AGENDA

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

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. Library Conference Room

Call to order

- Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of 9/3/25
- Review and approval of the September 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

VPL Board Meeting Minutes

Library Board of Trustees-Verona Public Library 500 Silent Street Verona, WI 53593 Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None

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

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Franke, seconded by Kellor, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2025. Motion carried. Kellor motioned, seconded by Jones, to approve the August 2025 invoices. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

City Council Liaison Report:

Verona Envision report online, social media policy updated, Ironman this weekend & a soccer tournament.

Library Director's Report: Fall artist-in-residence artist chosen. Mice are coming in to get warm.

Old Business:

- 1. 2026 budget discussion
- 2. Space needs study discussion (current 33,000 sq ft)

New Business: None

Adjournment: A motion was made by Conwell, seconded by Miller, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm. The next meeting will be held on October 1, at 6:30pm.

Jones up next for minutes

Director's Report Verona Public Library September 2025

Circulation

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

Items	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Circulated					
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	55,597	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	414,432	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	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Cards					
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	207	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	1,367	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	11,910	11,440	10,819	9,537	10,912
August	10,827	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	90,021	129,014	129,257	121,986	149,181

Reference

Reference Statistics August 2025

Computer Lab Use: 906 Test Proctoring: 0 exams

Outer Library Loans: 60 requests Personal Archiving Lab Sessions: 1

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	25,821	23,261	20,232	17,057	13,407
August	23,134	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	167,903	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	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Questions					
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	1,519	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	11,988	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	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Room Use					
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	565	499	538	411	-
September		521	172	327	-
October		676	512	398	-
November		634	528	453	-
December		591	495	396	-
Total	4,991	6,859	5,590	3,890	0

Collection Management

Theresa is working on moving our magazine subscriptions to vendor W.T. Cox.

Ronda has weeded and/or combined television show DVDs to make complete sets.

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

Items Added	Books	Audio	Video games	Video	Other	Magazines	Total
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	727	19	4	35	6	130	921
Sept.							
October							
November							
December							
Total	6600	138	60	234	58	1001	8091

Items Deleted	Books	Audio	Video games	Video	Other	Magazines	Total
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	253	4	1	61	1	98	418
Sept.							
October							
November							
December							
Total	5712	617	36	685	70	1136	8256

Personnel and Staff Development

Rita Stull was hired as the newest Page I. Her first day was September 15.

Jenny attended the ALA Gaming Roundtable MiniCon webinar series consisting of four tabletop roleplaying game webinars. She also attended the Wisconsin DPI's Play Make Learn Annual Conference in Madison on August 21 and 22.

Jess attended an SCLS webinar about horror reader's advisory on September 16.

Stacey, Jenny, Maureen, and Mark attended all or part of the SCLS Tech Days webinar series. Topics included: "What Does Al Mean for Our Future?", "Truth in the Age of Darkness: Spotting Misinformation in a Synthetic World", and "Using Al In Project Management".

Leah attended a four-day local conference called Puppets in the House, a festival celebrating puppetry from all regions of the US. Leah attended conference workshops and performances, learning about shadow puppetry, armature, storytelling, improvisation in programming, stage setup, and much more!

Stacey and Leah attended a "Creating Welcoming Spaces, Programs, and Experiences for Neurodiverse Teens" webinar.

Ronda attended the webinar "X11 vs. X25: Innovation Showdown!" from Envisionware regarding the difference between two models of self-checkout machines.

Equipment and Physical Facilities

Several upholstered chairs were cleaned by ZeroRez.

Administration and Internal Operations

Stacey presented the draft of the 2026 library budget to the city Finance Committee.

OPN Architects met with library management staff to get feedback for the space needs study.

Marketing and Public Relations

This month Abby created 46 event graphics (website, Facebook, TV) with accompanying bookmarks, flyers, and signs.

August 1 Events Newsletter 1: 8,929, recipients; In the spotlight: Verona Reads! 2025 August 2 Events Newsletter 2: 8,976, recipients; In the spotlight: Unjust Deeds: A History of Racial Covenants in Dane Count & Beyond – Special Exhibit

Julia created a display featuring Labubus at the library and one with a Nordic Noir theme. Jenny created a book display focusing on autumnal foods, Hilary created displays with a New York City motif, one with warm coffee and tea themes, and one focusing on books on organization.

Maureen wrote an article for the Verona Press highlighting a fun and successful Summer Reading Program and thanking the Friends of the Verona Public Library for their generosity and support.

Library System and Interagency Cooperation

Theresa attended the Collection Maintenance Subcommittee meeting on September 10.

Fundraising

The library received a generous donation of \$5000 for the library endowment fund this month.

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

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.

Attendees: 7

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.

Attendees: 12

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.

Attendees: 21

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.

Attendees: 74

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.

Attendees: 10

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.

Attendees: 24

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.

Attendees: 14

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! No registration.

Attendees: 60

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.

Attendees: 10

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.

Attendees: 11

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.

Attendees: 22

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.

Attendees: 4

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.

Attendees: 0

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.

Attendees: 71

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.

Attendees: 19

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. *We promoted this through the library, school district, and SCLS youth services librarians. Timberlake was very engaging and those who attended asked a lot of questions.*

Attendees: 22

Upcoming Kids' Events

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

Story Time Mending

Wednesdays and Thursdays, September 10 – 25, October 8 – 30, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

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.

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 adults. Older siblings are also 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.

Minecraft Club

Thursday, October 2, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Ages 6-11. Have fun playing Minecraft and interacting with peers. Build in Minecraft based on a new challenge each session! Minecraft Club does not include instructions on how to play or a shared server.

Read to a Dog

Thursday, October 2, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

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

Music & Movement Story Time

Tuesday, October 7, 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

Wednesday, October 8, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

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

Life of a Showgirl Party

Wednesday, October 8, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Ages 6-11. Registration required. Join other Swifties for bracelet making, coloring, and crafts while listening to the new album and other Taylor hits! Feel free to dress up for our photo prop station. Stay for the entire party, or stop in as you can! Grown-ups are welcome to attend.

Pokémon Club

Thursday, October 9, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

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

Kid Stuff Mending

Thursday, October 9, 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.

Read to a Dog

Saturday, October 11, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

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

Child Development Story Time

Tuesday, October 14, 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! No registration.

Parent/Child Book Club: Song for a Whale

Tuesday, October 14, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration required. In October, Parent/Child Book Club will discuss the novel *Song for a Whale* by Lynne Kelly. "Twelve-year-old Iris and her grandmother, both deaf, fly from Texas to California and then take a cruise ship to Alaska-- armed with Iris's plan to help Blue-55, a whale unable to communicate with other whales."

Read to a Dog

Thursday, October 16, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

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

Tween Craft: DIY Stickers

Thursday, October 16, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Ages 8-11. Registration required. Create handmade stickers to adorn your notebooks and folders! Use simple materials to make custom stickers of your own drawings or images from recycled books.

Costume Tea Party

Friday, October 17, 4:00 – 4:45 pm

Ages 5-8. Registration required. Don your costumes or fancy party clothes and join us for an afternoon of tea, treats, stories, and crafts. Registration is required and limited. Please be sure to register each person individually if they plan to sit for tea.

Read to a Dog

Saturday, October 18, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

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

Narwhal and Jelly Party

Monday, October 20, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Ages 5-11. Registration required. Join us at the library for a celebration of the graphic novel series Narwhal and Jelly! The goofy graphic novel series that follows best friends Narwhal and Jelly as they discover the whole ocean together. We will have activity stations with crafts, snacks, and trivia. Please register so staff can prepare enough supplies.

Toddler Art and Play

Tuesday, October 21, 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.

Life on the Lily Pad

Friday, October 25, 9:30 – 10:15 am

Ages 4 - 7. Registration required. Explore Wisconsin frog and toad adaptations with the Lussier Family Heritage Center! Learn about different adaptations through an interactive presentation, learning frog and toad calls, plus enjoy a special visit from their ambassador toad. Caregiver attendance is recommended but not required.

Newborn Sleep and Care

Tuesday, October 27, 6:30 – 7:15 pm

No registration. Join certified sleep consultant Stephanie Kirklin of Pillowhead Sleep Training for a class focused on babies ages 0 to 4 months old. Topics will include the science behind the day/night confusion, creating a safe sleep environment, appropriate wake windows, how to watch out for sleepy cues, and how to move away from a feed to sleep model slowly. We will

also talk about helpful and unhelpful sleep associations, newborn "schedules" and routines, and ways to practice putting baby down drowsy but awake. At the end, stay an extra 15 minutes to ask your sleep questions! For parents of new babies or expecting parents.

Favorite Books & Bites: The Genius Files

Monday, October 28, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

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

Costume Dance Party

Tuesday, October 29, 10:30 – 11 am

Ages 0-4. No registration. Wear a costume and boogie to kid-friendly tunes. Geared to ages 0-4.

Teen Events

Crafty Tuesday

Tuesday, August 5, 4 pm

Stop by Teen Central for DIY projects. Create throughout the week, as supplies last. *Comments: Teens did some relaxing, paint-by-sticker art.*

Attendees: 12

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! Comments: Starting with first sentence prompts, teens wrote short stories and shared them with one another after cooking up some colorful pancake batter!

Attendees: 4

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. *Comments: Teens played on the Switch together and enjoyed some board games.*

Attendees: 3

Upcoming Teen Events

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.

Crafty Tuesday

Tuesday, October 7, 4:00 pm

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

Eat Your Words

Monday, October 13, 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!

VAHS Makerspace

Tuesday, October 14, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Students signed up for library time at Verona Area High School will have the opportunity to design, create, and socialize.

BRMS Make'n'munch

Thursday, October 16, 11:00 - 1:30 pm

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

Teen Gaming & Pizza

Thursday, October 23, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

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

Adult Events

Distance Learning English Classes for Adults

Mondays 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Level: Beginner, September 15 – December 8, 2025

Tuesdays 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Level: Intermediate, September 16 – December 8, 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 Monday, December 8. 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.

September 15, attendees: 14 September 16, attendees: 2

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.

August 26, attendees: 3 September 2, attendees: 2 September 9, attendees: 1 September 16, attendees: 2

Library Yarns Craft Group

Wednesdays, 4:30 – 6:00 pm

If you enjoy knitting, crochet, embroidery, or another needlecraft, please join us at this weekly drop-in stitching circle hosted by the library. Meet up with other fiber art enthusiasts, learn new techniques, exchange ideas, or find inspiration for your next project. All skill levels welcome. 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.

August 27, attendees: 10 September 3, attendees: 11 September 10, attendees: 9 September 17, attendees: 11

Memory Café

Tuesday, September 2, 3:30 – 5:00 pm

A "memory café" is a social gathering designed for individuals experiencing early dementia and memory loss, along with their caregivers or loved ones. Come to connect, socialize, and build support networks in a comfortable and welcoming environment centered around conversation over coffee.

Attendees: 4

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!

Attendees: 26

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.

Attendees: 55

VPL Cookbook Club: Italian Recipes

Tuesday, September 9, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

This month we celebrate the glories of Italian cuisine! Abbondonza!

Attendees: 13

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.

Attendees: 29

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.

Participants: 46

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 was sponsored by Beyond the Page, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Madison Community Foundation.

Attendees: 31

A Taste for Mystery Book Club

Monday, September 15, 10:00 – 11:00 am

Attendees: 8

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!

Attendees: 16

Verona Aspiring Writers Group

Monday, September 15, 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: 12

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.

Attendees: 25

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.

Attendees: 11

Coffee with the Classics

Friday, September 19, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm This month's feature: *The African Queen*

Attendees: 4

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 Widows of Malabar Hall* by Sujata Massey.

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.

Human Trafficking Awareness 101

Thursday, September 25, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

You may think human trafficking only happens in big cities or faraway places. The truth? It's happening right here in Dane County—sometimes in ways that go unnoticed, even by caring neighbors. Join us for a powerful evening of insight, practical tools, and real stories of hope and restoration from the leaders of Zeteo Community, a Wisconsin residential program for survivors.

Knit-Along Basketweave Socks

Monday, September 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.

Verona Aspiring Writers Group

Monday, September 29 and October 13, 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!

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 Stuff You Struggle With: Group Coaching for Caregivers

Wednesday, October 1 and 15, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Are you caring for an aging or infirm parent or spouse, or a child with a chronic illness? These group sessions are designed to help you to improve your mental, physical and emotional health by digging into the specific challenges brought about by this role. The facilitator, a fellow caregiver, will listen, ask questions, share pertinent experiences, and lead exercises designed to reduce stress, boost resilience and ultimately prevent burnout. The group setting allows participants to learn from and support each other in a safe space that is free of judgement. It's not easy to be a caregiver, but these sessions can help alleviate some of the burden. Come to one or all of them!

Global Entries: An Immersive Author Event with Joe Fahey

Wednesday, October 1, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Joe Fahey, beloved presenter of travel stories and information, here at the library and around the world, has written a book! Join us as he introduces *Global Entries* by discussing the inspiration and process of putting it together and sharing many fun backstories of his adventures. There will be short readings along with great pictures. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Don't miss this fun opportunity to laugh and learn!

Blood Pressure Screening with Fitch-Rona EMS

Thursday, October 2, 10:00 – 11:00 am

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

DIY Card Making Class: Fall & Winter Themes

Thursday, October 2, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Join Stampin' Up's wonderful Jamie Statz for an evening of card making. This workshop will feature cards suitable for fall and winter holidays/occasions.

Edgar Allan Poe: A Ravenous Feast

Saturday, October 4, 10:00 – 11:00 am

Learn about the Antebellum period in American literature while enjoying an elegantly ghoulish culinary journey through Poe's writing.

Adult Art Club

Tuesday, October 7, 6:00 – 7:00 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!

The Scandinavian Recipe for Happiness

Thursday, October 9, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Scandinavians consistently rank among the happiest people in the world. Dr. Claus Anderson, professor of Scandinavian Studies at UW Madison, will explore why that is, and what can we learn from the Scandinavian approach to life.

The *Badger Talks* program reflects the tradition of the Wisconsin Idea — to extend the resources of the University to citizens of the state. Over 200 Badger Talks are hosted around the state each year, featuring faculty and staff with expertise in a variety of disciplines.

Senior Case Management Outreach (Drop-In)

Monday, October 13, 10:00 – 11:00 am

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

Contact a case manager at the Verona Senior Center at 608-845-7471 with questions.

VPL Cookbook Club: Apple Recipes

Tuesday, October 14, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

This month we will explore recipes that use apples. Think pies, salads, slaws, grilled cheese ... Let's celebrate the seasonal bounty with delicious dishes!

Trips and Tricks from a Certified Sleep Science Coach

Wednesday, October 15, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Could you stand to fall asleep faster, sleep more deeply and feel more rested when you wake

up (and honestly, who couldn't)? Certified sleep science coach and owner of Verona's Pillowhead Sleep Training, LLC, Stephanie Kirklin, will share strategies and techniques for achieving better quality sleep, and will take questions from the sleep deprived.

Forward Theater Monologues

Thursday, October 16, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Indulge in confession and hilarity with *Guilty Pleasures* from Forward Theater. This sampling of original monologues from Forward's eighth *Monologue Festival* offers a delightful journey through the joys, embarrassments, and sweet relief that come from embracing one's secret delights. Written by playwrights from Wisconsin and across the country. Recommended for ages 16+

Coffee with the Classics

Friday, October 17, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm This month's feature: *Rear Window*

Learn to Play Mahjongg

Friday, October 17 and 24, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Ever wondered about the popularity of Mahjongg, and why players seem so devoted? Now's your chance to do some exploration. In this 4-part workshop you will learn the history of the game, its rules and strategy, and how to play it in a group. If things click, this could become a regular library program! Please sign up for one session and you will be considered registered for all four.

Paper Basket Weaving with Ho-Chunk Artist Kimberly Crowley

Satuday, October 18, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Kimberly Crowley of the Ho-Chunk Nation's Thunder Clan has been a master basket maker for over 45 years, following in the footsteps of her mother Christine Hall and grandmother Lula Link. All three women have baskets on display in museums here in Wisconsin as well as at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to learn from Kimberly and try your hand at making a paper basket of your own. In addition, there will also be an opportunity to sample some delicious indigenous food. All ages are welcome, but please do register so we know you're coming.

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

Stop the Bleed

Tuesday, October 21, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Stop the Bleed training, led by members of the Fitchrona EMS, empowers people to act quickly and be the help until help arrives. You will learn how to use your hands, dressings and

tourniquets to control bleeding to immediately assist people with massive or uncontrolled bleeding until professional responders arrive.

Newborn Care and Sleep

Monday, October 27, 6:30 – 7:15 pm

Join certified sleep consultant Stephanie Kirklin of Pillowhead Sleep Training for a class focused on babies ages 0 to 4 months old. Topics will include the science behind the day/night confusion, creating a safe sleep environment, appropriate wake windows, how to watch out for sleepy cues, and how to move away from a feed to sleep model slowly. We will also talk about helpful and unhelpful sleep associations, newborn "schedules" and routines, and ways to practice putting baby down drowsy but awake. At the end, stay an extra 15 minutes to ask your sleep questions! For parents of new babies or expecting parents. No registration.

Talk Saves Lives: An Introduction to Suicide Prevention

Wednesday, October 29, 5:30 – 6:30 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.

THE BETTY J. KARWEICK VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS SERIES

Welcome to <u>The Betty J. Karweick Virtual Author Talks Series</u>, 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 832 total views of programs in August and September.**

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

Thursday, August 28, 1:00 – 2:00 pm, total views, 13

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

Wednesday, September 3, 6:00 – 7:00 pm, total views, 13

Author Talk: Argue Less and Talk More with Jefferson Fisher

Wednesday, September 10, 1:00-2:00 pm, total views, 30

Author Talk: Making English Eezier to Spell with Gabe Henry

Wednesday, September 17, 1:00 – 2:00 pm, total views, 6

Upcoming Events:

Author Talk: Nuestra América with the Smithsonian Museum

Thursday, October 2, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Join us in conversation with Smithsonian professionals Adrián Aldaba and Emily Key as they discuss *Nuestra América* and highlight inspiring stories of Latinos throughout history, as well as their incredible contributions to the cultural, social, and political character of the United States.

Author Talk: Leigh Bardugo

Thursday, October 9, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Join us as we pick the brain of the *New York Times* bestselling author herself, celebrating the release of her *Six of Crows* (The Dregs Edition).

Author Talk: Philippa Gregory

Wednesday, October 29, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Dr. Philippa Gregory is one of the world's foremost historical novelists. We invite you to sit down with us for an intriguing conversation with Gregory about the soon to be released (October 14, 2025) *Boleyn Traitor*.

2025 Artist-in-Residence Program with artist Elena Delzer October 13 – November 24

Elena Delzer is an illustrator for publications such as *Madison Magazine*, *The Isthmus*, and *On Wisconsin*, representing important current issues and celebrating community success stories through an artistic lens. She has recently illustrated a children's picture book, *Always and Forever*, available on Amazon.

Elena has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration and is skilled at drawing, printmaking, and figure drawing. She hopes to share these skills and help the library community explore their own artistic pursuits.

Her current passion project is representing beloved classic works of literature. She has recently reimagined *A Wrinkle in Time* and plans to illustrate other classics such as *Little Women* and *Pride and Prejudice*.

Elena has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration and is skilled at drawing, printmaking, and figure drawing. She hopes to share these skills and help the library community explore their own artistic pursuits.

Opening Reception

Monday, October 13, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Illustrator Talk

Thursday, October 23, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Figure Drawing Workshop

Thursday, November 6, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Kids Illustrations: Dogs in Space!

Saturday, November 22, 10:00 – 11:00 am

Studio Times

Through the course of her residency, Elena will spend several hours a week in her studio working on her art. You are invited and encouraged to stop in and watch her, ask her questions about her art or your own, and even spend time creating alongside the artist, with supplies that will be available. Open to all ages!

Tuesdays, 12:00 – 2: 00 pm Thursdays, 4:00 – 6:00 pm Sundays, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Brought to you by the Verona Public Library Endowment Fund

Outreach

Outreach Events

Outreach story times:

Total daycare story time presentations: 8

Kids Junction Field Trip

Wednesday, August 20, 9:30 – 10:00 am

Students from Kids Junction Preschool visited the library for a field trip and tour of the children's area.

Attendees: 32

VASD Staff Wellness Fair

Monday, August 25, 7:00 - 8:45 am

Marissa staffed a table at the high school, promoting teacher library cards and other library services for educators. *Comments: One teacher expressed how grateful she is that the library is open until 9:00 pm. Another school staff member took an extra library-branded magnet to stick in the teachers' lounge for all employees at her school to see.*

Attendees: 140

Noel Manor Book Group

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

The group discussed *The Phoenix Crown* by Kate Quinn.

Attendees: 5

Stoner Prairie Back to School Night

Wednesday, August 27, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Marissa brought library card applications, event calendars, and library swag for families attending the back-to-school night.

Attendees: 84

Prairie Oaks Book Group

Thursday, August 28, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

The group read *The Cherry Harvest* by Lucy Sanna.

Attendees: 7

Books 'n Booze at Stone Porch Alehouse

Thursday, August 28, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

The group discussed *Northwoods* by Amy Pease. *Comments: A few participants from southeastern Wisconsin attended for the chance to specifically discuss this book.*

Attendees: 21

Four Winds Book Group

Tuesday, September 2, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The residents met to discuss Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt.

Attendees: 6

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.

Attendees: 26

Senior Center Book Group

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

The group discussed *The Good Left Undone* by Adriana Trigiani.

Attendees: 25

Book Bike Events

Goddard School End of Summer Carnival, August 28, 2:45 – 5:15 pm

Comments: One child attending the event signed up for a library card.

Attendees: 43

Upcoming Outreach Events

Four Winds Book Group

Tuesday, September 23, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The residents will meet to discuss While Justice Sleeps by Stacey Abrams.

Noel Manor Book Group

Wednesday, September 24, 10:30 – 11:30 am

The group will be discussing Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt.

Prairie Oaks Book Group

Thursday, September 25, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

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

Books 'n Booze at Stone Porch Alehouse

Thursday, September 25, 6:00 – :00 pm

The group will be discussing All That's Left Unsaid by Tracey Lien.

Senior Center Book Group

Wednesday, October 8, 10:00 – 11:00 am

The group will be reading *These Precious Days* by Ann Patchett.

YMCA After School Program at Country View

Thursday, October 9, 2:40 – 3:10 pm Crafts and stories at the afterschool program at Country View.

Story Time at The Sow's Ear

Tuesday, October 14, 10:00 – 10:30 am

Join us for story time at The Sow's Ear! Enjoy a story time, craft project, and other activities for children and their caregivers. Geared toward ages 2-5, siblings welcome.