations!*

Attendees: 8

### **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. *Comments: Teens supported someone new who tried out video gaming with others for the first time!*

Attendees: 4

## **Upcoming Teen Events:**

### **Crafty Tuesday**

Tuesday, September 2, 4:00 pm

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

### **Eat Your Words**

Monday, September 8, 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!

### **Teen Gaming & Pizza**

Thursday, September 18, 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.

### **In My Labubu Era**

Wednesday, September 24, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Love them, hate them, or don't know what they are? Come make your own little monster figure! Engage with the hype, and make a creature – whether it's for haunting or cuddling.

### **Strategies for a Smarter College Search (Webinar)**

Monday, September 29, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Join Heidi King from College Inside Track in this free webinar.

Conquer college planning! Learn about revamped ACT/SAT, how to stand out, and smart strategies to boost acceptance and scholarships success.

### **Adult Events**

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

Mondays 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Level: Beginner, June 2 – August 12, 2025

Tuesdays 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Level: Intermediate, May 27 – August 12, 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, August 12. You will practice speaking, listening, reading, writing and new vocabulary in English. This class is presented in partnership with Literacy Network. The last class of session meets in-person at the library.

July 21, attendees: 13

July 22, attendees: 2

July 28, attendees: 13

July 29, attendees: 2

August 4, attendees: 14

August 5, attendees: 2

August 12, attendees: 6

#### **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.

July 29, attendees: 0

August 5, attendees: 2

August 12, attendees: 0

August 19, 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.

July 30, attendees: 12

August 6, attendees: 12

August 13, attendees: 9

August 20, attendees: 9

### **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.

Attendees: 11

### **Verona Aspiring Writers Group**

Monday, August 4, 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!

Attendees: 8

### **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.

Come and learn more about the Wisconsin heroes you know and discover new ones to admire.

Attendees: 26

### **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!

Attendees: 70

### **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!

Attendees: 28



### **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.

Participants: 40

### **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.

Attendees: 82

### **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.

Attendees: 2

### **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.

Attendees: 17

### **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.

Attendees: 7

### **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!

Attendees: 0

### **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!

Attendees: 17

### **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.

Attendees: 13

## **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**

September 15 – December 8

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

This month we will read and discuss *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*, by Alan Bradley.

### **Dragonfly Walk for Adults**

Tuesday, September 2, 6:00 – 7 :00 pm

Join us at the Verona Public 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. Don't miss this fun opportunity to enjoy some of our last summer evenings and appreciate these beautiful seasonal visitors!

### **Downsizing Game Plan: Practical Tips and Pro Tricks**

Wednesday, September 3, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Downsizing can feel overwhelming, but with the right plan, it becomes an opportunity for a fresh start. In this engaging seminar, you will be introduced to techniques to help declutter efficiently and make the transition into the next chapter smoother and more joyful.

### **Talk Saves Lives: An Introduction to Suicide Prevention**

Thursday, September 4, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

A community-based presentation by the [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Wisconsin Chapter](#), that covers important information about suicide, the research on prevention, and resources that can be used to help save lives.

### **VPL Cookbook Club: Italian Recipes**

Tuesday, September 9, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

This month we celebrate the glories of Italian cuisine! *Abbondanza!*

### **Keep the Memories, Clear the Clutter**

Wednesday, September 10, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Join us for a fun, interactive session all about keeping the memories—without keeping all the stuff. From old photo albums to handwritten recipes and keepsakes, we'll show you easy ways to digitize and organize your most meaningful items so they're preserved and easy to share with family for years to come.

### **Spice Club**

Thursday, September 11, 9:00 am – 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. 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. This month we will feature allspice.

### **The Sounds & Cultural Significance of the African Kora (Harp)**

Thursday, September 11, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Traditionally played by oral historians, the kora, a 21-stringed West African harp, preserves an 800-year history dating back to the founding of the Mande Empire. Sean Gaskell, who studied extensively under kora masters, will talk about that history, educate us about the instrument, and perform several songs. Come and enjoy this beautiful combination of music and culture.

For all ages. This event is sponsored by [\*Beyond the Page\*](#), [\*National Endowment for the Humanities\*](#), and the [\*Madison Community Foundation\*](#).

### **Verona Adult Art Club**

Monday, September 15, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

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 or Zentangle. The atmosphere is informal and supportive, so come enjoy some social time while pursuing your artistic interests!

### **Verona Aspiring Writers Group**

Monday, September 15 and 29, 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!

### **Celebrating Frank Lloyd Wright**

Tuesday, September 16, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Jeff Hagen, artist, storyteller and former guide at Taliesin, has studied Frank Lloyd Wright for 30 years. He has interviewed Wright homeowners and students of his school of architecture, and he created the curriculum for teaching about Frank Lloyd Wright in Madison schools.

In this one-hour talk, Jeff will show watercolor paintings he has done of Wright buildings throughout the U.S. and share interesting stories he has gleaned about Wright over the years.

### **Diabetes Education & Prevention**

Wednesday, September 17, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

In this one-hour session, learn about your risk for prediabetes and the steps you can take to stop it from developing into type 2 diabetes.

### **Coffee with the Classics**

Friday, September 19, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

This month's feature: [\*The African Queen\*](#)

### **The History of Racial Covenants in Dane County**

Saturday, September 20, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

For most of the 20th century, racial covenants were an insidious tool used nationwide to segregate whites from Blacks and other minorities in America's burgeoning suburbs and residential neighborhoods. Racial covenants were made illegal with the passage of the Fair Housing Act in 1968. Nevertheless, their impacts were pervasive and are still with us today. Rick Bernstein, Executive Director, Dane County Historical Society, will explore the history of racial covenants in Dane County and nationwide. *This event is sponsored by [Beyond the Page](#), [National Endowment for the Humanities](#), and the [Madison Community Foundation](#).*

### **Destress with a Doggo for Adults**

Monday, September 22, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Research shows our cortisol (stress hormone) levels go down and oxytocin (the love hormone) levels go up when we're in the presence of a dog, even just for a few minutes. Dogs have a calming and positive effect on our bodies. If you could stand to feel a little more relaxed and happy, sign up for this fun opportunity to spend time with (Goldendoodle) Bear!

### **Hands Only CPR**

Tuesday, September 23, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

*Hands-Only CPR* can be just as effective as conventional CPR. The Fitch-Rona EMS will teach us what *Hands-Only CPR* is and how to give it. The power is in your hands.

### **Knit-Along Basketweave Socks**

Monday August 29, October 6 and 13, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Join us for this fall knit along where we will make a beautiful pair of socks using a basketweave pattern written by Library Yarns regular Laurie Sands.

### **Wills & Trusts Planning Workshop**

Tuesday, September 30, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Mark Farnan of [Retirement Income Planning, LLC](#) will lead this informative workshop detailing ways that wills and trusts can work together to protect your assets from excessive taxation, lengthy probate and family disputes upon your passing, and even during your retirement. Come and get the estate planning strategies you need to ensure your intentions are clear and your investments are maximized.

## 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 762 total views of programs in July.**

**Author Talk: The Strangeness and Wonder of Our Brains**

Thursday, July 31, 1:00 – 2:00 pm, total views, 37

**Author Talk: Stories, Science, & History of Birds**

Tuesday, August 5, 1:00 – 2:00 pm, total views, 20

**Author Talk: Returning to Romance with Casey McQuiston**

Wednesday, August 20, 6:00 – 7:00 pm, total views, 12

**Upcoming Events:**

**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)*.

**Author Talk: Hannah Nicole Maehrer on writing Darly Charming, Villainous Love**

Wednesday, September 3, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Embrace your dark side (and your best evil laugh) and join us in conversation with Hannah Nicole Maehrer, creator of the *New York Times* bestselling *Assistant to the Villain* series.

**Author Talk: Argue Less and Talk More with Jefferson Fisher**

Wednesday, September 10, 1:00-2:00 pm

Join us (and be ready to take notes) for an afternoon virtual conversation with communication expert Jefferson Fisher, as we chat about his book, *The Next Conversation: Argue Less, Talk More*.

**Author Talk: Making English Easier to Spell with Gabe Henry**

Wednesday, September 17, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Anyone who has the misfortune to write in English will, every now and then, struggle with its spelling. So why do we still use it? If our spelling is so inconsistent, why haven't we tried to fix it?

## Outreach

### Outreach Events

#### **Outreach story times:**

Total daycare story time presentations: 17

#### **Prairie Oaks Book Group**

Thursday, July 24, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

The group read *The Medicine Woman of Galveston* by Amanda Skenandore.

Attendees: 7

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

Thursday, July 24, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

The group discussed *The Anthropocene Reviewed* by John Green. *Comments: This was the group's favorite pick of the year so far—every attendee gave the book a rating of four or above on a five-star scale.*

Attendees: 10

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

Tuesday, August 12, 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: 21

#### **Senior Center Book Group**

Wednesday August 13, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The group discussed *Northwoods* by Amy Pease. *Comments: The group loved discussing the community read and a few new attendees joined and were excited to discuss the book. Over half the group had attended the author talk the night before and shared that they loved the program.*

Attendees: 20

### Book Bike Events

**National Night Out**, August 5, 5:00 – 8:00 pm

*Comments: Two people signed up for library cards, one person renewed their account, and over 20 books were checked out at this year's National Night Out.*

Attendees: 95

**Veterans Park**, July 30, 11:30 am – 12:15 pm

Attendees: 10

**Big Apple**, August 14, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Attendees: 40

### **Upcoming Outreach Events**

#### **VASD Staff Wellness Fair**

Monday, August 25, 7:00 –8:45 am

Marissa will staff a table at the high school promoting teacher library cards and other library services.

#### **Four Winds Book Group**

Tuesday, August 26, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The residents will meet to discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt.

#### **Noel Manor Book Group**

Wednesday, August 27, 10:30 – 11:30 am

The group will be discussing *The Phoenix Crown* by Kate Quinn

#### **Prairie Oaks Book Group**

Thursday, August 28, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

The group will be reading *The Cherry Harvest* by Lucy Sanna.

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

Thursday, August 28, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

The group will be discussing *Northwoods* by Amy Pease.

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

Tuesday, September 9, 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, September 10, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The group will be reading *The Good Left Undone* by Adriana Trigiani.