

**AGENDA**

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

**Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.  
Library Conference Room**

Call to order

- Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of 9/4/24
- Review and approval of the September 2024 invoices
- Public Comments
- City Council Liaison's report
- Library Director's report
- Old Business
  1. Discussion of library strategic planning
  2. Discussion and possible action regarding the 2025 library budget
- New Business
  1. Discussion and possible action regarding the Memorandum of Mutual Accountability:  
Beyond the Page/Ripple

September 4, 2024

Call to Order: Conwell, at 6:31pm

Present: Spencer, Fuller-White, Burkart, Jones, Frey, Braithwaite

Absent: Hopp

Meeting approval meeting minutes: Braithwaite, first motion, Spencer second meeting minutes

July meeting minutes: Braithwaite first, Spencer second meeting minutes. Carried

July 2024 invoices: Jones first, Braithwaite second, Carried.

August 2024 invoices: Spencer first, Braithwaite second. Carried

**Public Comments:** None

Board discussed public comments on book from August's meeting.

### **City Council Liaison's Report**

#### **Library Director's Report**

Review contents of director's report.

#### **Old Business**

1. Discussion of library strategic planning
2. Discussion of the 2025 library budget
  1. Conwell suggested to invite expert on bird/window collision to October meeting.
3. Discussion and possible action regarding the Inclement Weather Policy: see document for policy changes. Fuller-White first. Spencer second. Motion carried.

Frey moved to adjourn the meeting. Jones Second. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned.

# Director's Report

## Verona Public Library

### September 2024

#### Circulation

Items Circulated	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
January	48,218	47,722	46,024	29,669	49,255
February	47,599	46,003	42,218	28,925	46,500
March	50,433	52,026	49,314	36,647	29,964
April	45,552	46,674	47,514	31,448	2,021
May	43,352	44,226	42,775	32,633	8,861
June	57,330	59,454	52,827	52,142	18,507
July	60,127	58,102	52,448	52,220	29,609
August	55,179	58,081	55,184	51,007	31,025
September		45,429	45,066	42,894	31,115
October		47,785	42,440	43,527	34,075
November		44,975	43,939	43,507	28,171
December		43,655	42,000	39,089	28,194
<b>Total</b>	<b>407,790</b>	<b>594,132</b>	<b>561,749</b>	<b>483,708</b>	<b>337,297</b>

New Library Cards	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
January	171	188	119	27	184
February	176	137	149	36	161
March	189	176	155	24	74
April	150	152	129	36	9
May	124	142	140	71	18
June	262	290	344	179	33
July	217	218	239	160	58
August	195	212	206	129	57
September		141	141	105	51
October		170	150	99	50
November		119	144	64	18
December		128	122	87	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,484</b>	<b>1,423</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>744</b>

<b>Holds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
January	15,085	14,929	15,139	18,260	14,651
February	13,421	13,005	11,617	17,130	12,246
March	13,282	13,586	12,878	18,193	7,277
April	12,906	12,658	12,098	15,698	5,645
May	12,364	13,483	11,820	14,236	10,869
June	13,958	13,854	11,984	13,328	13,616
July	14,280	14,445	11,735	11,621	15,910
August	12,759	13,607	13,389	13,510	15,672
September		13,587	12,506	13,252	16,166
October		12,645	11,924	13,304	16,502
November		12,971	12,888	12,679	16,108
December		11,054	10,313	11,069	14,567
<b>Total</b>	<b>108,055</b>	<b>119,516</b>	<b>148,291</b>	<b>172,280</b>	<b>159,229</b>

## Reference

### Reference Statistics, September 2024

Computer Lab Use: 669

Test Proctoring: 1 exams

Outer Library Loans: 40 requests

Personal Archiving Lab Sessions: 11

<b>Library Visits</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
January	16,183	16,114	10,780	0	18,887
February	18,492	15,945	11,193	0	18,969
March	19,457	18,160	13,628	0	0
April	17,727	18,062	16,488	2,889	0
May	17,169	16,049	12,366	5,015	0
June	23,528	22,204	16,624	11,757	2,850
July	19,834	20,232	17,057	13,407	6,765
August	22,187	22,619	18,830	13,267	*
September		14,958	13,890	10,746	*
October		17,011	14,009	10,346	*
November		16,152	15,729	9,371	0
December		16,190	13,552	10,562	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>154,577</b>	<b>213,696</b>	<b>174,146</b>	<b>87,360</b>	<b>47,471</b>

Reference questions	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
January	1,929	1,640	1,061	821	3,152
February	2,161	1,638	1,653	924	1,632
March	1,989	1,830	1,758	1,347	1,974
April	2,004	1,896	1,226	948	24
May	1,995	2,031	1,117	1,085	116
June	2,638	2,487	2,183	2,200	846
July	2,144	2,058	1,691	2,365	2,431
August	2,242	2,331	2,075	1,847	2,039
September		1,837	1,341	1,543	2,521
October		1,840	1,566	581	2,045
November		1,836	1,628	458	1,060
December		1,835	1,356	721	1,092
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,102</b>	<b>23,259</b>	<b>18,655</b>	<b>14,840</b>	<b>18,932</b>

Meeting Room Use	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
January	560	474	164	-	616
February	674	487	206	-	565
March	575	524	272	-	286
April	569	506	305	-	-
May	551	509	328	-	-
June	519	422	314	-	-
July	490	423	316	-	-
August	499	538	411	-	-
September		172	327	-	-
October		512	398	-	-
November		528	453	-	-
December		495	396	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,437</b>	<b>5,590</b>	<b>5,912</b>	<b>2,021</b>	<b>3,487</b>

## Collection Management

Number of items added and deleted in August 2024:

Item Type	Added	Deleted
Books	1072	409
Audio	2	0
Software	3	0
Video/DVD	30	16
Other (kits, etc.)	5	3
Magazines	137	111
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1249</b>	<b>539</b>
<b>YTD</b>	<b>8280</b>	<b>9595</b>

## Personnel and Staff Development

Stacey and Mark attended the SCLS Tech Days webinars including, *From Basics to Breakthroughs: AI Strategies for Library Leaders* and *Navigating AI Through a Public Librarian's Lens*.

Susan Doing and Luca Nunnaly have resigned their Library Assistant positions this month. Tonja and Ronda are in the process of interviewing candidates for the two open positions.

Jess attended a BadgerLink Training about Britannica School, plus an Early Literacy and Every Child Ready to Read refresher offered by SCLS.

## Equipment and Physical Facilities

The new sorter is scheduled to be installed the week of November 18. Library staff will be checking in all items by hand during the week-long removal and installation process.

## Administration and Internal Operations

Stacey presented a draft of the 2025 operating budget to the City Council Finance Committee on September 16.

Stacey and Julie met with a community member who shared concerns about materials in the children's collection.

## Marketing and Public Relations

This month Abby created 37 event graphics (website, Facebook, TV) with accompanying bookmarks, flyers, and signs.

August events e-newsletter: In the spotlight: Library Card Sign-up month.

September events e-newsletter: In the spotlight: *Dogs: More Than Pets* exhibit

### **Statistics shared on social media and website:**

Library Card Sign-up (month of September) with the following statistics featured on social media, in the newsletter, and our website:

- "1,484 people got a library card at the Verona Public Library so far this year. Are you one of them? Stop in and get your free library card!"
- "Did you know that 15,750 Dane County residents use the Verona Public Library as their home library? Are you one of them? Stop in and get your free library card!"

**Summer 2024 by the numbers:** 2,957 total challenge participants, 2,722 book prizes given away, 248 events in the library, 92 outreach events

### Kids/Teen Fun Facts

- 650 postcards colored by kids in the library
- 435 people explored the inside of an inflatable whale
- 34 kids and teens turned pancakes into an art form
- 15 gallons of bubble solution mixed for Toddler Bubble Party

### Adult Fun Facts

- 816 challenge entries
- 802 events attendees
- 40 Wisconsin treats sampled
- 461 books read

Izzy created several displays this month:

- *Coffee vs Tea*, featuring books with coffee or tea themes.
- *Tacos vs Pizza*
- *Feeling Bookish*, featuring books with the word books in the title
- *Banned Books*

Circulation staff also created a *Ready for College* themed display and one featuring dogs to accompany the *Dogs: More Than Pets* exhibit. Ronda selected and purchased some fun dog themed books for this display.

### Social Media Engagement:

Facebook: 5,232 followers, 61 posts/events

Instagram: 1,698 followers, 5 posts/reels/stories

Events email newsletter: 9,832 recipients

## Library System and Interagency Cooperation

Julie attended Breakfast at the Book Center, an event hosted by Madison Reading Project.

Tonja and Theresa attended the ILS Discovery Layer demos from Aspen on August 29 and Bibliocommons on September 4 via Zoom.

Tonja attended the Southwest Regional Equity Team meeting via Zoom on September 17.

Stacey hosted the quarterly Dane County Library Director's meeting on September 12.

## Fundraising

The library was awarded a grant from Epic for \$20,000 for Learning Workstations and Play-based equipment. We plan to replace our aging AWE computers (educational software) and add new play-based furniture and toys to the children's area.

## Exhibits

### Dane County Public Health and DAMA (Dane Arts Mural Arts) Exhibit

August 19 - September 10

Dane County Public Health conducted an extensive survey in an attempt to identify public health priorities. These murals, created by DAMA, reflect those priorities in an informative and beautiful way.

**Dogs: More than Pets**

September 16 - October 27

Enter the incredible world of the most noble creature on earth, the dog. Immerse yourself in the science, history, DNA, folklore, legend, literature, and pop culture of dogs.

The exhibit has informational graphic panels, hands-on interactive activities, and the opportunity to meet live dogs and the humans that care for and work with them. The panels highlight topics including canine DNA and domestication, which types of animals are dogs, dogs in entertainment, farm dogs, dog's role in exploration and science, and more. The exhibit also includes several interactive areas and hands-on activities with open-ended questions that lend themselves to further discussion. Brought to you by the Verona Public Library Endowment Fund.

## Library Events and Programs

### Kids' Events

#### **1000 Books before Kindergarten**

18 kids were registered this month, bringing the total number of registrants to 2700.

#### **Summer Reading Program**

Out of the 2431 kids who participated this summer, about 1038 "finished" the challenge by checking in after reaching the goal of 50 days of reading, which is 242 fewer finishers than last year. One possible reason for this is that without the Beanstack software we weren't able to email participants directly to remind them to pick up their coupons and prizes, so we'll try to increase communication next year. This year we gave away 2423 books to kids. Based on community feedback, we plan to continue with a similar model next year of tracking days read and no longer doing a grand prize drawing. At a wrap-up meeting, staff commented that this summer felt like it overall went well with a lot of fun activities and crafts, that we taught kids new skills like sewing and cooking, and offered a place for older kids to feel comfortable and shine, especially in our book clubs and special-interest clubs.

#### **Early Fall Story Time**

September 9 – October 11

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

#### **Read to a Dog**

Saturday, August 31, 1:30 - 3:00 pm

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

Attendees: 13

#### **Postcard Drop-In Activity**

During August we set out a postcard coloring station near the youth services desk, where kids could color or draw on postcards, plus write messages.

Participants: 650



**Minecraft Club**

Thursday, September 5, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

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

Attendees: 17

**Music & Movement Story Time**

Tuesday, September 10, 10:30 - 11:00 am

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

Attendees: 82

**Peppa Pig Story Time**

Wednesday, September 11, 6:30 - 7:00 pm

Join us for Peppa Pig-themed stories and songs! Designed for ages 2-5.

Attendees: 39

**Pokémon Club**

Thursday, September 12, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

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! Ages 6-11.

Attendees: 35

**Toddler Art and Play: Dogs**

Tuesday, September 17, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Join us at the library for messy process art and sensory play! Wear clothes that can get messy and drop in for some fun toddler activities. Ages 1-3.

Attendees: 104

**Parent/Child Book Club**

Tuesday, September 17, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Share the love of reading! This book club is for kids ages 8-11 and their parents/caregivers. We will discuss the novel *Dogtown* by Katherine Applegate plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the book.

Attendees: 8

**Child Development Story Time: Dinosaurs**

Tuesday, September 24, 10:30 am

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!

Attendees: 38

**Graphic Novel Book Club**

Tuesday, September 24, 5:00 - 5:45 pm

For ages 8 - 11. Registration begins 8/21. We're trying something a little different this month, participants are encouraged to bring their favorite graphic novel to show off and share with the group. We will also vote on our next few book club choices for Fall and Winter.

Attendees: 11

## **Upcoming Kids' Events**

### **Tween Craft: Dog Toys**

Thursday, September 26, 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Make a DIY dog toy out of felt strips and some braiding skills. This easy to make and durable tug toy will be sure to make the puppy in your life very happy! Don't have any dogs in your life? Make a few and donate them to a local shelter. Puppies and dogs everywhere will be thankful you did! For ages 8-11.

### **Favorite Books and Bites: Because of Mr. Terupt**

Monday, September 30, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Discuss the Mr. Terupt series, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the books. Pick up a copy of the first book of the series (*Because of Mr. Terupt*) at the children's desk to read in advance, or if you're already a fan, just sign up and join us. Ages 8 - 11.

### **Music & Movement Story Time**

Tuesday, October 1, 10:30 - 11:00 am

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

### **Minecraft Club**

Thursday, October 3, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

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. Ages 6 - 11.

### **Read to a Dog**

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

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

### **Parent/Child Book Club**

Tuesday, October 8, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Share the love of reading! We will discuss the novel *Stef Soto, Taco Queen* by Jennifer Torres plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the book. This book club is for kids ages 8-11 and their adults.

### **Paw-some Dog Story Time**

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

Join us for books, songs, and activities all about dogs! Let's raise the woof at this paw-sitively amazing story time! Ages 2-6. No registration.

### **Pokémon Club**

Thursday, October 10, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

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. Ages 6-11. No registration.

### **Read to a Dog**

Friday, October 11, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

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

**Family Story Time**

Saturday, October 12, 9:30 – 10:00 am

Join us for a Family Story Time, once a month, with books, songs, and rhymes. For ages 0 - 5.

**Paint a Dog Portrait**

Monday, October 14, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Paint a dog-inspired masterpiece! Make a portrait of your dog, someone else's dog, or of your dream dog. Get creative and celebrate dogs through art; painting instruction not included. Ages 6-11.

**Toddler Art and Play**

Tuesday, October 15, 9:30 - 10:30 am

Join us at the library for messy process art and sensory play! Wear clothes that can get messy and drop in for some fun toddler activities. Ages 1-3.

**Graphic Novel Book Club**

Tuesday, October 15, 5:00 - 5:45 pm.

Discuss the graphic novel *Twins* by Varian Johnson and illustrated by Shannon Wright, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the book. Books will be available for checkout approximately one month before the discussion. Stop by the youth services desk to request one. Ages 8 - 11.

**Dog Man Party**

Thursday, October 17, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Celebrate the amazing Dog Man with snacks, crafts, and activities. Community Room. Ages 5-11.

**Child Development Story Time: Fall**

Tuesday, October 22, 10:30 -11:00 am

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!

**Spooky Circuits**

Tuesday, October 22, 5:00 - 6:00 pm

In this craft program, take eerie images to the next level by adding lights using basic circuits. Do circuits fill you with dread? Never fear! A librarian will take you step-by-step through designing a basic circuit. All materials will be provided. Picture options will range from mostly cute to fairly creepy. Ages 8-11.

**Read to a Dog**

Thursday, October 24, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

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

**Fall Crafternoon**

Saturday, October 26, 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Drop in and get creative with different fall-themed art projects. Ages 4 - 10.

**Favorite Books and Bites: Book Scavenger**

Monday, October 28, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Discuss the Book Scavenger series by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman, plus enjoy activities and snacks related to the books. Pick up a copy of the first book of the series at the children's desk to read in advance, or if you're already a fan, just sign up and join us. Ages 8 – 11.

**Costume Dance Party**

Tuesday, October 29, 10:00 - 10:45 am

Wear a costume and boogie to kid-friendly tunes. Geared to ages 0 – 5.

**Teen Events****Teen Gaming & Pizza**

Tuesday, September 17, 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: While the teens could have played individually, they chose to share one adventure, passing control from player to player. This made for a fun and cooperative group dynamic!*

Attendees: 3

**Flower Pounding Fabric Dyeing**

Monday, September 23, 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Try your hand at dyeing fabrics naturally by pounding flowers and other colorful plants. Walk away with a fun project and a stress release!

Attendees:

**Upcoming Teen Events:****Crafty Tuesday**

Tuesday, October 8, 4:00 pm

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

**German Student Escape Rooms**

Wednesday, October 9, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

VAHS exchange students from Germany will get an introduction to Verona Public Library via an Escape Room game where they will solve clues and open locks.

**Escape Room**

Wednesday, October 9, 4:15 – 5:00 pm

Solve puzzles, find clues, and crack locks to escape an adventure!

**BRMS Make'n'munch**

Thursday, October 10, 11:00 - 1:15 pm

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

**BRMS Parent/Teacher Conferences**

October 14-16, 3:45 - 7:30 pm

Library staff will be on hand to help complete library card applications for students and their guardians.

**VAHS Makerspace**

Tuesday, October 15 and Wednesday, October 16, 11:35 - 1:05 pm

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

**Teen Gaming & Pizza**

Thursday, October 17, 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****Library Yarns Craft Group**

First and Third Wednesdays, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Fiber art enthusiasts gathered to learn new techniques, exchange ideas, or find inspiration for their next project.

August 28, attendees: 8

September 4, attendees: 10

September 11, attendees: 12

**Brain Games for Seniors**

Tuesday, August 27, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Doing puzzles helps to prevent cognitive decline and sharpen problem-solving skills, plus - they're a lot of fun! We will have word searches, crossword puzzles, sudoku and jigsaw puzzles available for your enjoyment, along with hot coffee and light refreshments. All puzzle-loving adults are welcome!

Attendees: 7

**Everything You Know About ADHD is Wrong**

Wednesday, August 28, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Diagnosed with ADHD at the age of 48, Nurse Practitioner Kelly Pickens has a unique understanding of this condition from the inside out. Come and hear from her as she discusses medication management, natural alternatives to psychiatric medications, and systems/routines related to diet, sleep and exercise that are actually helpful for those with ADHD.

Attendees: 41

**Death-Defying Acts: the History of the Circus**

Thursday, August 29, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Barnum may be the biggest name, but he was only a small part of the story of the circus. William Pack takes you on a fantastical journey through the history of the Circus, from Phil Astley's creation of the modern circus in 1768 to Dan Rice, "the most famous man you've never heard of" to the incredible feud between Barnum and the Ringling Brothers. You'll hear stories of triumph, disaster, and the grand adventure of the travelling.

Attendees: 8

**Triumphing Over Disabilities: Wisconsin Authors Share Their Stories**

Thursday, August 29, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Come to listen and learn as Wisconsin authors Meetra Nahandiv & Cheryl Schiltz share their experiences of living with disabilities and how they challenged their physical limitations in order to live full and meaningful lives. Their books will be available for sale and signing!

Attendees: 5

**Verona Aspiring Writers Group**

Tuesday, September 3 and Monday, September 16, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

This group is to offer constructive feedback to writers and aspiring writers of all genres. Want to get a blog started or grow one? Hoping to be published in a magazine? Trying to finish or fine tune the next great American novel? We welcome all! The first meeting will be for introduction and planning purposes; after this we will meet regularly and share our creations with one another for input.

Class size is limited to 15 participants.

September 3, attendees: 8

September 16, attendees: 8

**The Use of Technology to Help with Hearing Loss**

Tuesday, September 10, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Please join us for the upcoming Madison chapter meeting of the Hearing Loss Association of America, where Madison HLAA and Access to Independence will provide tips on smartphone accessibility features and commonly used hearing assistive technology. Following this program, there will be a HOPE (Hearing Other People's Experiences) group where you can share experiences and learn from others.

Attendees: 14

***Dogs: More Than Pets* Traveling Exhibition Kick-off Event**

Monday, September 16, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Come celebrate with us as we open this year's big exhibit: *Dogs: More Than Pets* (here at the library from September 16 - October 27)! There will be cake, a craft for children, and a take home treat with a dog theme. Most importantly, there will be a chance to view this fun, interactive and very informative exhibit! All are invited, and we hope to see you there.

Attendees: 175

**VPL Cookbook Club – Tailgating Food**

Tuesday, September 17, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Join us as we select recipes from cookbooks, make them for meetings and review them with the group. This month's theme will be tailgate foods. Cookbooks will be on reserve for you to check out behind the circulation desk, but feel free to use one of your own! Registration required.

Attendees: 9

**Learn to Crochet with Library Yarns**

Wednesday, September 18, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Learn the basics of crochet by making a rectangle that can be used to create a finished project of your choice. Project possibilities include a scarf, washcloth, or drink coaster, among others. During this two-session program, you will acquire the ability to tension your yarn and create a slip knot, starting chain, and single crochet stitch.

Attendees: 15

**Meet Verona Police Dog Drea**

Thursday, September 19, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Come and meet Verona K9 Officer Drea and her partner, Sgt. Matthew Kile. Learn how a police dog is selected and trained, how they stay in shape, what they do in their off-duty time and more.

Attendees: 21

**Brain Games for Seniors**

Friday, September 20, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Doing puzzles helps to prevent cognitive decline and sharpen problem-solving skills, plus - they're a lot of fun! We will have word searches, crossword puzzles, sudoku and jigsaw puzzles available for your enjoyment, along with hot coffee and light refreshments. All puzzle-loving adults are welcome!

Attendees: 2

**Adult Crafternoon – Dog Toys**

Friday, September 20, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

This month, in connection with our fabulous Dogs Exhibit, we will be making dog toys with water bottles that feel great in a dog's mouth and produce a sound that provides them with stimulation. Don't have a dog? We will donate any "undesigned" toys to Underdog Pet Rescue of Madison!

Attendees: 11

**Is Human Food Safe for Dogs?**

Monday, September 23, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Most of us with dogs have given them scraps from our plates as treats or to enhance their food, but is this actually safe to do? Staff from the Animal Hospital of Verona will talk about the potential dangers of giving our dogs human food, whether there are any truly safe foods to allow dogs, and what you can give them for "treats" instead.

Attendees: 8

**Pakistani Cooking Class with Huma Siddiqui-Seitz**

Tuesday, September 24, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Join Huma Siddiqui-Seitz, author and founder of White Jasmine, for a cooking demonstration featuring Mediterranean cod and couscous salad. Enjoy a tasting of the food prepared. White Jasmine is a local company that offers unique spices, cheeses, cooking classes and the TV show *White Jasmine Cooking*.

Attendees: 14

**Strangers No More: Belonging and Faith in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Wisconsin**

Wednesday, September 25, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Sergio Gonzalez, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of History at Marquette University whose scholarship focuses on the development of Latino communities in the U.S. Midwest, and the author of *Mexicans in Wisconsin* and *Strangers No Longer: Latino Belonging and Faith in Twentieth-Century Wisconsin*.

In this talk, he will delve into the stories and challenges of these resilient communities, from the farmworkers to the labor organizers, to the everyday families who continue to make space for themselves all across the state today. Sponsored by the Beyond the Page Foundation.

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**

Mondays 6:00 - 7:30 pm, Beginner, Beginner, June 3 – August 13

Tuesdays 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Intermediate, Intermediate, May 28 – August 13

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.

**Senior Case Management Outreach**

Second Monday of each month, drop in between 2:00 - 3:00 pm

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.

**A Taste of Mystery Bookclub**

Third Monday of each month. 10:00 - 11:00 am

In this book club for mystery enthusiasts, we read the first book in a series by a variety of mystery authors and then discuss over coffee, fruit and pastries. Books will be available for checkout both at the meetings and behind the circulation desk during the month they are featured.

**Read to a Dog for Adults**

Thursday, September 26, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

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

**Verona Aspiring Writers Group**

Tuesday, October 1 and Monday, October 21, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

This group is to offer constructive feedback to writers and aspiring writers of all genres. Want to get a blog started or grow one? Hoping to be published in a magazine? Trying to finish or fine tune the next great American novel? We welcome all! We share our creations with one another for input.

**Learn to Crochet with Library Yarns**

Wednesday, October 2, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Learn the basics of crochet by making a rectangle that can be used to create a finished project of your choice. Project possibilities include a scarf, washcloth, or drink coaster, among others. During this two-session program, you will acquire the ability to tension your yarn and create a slip knot, starting chain, and single crochet stitch.

**Pompeii & Herculaneum: A Travel Talk with Joe Fahey**

Thursday, October 3, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Pompeii and Herculaneum were once thriving and sophisticated Roman cities until the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius destroyed its inhabitants and left behind deep deposits of volcanic ash and debris. The cities were lost for more than 1,500 years until, in 1599, they were accidentally discovered during the building of a canal. Remarkably, the same ash and debris which buried the cities for so many centuries also left them frozen in time. Join beloved traveler and presenter Joe Fahey as he tells stories of his own visits to these fascinating places and get a glimpse into the distant past.



**Wisconsin's Most Haunted Locations**

Monday, October 7, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Come and learn about the spookiest places in Wisconsin from Chad Lewis, author of over 30 books on the supernatural, and featured guest on the Discovery Channel's *A Haunting*, William Shanter's *Weird or What*, ABC's *Scariest Places and Monsters and Mysteries in America!*

**Meet Vito, "The Moving Machine"**

Tuesday, October 8, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Have you ever wondered about the dogs who win Best of Breed at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show? Come and meet gorgeous Cocker Spaniel "Vito", who holds this superlative title, along with dozens of other best of breed awards. Learn how Vito was identified as a potential show dog, his training, his grooming and diet, and how he spends his free time. Pam Vesely, one of his owners, will give a talk, show video of some of Vito's events, and answer your questions.

**Meet Maverick, the Mallards Bat Dog!**

Wednesday, October 9, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Stop in and meet Maverick, the very good boy who retrieves bats at the Madison Mallards games!

**Blood Pressure Screening with Fitch-Rona EMS**

Thursday, October 10, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Drop in between 10:00-11:00 am and Fitch-Rona EMS will check your blood pressure free of charge.

**Dog-Themed Book Club**

Thursday, October 10, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

In connection with our Dogs Exhibit, let's read and discuss a dog-themed book! In this heart-warming memoir from an unexpected source, Dean Koontz gives us *A Big Little Life: A Memoir of a Joyful Dog Named Trixie*. In it, he reflects on adopting a golden retriever who brought love and lots of humor into his family, and on why dogs are such valuable companions to us all. Come laugh, cry and talk dogs at this one-time-only book group!

**Water Quality of the Sugar River: Things to Know About Illicit Discharges**

Thursday, October 10, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

This is an education/outreach event being put on by The Upper Sugar River Watershed Association and AECOM, the City of Verona's Engineering Consultant. Learn how to detect and eliminate illicit discharges into the River, and why this is critical to maintaining its water quality.

**Menus on the Titanic: What Were Passengers in Each Class Served for Their Last Meals?**

Saturday, October 12, 3:00 - 4:00 pm

The foods that passengers and crew members ate are footnotes in history that provide insight into how people lived and experienced life during the Edwardian era. Hear stories of Wisconsin residents who were aboard the Titanic, like Daniel ("Popcorn Dan") Coxon, and more. Throughout the presentation, nibble on foods that Titanic passengers ate, including the assorted cheeses that were offered on the first class luncheon buffet each day. Recipes will be provided. Presented by Veronica Hinke, author of *Last Night on the Titanic: Unsinkable Drinking, Dining, and Style*, and *Titanic: The Official Cookbook: 40 Timeless Recipes for Every Occasion*. This event is sponsored by Beyond the Page, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Madison Community Foundation.

**A Taste of Mystery Book Club**

Monday, October 14, 10:00 - 11:00 am

In this book club for mystery enthusiasts, we read the first book in a series by a variety of mystery authors and then discuss over coffee and pastries! In October, we will be reading *A is for Alibi*, by Sue Grafton. Books will be available for checkout behind the circulation desk during the month they are featured.

**The Essential Edgar Allen Poe**

Monday, October 14, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Learn more about the tragic life and remarkable writings of this American genius. Program will include dramatic readings of *The Raven* and *Tell-Tale Heart*!

**VPL Cookbook Club: Pumpkin**

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

Come and check out VPL's new cookbook club! Each month, we choose a theme, then pick an on-theme recipe, make it, and bring it to the meeting for all to sample and discuss. The theme for October's meeting will be "pumpkin" so any sweet or savory dish that incorporates pumpkin is fair game. There are cookbooks available for inspiration behind the circulation desk at the library - just ask!

**Renowned Dog Trainer Patricia McConnell**

Thursday, October 17, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Patricia McConnell, Ph.D. is an author, speaker, and applied animal behaviorist who has made a lifelong commitment to improving the relationship between people and animals. She is known worldwide as an expert on canine training and behavior, and she has generously agreed to come and share some of her knowledge with a VPL audience! Don't miss this wonderful opportunity!

**Movie Screening: *Dog***

Sunday, October 20, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

In keeping with our Dog Exhibit theme, come and enjoy the movie "Dog" starring Channing Tatum. Tatum plays an Army Ranger who is tasked with escorting the military dog of his fallen friend cross-country to the funeral. Along the way, the pair experience danger, hilarity and grief as they go through the often rocky process of getting to know one another. Enjoy popcorn and lemonade as you watch, or bring your own favorite movie snack!

**Service Dogs: A Look at Their Training and a Live Demonstration of Their Skills**

Tuesday, October 22, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Come and learn about the work that goes into getting service dogs ready for their important jobs. Trainers from Custom Canine Service Dog Academy will be here talk about some of the skills they train for, and will bring along some of their amazing dogs for a demonstration!

**The Joy of Reading Part 2**

Thursday, October 24, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Join Trisha Day, a workshop and retreat facilitator who holds a degree in adult education for Part 2 of this fascinating discussion about why we read and what we gain from doing it, the difference between reading and reading deeply, the knowledge/wisdom continuum and much more! Attendance at Part 1 of this program is not a prerequisite to enjoying Part 2!

## Outreach

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

Thursday, August 22, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

The group read *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin. *Comments: Several participants came specifically because they wanted to talk about this book.*

Attendees: 16

### **VASD Staff Wellness Fair**

Monday, August 26, 7:15 - 8:45 am

Marissa staffed a table promoting teacher library cards and other library services. *Comments: "What a great library! We're lucky it's so close and easy to use."*

Attendees: 83

### **Four Winds Book Group**

Tuesday, August 27, 10:00 - 11:00 am

The residents met to discuss *The Whistler* by John Grisham. Two new members joined to try out the book group. *Comments: "This book was so good; can we read the sequel?"*

Attendees: 7

### **Charter Senior Living Book Group**

Tuesday, September 3, 2:30 - 3:30 pm

The residents read *The Bookseller's Promise* by Beth Wiseman.

Attendees: 6

### **Picnic with an Author at Badger Prairie Park**

Tuesday, September 10, 11:00 - 11:30 am

Marissa led a song at this event with local author Samantha Cora, coordinated by the Lussier Family Heritage Center.

Attendees: 30

### **Senior Center Book Group**

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

The group discussed *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. *Comments: The group loved the book and was very excited to discuss it.*

Attendees: 18

### **Book Bike Event: Summer Carnival at the Goddard School**

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

Attendees: 45

### **Upcoming Outreach Events**

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

Tuesday, September 24, 10:00 - 11:00 am

The residents will meet to discuss *Switchboard Soldiers* by Jennifer Chiaverini.

**Noel Manor Book Group**

Wednesday, September 25, 10:30 - 11:30 am

The group will be reading *Educated* by Tara Westover.

**Prairie Oaks Book Group**

Thursday, September 26, 1:30 - 2:30 pm

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

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

Thursday, September 26, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

The group will be discussing *Finlay Donovan is Killing It* by Elle Cosimano.

**Verona Fall Fest**

Friday, September 27, 4:00 - 8:00 pm

Vikki and Marissa will be bringing an autumn-themed craft to the annual Verona Fall Fest.

**Charter Senior Living Book Group**

Tuesday, October 1, 2:30 - 3:30 pm

The residents will be reading *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict.

**Senior Center Book Group**

Wednesday, October 9, 10:00 - 11:00 am

The group will be reading *The Secret Book of Flora Lea* by Patti Callahan Henry.

**Memorandum of Mutual Accountability: Beyond the Page/Ripple**

Dane County generates and maintains some of the starkest racial disparities in the nation across every indicator of well-being, as outlined in the 2013 Race to Equity Report and the 10-year update. Libraries, due to their public service role and connection to local government, are uniquely situated to support equitable, inclusive and just communities.

Between Fall 2020 & Spring 2022, Dane County libraries participated in ongoing internal work to root out racism and white supremacy on both individual and institutional levels. This work supported the initiative of diversifying BtP programming and engaging the public in meaningful conversations about race and justice, as well as creating more welcoming, inclusive and equitable libraries. *The Ripple Project*, as it is known, brought the following initiatives to fruition:

*Phase 1: Assessing organizational culture*

*Phase 2: Formation of regional equity teams*

*Phase 3: Foundational workshops*

*Phase 4: Support ongoing work of regional equity teams*

Moving forward BtP has absorbed the underpinnings of the Ripple Project. The next 5 years will involve the following initiatives:

- BtP designates at least \$5K/year to support local library equity initiatives
- BtP events incorporate an equity focus in addition to the Humanities focus
- Libraries actively participate in Regional Equity Teams whenever possible
- Libraries identify annual (or longer term) DEI goals in conjunction with RETs
- Library leadership considers the recommendations of equity teams which may include:
  - On-going professional development opportunities for staff
  - Changes to library policies/practices
  - Changes to recruitment, hiring and retention policies/practices

This agreement acknowledges that municipalities may have their own DEI/equity plans and initiatives, and that those may take priority over the initiatives of this agreement.

The \_\_\_\_\_ agrees to operate within the above memorandum.  
(Library name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Library Director Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Library Board President Date