

The Great Backyard Bird Count



The group stopped to take a picture!

On a chilly, sunny Saturday in February, the library led an all-ages group of birding enthusiasts in a walk around the neighborhood to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. This citizen science project has been going on for 25 years and helps researchers understand global bird populations, so they can better conserve and protect birds.

Todd Persche, from the Baraboo Range Preservation Association, was our local bird expert. He led the group on a short loop down neighborhood streets, past houses with bird feeders, helping to identify the birds seen or heard, and regaling the group with fun bird facts.



Some birds have been spotted!

Among the birds spotted on the walk were: several starlings and house sparrows, a handful of house finches, cardinals, and mourning doves, a downy woodpecker, a red bellied woodpecker, and least common at this time of year: a robin.

Thanks to everyone who came out to contribute to science!

Winter Diorama Contest Winners

During the month of January, the library held a winter-themed diorama contest open to all ages. There were lots of amazing entries into the contest, and library patrons spent the first two weeks of February voting on the winners. The results are in, and the winners are:



The Library Mouse



Winter on Balanced Rock



Loving Winter



Blizzard

Thanks to everyone who submitted a diorama and voted!

Let's Talk Books at BASCO

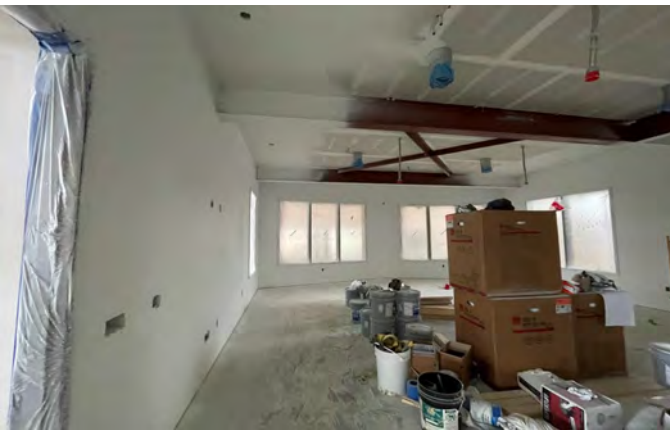
The library, in partnership with the Baraboo Area Senior Citizen Organization, held its inaugural meeting of "Let's Talk Books at BASCO," a monthly meeting for people who want to talk about the books they've read and get recommendations for new reads. We will meet regularly on the third Friday of the month at 10:15 AM at BASCO, room 24 of the Baraboo Civic Center.

Library Construction Update

The library addition continues to proceed on schedule. Currently, the workers are finishing windows, siding, and drywall and electrical work is being done in the Carnegie building for the new electric service. We are in the process of hiring library movers for our move into the addition in May. There may be volunteer opportunities with our move; if you are interested in helping out, stay tuned in the next few months for those! The photos of the interior below were graciously provided by Tim Stieve.



Working on the siding



Interior of the program room, which will be directly above the main service desk



The future Teen Room

Teen Update

In February, teens got to participate in a variety of fun activities at the library during Teen Tuesdays. They got to play the game Exploding Kittens (no kittens were harmed in this silly card game!), they made vintage valentines on February 14, they had a pajama party with s'mores and games, and they made their own comics! Teen Tuesday will continue every Tuesday at 4:00 PM in the library Teen Area.



Making valentines

Storytots

On Wednesday mornings this winter, children aged birth through 5 and their caregivers have enjoyed Storytots, a weekly chance to dance, sing, wiggle, and read. On a recent Wednesday morning, the storytime was themed around birds! Children made bird sounds, learned what baby birds look like when they grow up, and participated in a rhyming song about blackbirds.

Storytots, in room 12/14 of the Baraboo Civic Center, will continue every Wednesday at 10 AM through March 29.



Children and their caregivers practice reading together

Cancelled Programming Due to Weather

We were sad to cancel several programs February 22 & 23 due to a winter storm and school closures. "Discovery Days" and "Read to a Dog!" will return in March. Children can participate in Discovery Days, a STEAM-based presentation for kids in 4K through middle school learning outside of a traditional school setting, Thursday, March 23 at 10 AM. Read to a Dog!, in which kids in 4K through 5th grade can read to a therapy dog to practice their reading skills, will be Thursday, March 23 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM.