

Library Director's Update 7/2026

Outreach

- 06/07 Library at Ridgeway Train Depot during Farmer's Market
- 07/12 CopsNKids book giveaway event for Farmer's Appreciation in collaboration with the Kiwanis, Officer Pepper, and volunteers Sara and Gael, from the High School Key Club - gave out over 100 free books
- 07/18 Town Square Local History Day in collaboration with the Iowa County Historical Society, Historic Preservation Commission, and Friends of the Library. Featured a community conversation around the PBS & Ken Burns documentary "American Revolution", activities for kids, and great food.
- Supporting youth Summer Camp at Ridgeway Volunteer Library during July & August

Staff Updates

- Currently recruiting for two open positions - Full time Library Assistant in Circulation and Part Time Library Associate - Outreach Coordinator
- Received 10 applicants for Assistant position and 2 for Associate position.
- Planning for interviews in the next two weeks.

Summer Programs

- Kids events happening 4 days per week during June and July - including storytimes, Crafty Kids, performers, and Lego building events.
- To date in June & July we've had 31 programs attended by 796 people

Flexible Facilities Program Grant Update

- We have received \$4,225,000 of grant funding as reimbursement. A retainage of \$25,000 will be held until project completion.
- Desk monitoring (audit) of the grant by the State Department of Administration started this week

Solar Panel Update

- The Library Board has signed a service agreement with Ethos Cooperative in Viroqua to install a solar panel array on the roof of the new library once construction is complete. The project is eligible for a 30% incentive from the Federal Government as well as Focus on Energy Incentive. The project will offset 56% of the estimated energy use in the new library and cost \$47,000