

Adult Services Librarian Report July and August 2026

Programming

Summer Art Series: Soy Wax Candles

Madeline led ten adults and older teens in a summer art workshop focused on creating soy wax candles in decoupaged jars. Participants learned the candle-making process, selected their own scents, and designed personalized jars while sharing ideas and encouraging one another's creativity. Through her guidance and welcoming approach, Madeline fostered an inclusive environment where both experienced artists and beginners felt comfortable exploring their artistic talents and connecting with fellow artists.



Summer Adult Reading Challenge

To encourage adults to connect more deeply with this year's Summer Library theme "Unearthing a Story", we launched a special summer-themed book club (Digging for Diamonds). Meeting the third Saturday of each month of summer, this book club invites participants to choose their own titles on the month's theme. Attendees are encouraged to champion a favorite read or suggest one others might skip, the discussion is designed to be welcoming, engaging, and reader-driven.

The Adult Reading Program invited community members ages 18 and up to participate by reading and logging their books throughout the summer. Participants could enter weekly prize drawings by submitting reading slips at the library between June 8 and August 15, with a \$10 gift certificate awarded each

week and a grand prize drawn at the conclusion of the program. Participants could also use Beanstack to track their reading and enter drawings online, providing a convenient paperless option. We had 126 Adult readers who read 985 books during this timeframe.

Puzzle Palooza

Puzzles are such a wonderful way for people to connect, build friendships, and discover others who share their love of puzzling! In June, we hosted one of our favorite events, Puzzle Palooza, and it was a fantastic success. We welcomed 33 attendees, who formed 9 teams for a fun and friendly puzzle competition. The winning team (pictured below, Some Assembly Required) completed their 500-piece puzzle in an incredible 27 minutes! But the best part of the day wasn't just how quickly the puzzles came together—it was the connections that were made along the way.

After the competition, teams gathered to enjoy coffee and Munchkins together, chatted with other teams, swapped puzzle tips and strategies for next time, and spent time exploring and using the library. It was an afternoon filled with laughter, conversation, and community, and we're already looking forward to the next Puzzle Palooza!



David Jones Author Event

We were delighted to welcome local Fox Valley author David Jones to the library to talk about the latest book in his *Fox Valley Homicide* series. During his presentation, David shared the journey that led him to become a writer, the life experiences that inspire his stories, and gave attendees a behind-the-scenes look at his writing process.

The 15 attendees enjoyed asking thoughtful questions about everything from how he researches his novels and chooses his storylines to the routines that help him write successfully and some of his favorite moments from his books. David was incredibly warm, generous, and engaging throughout the event.

Even while busy working on his next novel (which will be set in Kaukauna and even feature our very own Gavin as a character!) David graciously spent extra time signing attendees' personal copies of his books.



Exploring Rocks & Crystals with Sol Rising

SolRising, Kaukauna's newest locally owned rock and crystal shop, visited the library on August 6 to present an engaging program for the community. The owners led a relaxing sound bath experience and shared information about crystal formation, their various uses, and the healing properties and energies that many people associate with them.

All 22 attendees received a complimentary gift from the shop, which was greatly appreciated. The program received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with several participants requesting similar programs in the future. One attendee even traveled from Shawano specifically to attend, demonstrating the strong interest this unique program generated.



GrapeVine Health Series

The library partnered with Grapevine and the Outagamie County Public Health Division to offer a free, welcoming health information series for the community. Hosted by library staff member Bethany alongside Emilie and Vicki from Public Health, the series provides trustworthy, practical information and opportunities for thoughtful conversations around everyday health and wellness.

The three-sessions we've done thus far in the series, which runs into March of 2027, included Better Brain Health on June 29, focusing on lifestyle choices that can help reduce dementia risk and support cognitive health; Mental Health on July 22, encouraging open conversations, reducing stigma, and promoting overall wellness; and Advanced Care Planning on August 26, providing information to help adults understand and prepare for future medical decisions. Advance Directive forms were provided for informational purposes, with guidance on how and where to complete them outside of the session.

JobPod Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Panel and Job Fair

Planning is underway for the JobPod Ribbon Cutting Celebration on Thursday, September 10. Invitations have been sent to community leaders, workforce partners, educators, elected officials, and other stakeholders. Danielle Zeamer of JobPod and Vickie Patterson of the Bay Area Workforce Development Board are confirmed to participate and speak, with additional hopeful speakers—including the Mayor, County Executive, City Council, and a Library Board representative.

The evening will begin at 5 pm with the ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by networking and refreshments at 5:30 pm. A Local Business Panel from 6 – 6:45 pm will explore how JobPod can support employers and strengthen workforce opportunities, followed by a Mini Job Fair from 6:30 – 7 pm featuring local employment, volunteer, and internship opportunities. The event is intended to celebrate this new community resource while connecting residents, students, employers, and workforce partners to the opportunities JobPod provides.

Collection Development

No new updates since last report. As we have been coordinating migration efforts, some aspects needed to be paused while software was implemented, data migrated, and staff trained.

Volunteers

This summer, the library expanded its program volunteer support by creating a Library Program Volunteer position and have recruited and onboarded three volunteers who are consistently filled this role. These volunteers assist with program setup and cleanup, welcome participants, prepare materials, support

staff during events and activities, and help create a friendly, organized environment for children, teens, adults, and families. The flexible position is open to individuals in upper elementary school into adulthood and provides opportunities to support both indoor and outdoor programs throughout the year.