

### Library Grand Opening Dedication and Gala

On January 27, the community came together to celebrate the completion of the library expansion and renovation.

During the day was the Library Dedication and Open House. The event kicked off with speeches by Library Director Jessica Bergin and Baraboo Mayor Rob Nelson. They acknowledged the many years of work that went into this momentous occasion, and the great things yet to come in this building.



#### Mayor Rob Nelson's speech

Thank you so much to everyone involved in the realization of this immense project: Rob Nelson (Mayor), Mike Palm (Former Mayor), Casey Bradley (City Administrator), Ed Geick (Former City Administrator), John Ellington (Library Board President), Mary Grant (Former Library Board President), Jessica Bergin (Library Director), Meg Allen (Former Library Director), Patrick Cannon (CDA Executive Director), Tom Pinion & Tim Stieve (Project Management Team), City Council, Community Development Authority, Library Board, USDA-Rural Development, Vogel Brothers (General Contractor), MSA Professional Services (Architect/Engineer), Quinn Evans Architects, and Library Staff Past and Present.



Many of the key players in the expansion and renovation posed for a picture at the dedication.

In the evening, the community came out to celebrate! Thank you so much to all the people that made this night magical: the Friends of the Library Board, Event Planning Team (Lacey Steffes, Bekah Stelling, Beth Persche, Tut Gramling), Little Village Cafe, Balanced Rock Winery, Tumbled Rock Brewery & Kitchen, Sugar Cookie Mama of Sauk County, The Relish Tray Bistro & Speakeasy, Zach Ott and Gretchen Rotgen, and Piano Fondue!



From left to right: Lacey Steffes, Mayor Rob Nelson, Beth Persche, Jessica Bergin, Tut Gramling, and John Ellington pose for a picture at the gala



Mayor Nelson gave another moving speech at the gala



Library staff and volunteers posed for a picture



## New Programs in 2024

This January, kids and adults have had the chance to participate in a variety of new programs designed just for them!

For our littlest library visitors, our weekly



**Lullaby Club Storytime**

9:30 AM is the Lullaby Club, a gentle storytime intended for families looking for a quiet, peaceful bonding time with their little ones aged 0-5. This storytime has been working well for babies who aren't quite mobile yet.

Shortly afterwards, at 10:30 AM, is Babygarten Bounce, for kiddos who like to get active during their storytimes! Babygarten Bounce features rhymes, bouncing, and dancing, and the kids are loving it!



**Babygarten Bounce Storytime**



**Cuddle Up and Be Cozy**

New this year for kids 6-11 is the "*Who Would Win?*" book club. Kids have enjoyed learning about different animals and doing fun related activities. In January, they looked at polar bears vs. grizzly bears and at Tyrannasaurus Rex vs.



**Who Would Win?**

velociraptors.

Another change for kids 6-11 is the rotating activities happening on Wednesdays. Events now rotate between Pokemon Club, the same



**Kids excavating dino bones to go along with their *Who Would Win?* book**



**Kids playing Pokemon**

Builders Club that has happened previously, and a movie day. Teens have also had new rotating activities on Thursday afternoons: Dungeons & Dragons one-shot events led by a local DM, Magic: The Gathering workshops with a local expert to help, a book club, and a chess club. In addition to the new programming, teens continue to enjoy their weekly Teen Tuesday. In January, teens got to enjoy an Instant Ramen bar, and a Paint and Sip program with hot chocolate.



**Teen Paint and Sip**

Adults have

had a few

programming changes in the new year, too. Language Conversation Hours in rotating languages happen on Mondays from 5-6 PM. New this year, the languages offered are English, Spanish, and French. On the fourth Thursday of the month, a Silent Reading and Writing Club is being offered. This is a club where you have a dedicated hour to read or write on your own, then can chat about your project afterwards. Also, newly offered weekly on Wednesdays is Chess Night for adults and Craft/Tea Time, a time to work on your craft projects in company.

Hope to see you at some of our new programs this year!