

CITY OF FOND DU LAC – Council Communications

City Manager

Date: October 20, 2022
To: City Council
From: Joe Moore, City Manager
Re: Council Communications



1. Fond du Lac Fire/Rescue Monthly Report
2. Department of Community Development Monthly Report
3. Fond du Lac Senior Center Monthly Report
4. Fond du Lac Police Department Monthly Report
5. City Attorney/Human Resources Monthly Report
6. Department of Public Works Monthly Report
7. Department of Administration Monthly Report
8. Fond du Lac Public Library Monthly Report

CITY OF FOND DU LAC – Council Communications

Fire Department

Date: October 7, 2022
To: Joe Moore, City Manager
From: Erick Gerritson, Fire Chief
Re: Fond du Lac Fire/Rescue Monthly Report for September 2022



...Acting to Save

Types of Calls	September 2022	September 2021	Year to Date (2022)	Year to Date (2021)
Alarms Involving Fire	10	9	102	85
Fire Mutual Aid Given	1	1	8	13
Fire Mutual Aid Received	0	0	2	5
Other Calls (False Alarms, Service Calls, etc.)	102	86	817	792
Emergency Medical Calls	572	577	4901	4866
Paramedic Intercepts	7	10	68	57
Interfacility Transports	46	45	360	371
TOTALS	684	672	5820	5743
Fire Inspections Completed	197	114	2068	1997
Defects found during Fire Inspections	117	58	1078	804

TRAINING

- Mass Casualty Incident Training with Dr. Grahl, Medical Director

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Labor Day Parade
- Fondue Festival Medics
- Survive Alive / Fire Safety Public Education events at all public and parochial grade schools / middle schools
- Station Tour – CESA 7 students

OTHER

- Hosted Active Shooter Incident Management Training Sessions
- Medics at the Mexican Rodeo held at the County Fairgrounds
- Marian University Bonfire
- Lieutenant Promotion Assessment Center
- Fire Rescue Explorer Program implementation
- New ambulance arrived!

CITY OF FOND DU LAC – Council Communications

Department of Community Development

Date: October 14, 2022
To: Joe Moore, City Manager
From: Dyann Benson, Community Development Director
Re: Monthly Report for September 2022



1. Statistics are attached for housing starts, inspections, downtown parking, the Senior Center, etc.
2. The following site plan(s) were reviewed:
 - a. A new 8800 sf office and testing facility for Michels Material Lab at 1151 South Hickory Street
3. There are several construction projects underway in the City. Projects include: Tropical Smoothie Café is undertaking an interior buildout at 834 West Johnson Street. Target continues its interior remodel and refresh. It will be putting a hold on the remodel during the holiday shopping season. Finishes continue at the new Club Car Wash on North Country Lane and the Club Car Wash on North Pioneer Road (former Fazoli's location). The contractor continues to install the new equipment for the new Club Car Wash on West Pioneer Road (formerly Jet Stream). The second floor is being poured at the new Aurora expansion at 210 Wisconsin American Drive. Occupancy was granted for the former Best Buy building for Harbor Freight. The framing and rough-ins are underway for the new Scoters Coffee at 527 West Johnson Street. Final inspections are underway at the building expansion of Wisconsin Lighting Lab at 206 West McWilliams Street.
4. The Downtown Architectural Review Board (DARB) reviewed and approved new signage for the Fondy Axe Company at 25 North Main Street. New paint colors and awning were approved for Fond du Lac Cyclery at 209 South Main Street.
5. The Plan Commission approved a Special Use Permit for a domestic violence shelter for Solutions Center at 236 South Peters Avenue.
6. New playground equipment is being installed at Franklin Park. Part of the ongoing improvements to the park include the new mural on the fence that was completed by Zane Stratz and Big Cheddar Art Collective. In addition, the posts and backboards at the basketball are being "art-ified" to further enhance this wonderful neighborhood park. Stop by and see the bright and colorful artwork!

CITY OF FOND DU LAC
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Month: SEPTEMBER 2022

Category	This Month	Same Month Last Year	Total This Year	Total By Same Period Last Year
I. DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY (CITY)				
Residential Construction (Permits Issued):				
# New Single-Family Residential Units	1	1	13	12
# New Duplex Residential Bldgs/Units	0	1(2)	5(10)	3(6)
# Residential Alterations/Additions	99	113	992	852
# New Multi-Family Residential Bldgs/Units	0	0	0	6(78)
# Total New Residential Bldgs/Units	1(1)	2(2)	18(23)	21(95)
\$ Total Value New Residential Construction	340,000	590,304	6,340,165	11,535,608
\$ Total Value Residential Alterations/Additions	1,335,767	1,282,176	13,693,974	9,521,966
Commercial/Industrial Construction (Permits Issued)				
# New Commercial/Industrial Structures	1	2	6	5
# Commercial/Industrial Additions/Alterations	11	7	141	112
\$ Total Value New Commercial/Industrial Construction	588,922	2,949,694	8,691,196	7,309,241
\$ Total Value Commercial/Industrial Additions/Alterations	3,776,889	17,239,788	47,605,030	38,290,486
General:				
# New Site Plans Reviewed	1	5	34	36
# Rezoning/Special Use Permits	1	1	11	12
# Variances	2	2	10	6
# New Lots/Parcels Created [CSMs & Final Plats]	2	2	18	9
II. FIELD INSPECTIONS, CONSULTATIONS & PUBLIC CONTACTS	760	640	5,484	4,787
III. HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT				
# Complaints Filed	38	28	340	334
# Follow-up Inspections	174	105	1,234	875
# Complaint Cases Closed	41	29	299	256
IV. HOUSING REHABILITATION LOANS				
# Loans Approved	0	0	3	3
\$ Amount of Rehabs Approved	0	0	87,500	80,241.29
# Dwelling Units to be Rehabbed (Approved)	0	0	3	3
V. SENIOR CENTER (AUGUST, 2022)				
# Volunteers/Hours	34/237	16/125	43/1,342	31/1,377
# Contacts	21,046	9,447	130,615	251,862
VI. DOWNTOWN PARKING				
\$ Revenue	18,637.53	18,504.09	156,510.92	152,376.88

CITY OF FOND DU LAC – Council Communications

Senior Center

Date: October 1, 2022
To: City Council, Joe Moore, Dyann Benson,
and Friends Board of Directors
From: Cathy Loomans, Director
Re: Senior Center Update – September 2022



- September is our favorite month as we get to celebrate National Senior Center month. The National Council on Aging proclaimed this year's theme to be "Strengthening Community Connections" and we took advantage of this theme by offering several community based programs. We had "recess" at the Lakeside Park splash pad and park area, we did a wine tasting event at Cujak's, we offered a trial class at the Aquatic Center, and had a special cupcake event at the Center. We also celebrated National Senior Center month with the Wisconsin Parkinson Association during one of their bi-monthly gatherings at the Center.
- The Friends of the Fond du Lac Senior Center are busy preparing for one of their major fundraisers – a raffle and Fall Social. This year's social will again be held at the Lakeside Park Pavilion and features Eric Diamond – a Neil Diamond tribute artist. Tickets sold out quickly and we are looking forward to a fun evening. We appreciate all of the wonderful community partners that step up to offer raffle prizes or help offset the cost of the fundraiser event. Fond du Lac is a very supportive community!
- We are excited to partner with Black Sheep Travel out of Plymouth to offer some travel opportunities to our participants. Black Sheep Travel will be offering a couple of multi-day trips in 2023.
- Thanks to Bug Tussel/AT&T, we have been able to offer new technology related programs for our participants. This month we had a great turnout for the "Internet Safety" class as well as the "How to Use Facebook" class. These are in addition to the drop-in one-on-one Tech Tyme sessions that we offer both here, and at the Moraine Park Technical College campus.
- We were excited to welcome back our 8-ball and 9-ball pool leagues this month after putting them on hold the last two years due to Covid-19. The pool tables got a facelift with new bumpers and new felt before the leagues started and it's great to hear the conversations and laughter both during leagues and during open pool.

CITY OF FOND DU LAC – Council Communications

Police Department

Date: October 10, 2022
To: Joe Moore, City Manager
From: Aaron Goldstein, Chief of Police
Re: Monthly Report for September 2022



Patrol Division

Officers were by the Speedway Gas Station when they witnessed a suspect shooting a firearm towards vehicles and people in the Family Dollar parking lot.

Officer conducted a traffic stop at Main/Court and with the assistance of K-9 Gambo made an arrest on possessing Fentanyl.

Officers responded to Scott/Mill for an injury accident involving a personal scooter and moments later other Officers located a subject not breathing and in the grassy area near the KC Hall and started life saving measures (CPR) before the subject was flighted in critical condition.

Shots fired incident in the area of 6th/Park where two houses were struck.

Body of a missing subject found in the FDL river by Water Street, no foul play suspected.

Criminal Investigative Division

The Detectives cleared **27** cases in the month of **September 2022**. Of those cases **10** were closed with arrests or referrals to the DA's Office for charges. There were **17** new cases assigned in September with a total case load of **126** active cases as of this report. Detectives are currently working **6** ICAC Cyber Tips.

Records Bureau

Open records requests processed (all other reports): **73**

Open records requests processed (traffic related - crash reports): **19**

Records processed to be sent to outside criminal justice agencies/departments (DSS, P&P etc.): **212**

Public Record Requests Processed – Total: **304**

Property and Evidence Control Unit

Property/evidence items processed: **435**

Training Unit

SWAT – Chemical Munitions Training

Active Shooter Incident Management Training

In-House Firearms Training

Death Investigation Training

K-9 Conference and Training

Recruitment and Selection

Four (4) graduated from the Law Enforcement Recruit Academy

One (1) currently attending the Law Enforcement Recruit Academy

One (1) candidate with conditional offer and completing conditional testing

Recruiting at Blackhawk Technical College

Completed 1-Day Lateral Officer Hiring Process

Community Service Officer Unit

Parking tickets: **141**

Community Engagement

Fondue Festival

Veteran's Job Fair and Mental Health Summit

Police Lights of Christmas at Culvers

Police Explorer Program Open House

Coffee and Juice with Public Safety at the Senior Center

CITY OF FOND DU LAC - Council Communications

City Attorney/Human Resources Department

Date: September 30, 2022
To: Joe Moore, City Manager
From: Deborah Hoffmann, City Attorney/Director – Human Resources
Re: Monthly Report – September 2022



MUNICIPAL COURT

	September	YTD
Traffic Safety Program Participants	0	17
Municipal Citations	445	2924
Juvenile Hearings held at the High School/PD	0	2297
Trials to the Court	4	44
Pre-trials Conferences	26	215
Fines/Forfeitures collected	\$25,400.27	\$195,908.09

HUMAN RESOURCES

	September	YTD
New Hires	5	48
Promotions	0	18
Retirements/Attrition	11	50
Recruitments	4	33

CITY OF FOND DU LAC – Council Communications

Public Works Department

Date: October 18, 2022
To: Joseph Moore, City Manager
From: Paul DeVries, Director of Public Works
Re: Department of Public Works Monthly Report



ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC DIVISION

- Contractor, Don E. Parker Excavating continues work on the 2022 Street and Utility Construction Project. Utility installation is completed and concrete placement on N Butler Street, S Butler Street, and S Bell Street continues.
- Contractor, Advance Construction, continues work on the 14th Street Reconstruction. All utilities are installed and the contractor is working on concrete placement.
- Contractor, Vinton Construction, continues work on the S Military Road Reconstruction Project. The contractor completed placement of road pavement and is working on sidewalk and driveway approaches.
- Contractor, Jossart Brothers started work on the 2022 Division St, Taylor St, and Lewis St Reconstruction project. The contractor is currently installed underground utilities.
- The City continues to work with MSA on various upcoming projects. The projects include:
 - West Division Street Bridge Replacement – This is a WisDOT Local Bridge Program project planned for 2023 construction with final design and coordination ongoing. Additionally, reconstruction of W. Division Street from the bridge west to Lincoln Avenue is scheduled for 2023.
 - Lincoln Ave & Thomas St Storm Water Pump Station – This project includes the design and construction of a new stormwater pump station. Reviewed the final design and anticipate advertising the project yet this year.
 - Oven Island – Fountain Island Pedestrian Bridge – This project includes the field survey and structure plans for a single span prefabricate steel truss bridge. Construction is planned for 2023-2024.
 - Lakeside Park Pedestrian Bridge – This project includes the field survey and design plans for a new pedestrian bridge to connect Lakeside Park and Lakeside Park West over the FDL River. Construction is planned for 2023.
- As part of the City's WPDES general permit (Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems), the City is required to complete an ongoing screening program to detect illicit discharge into waters of the state. Staff has started inspecting and testing major and minor outfalls identified for inspection.
- Staff is working with property owners to design backyard catch basins and various other solutions to help manage surface drainage problems.
- Reviewed site plans for Erosion Control and Stormwater Management and Drainage Plans for newly constructed homes. Staff is also inspecting and following up with contractors on Erosion Control to ensure standards are maintained.
- Design for the City's 2023 Street & Utility Projects is well underway.
- Reviewed and approved 13 Excavation in the Right of Way Permits.

CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION

- Repaired two sanitary main lines and five storm sewer structures
- Installed and restored storm and sanitary ahead of Miracle League Park project at Plamore Park
- Started annual cleaning at storm sewer pump stations
- Sanitary interceptor cleaning continues
- Brush and yard waste was ground and processed at the Sullivan composting site
- Repaired thirty feet of curbing on city streets
- Adjusted eleven manholes to prevent plow and equipment damage
- Staff located out sanitary force main for engineering for planning purposes
- Hosted and participated in Blood Borne Pathogen, Hazardous Communication and Control of Hazardous Energy Training at the Lakeside Park Pavilion. Training sessions are part of our newly implemented safety program with Advance Safety Technologies.
- Attended preconstruction meetings for city reconstruction projects
- Attending meeting regarding Inflow and Infiltration data collected through smoke testing procedures
- Participated in “Daupler” meeting. Information covered was in regards to increasing customer service through a call center and dispatching of staff during off-shift-hours
- Participated in Wisconsin Department of Corrections Disturbance Plan for Taycheedah Correctional
- Working with Kunkel Engineering in preparation of Mill and Overlay Program, adjusting projects limits to include additional section of Grove Street.
- Contractor completed 2022 Street Micro-Sealing
- Completed 2022 crack-seal program on city streets
- Assisted Engineering in Bridge Maintenance Program with joint cleaning and sealing
- Municipal Service Center Hosted City-Wide CPR training for staff

ELECTRICAL DIVISION

- September 549 locates were called in, 118 were located, remaining were office cleared due to no conflicts
- Eight call-ins in September – Five emergency locates, one street light knock down, one traffic signal knock down, and one traffic signal issue.
- Repaired streetlight knocked down at Division St and Macy St
- Repaired one traffic signal knockdown at Main St and Merrill St. Caused extensive damage to some of the cabinet electronics, requiring Tapco to supply some new equipment and help re-program.
- Repaired 69 streetlights
- Repaired conduit damaged by Intercon on Griffith Street
- Fire – Station #1 Wall Plate – We installed a wall plate and all wire needed for their presenters computer wall plate.
- Parks – Oven Island – Replaced breakers for the Christmas and Walleye Weekend
- Parks – Gazebo on Mohawk Ave – Replaced light with a new LED canopy fixture.
- Water – Disconnect & Reconnect Well 21 Mixer. The tank mixer for the day HMO tank bearings were failing and needed to be disconnected and brought in for repair. We disconnected the bulk tank motor and disconnected the day tank motor and swapped motors to keep the day tank in operation. The newly repaired motor was installed in the bulk tank.

FLEET DIVISION

- C&M Mower #163 – Repaired engine overheat issue and returned to service.
- C&M Mower #164 – Replaced worn bushing on rear wheel.

- Solid Waste truck #201 – Diagnosed and found codes for EGR valve, updated engine control module and repaired the check engine lamp.
- Solid Waste Truck #205 – Diagnosed and replaced faulty DEF sending unit, repaired leaking radiator, replaced loose yoke by slip joint for the drive shaft, leaking oil pan gasket, broken cleanout door hinges, rubber grippers on the grabber arm and broken grease lines on the arm.
- Parks Mower #311 – Replaced leaking hydraulic motor for the mower deck blades and bent wheel fork for mower deck wheel. Repaired damaged ground wire for the air compressor and replaced faulty alternator.
- Parks Tractor #326 – Replaced two leaking hydraulic hoses from the steering motor to steering cylinder.
- C&M 10YD Dump Truck #41 – Replaced heavily worn rear suspension spring, rear shocks, removed, and replaced air bags on tag axle. Diagnosed and replaced leaking passenger side steering gear and replaced power steering filter.
- Police Squad #20 – Diagnosed and found transmission torque converter was slipping causing vehicle to jerk. Replaced torque converter and returned to service.
- Police Squad #33 – Tested charging and starting system, found and replaced weak battery.
- Police Squad #6 – Replaced dead battery, noisy serpentine belt and belt tensioner.
- Police Squad #13 – Replaced six sparks plugs, replaced lower control arms, which were worn, cracked, and replaced noisy right rear wheel bearing.
- Fire department ambulance Med 486 – Repaired lose ground wire, replaced starter that was drawing too much amperage and melted power wire. Also replaced both batteries and changed the onboard charging system from 15 amps to 55 amps.
- Fire department truck #474 – The command zone display was reading communications loss with engine. Found relay for communications data had water damage.

PARKS DIVISION

- Continued on tree pruning and hazardous tree removals throughout the city
- Park crews and contractor continued removing Ash trees throughout the city
- Continued mowing grass and weeding throughout the parks
- Installed our third group of donated benches throughout our parks
- Fall winterizing and maintenance of both pools has begun
- Cardinal Park Walking trail was completed and seeded along each side of the trail
- Renovation work on Lighthouse has begun by contractor Mike Koenig Construction out of Sheboygan. The majority of the work is planned to be completed by Dec 1 of this year, with new windows to be installed in the spring.
- Work on the Miracle League project at Plamore Park has started. Bidding for this project will be occurring in the near future.

TRANSIT

- Final Transit Development Plan stakeholder meeting was held on September 19, 2022. We are finalizing the document and will distribute when available. We have a tentative City Council presentation on January 11, 2023. We have already starting shifting resources due to demand at Fond du Lac High School. We now have three buses assigned to route #25 at the beginning and end of each school day. We continue to work on map changes and bus signage, in order to have these changes ready for the first of the year.
- Fond du Lac Area Transit Administration continues to work on grant oversight and reporting all financial activities to the State of Wisconsin, Department of Transportation and to the Federal Transit Administration. We are working on our State grant application for 2023 operations. Once

the local budget is approved, we will submit our operating grant to the State. This is all due before December 9, 2022. Once approved by WisDOT, we will file the Federal grant application. This process is usually complete by late spring/early summer.

- Ridership and revenue for Fond du Lac Area Transit have been steadily increasing since the height of Covid-19. At one point, we were below the 50% mark for both ridership and revenue. Transit is happy to report we are at 77% for ridership and 95% for revenue. This is based on September 2022 versus September 2019. Current literature is showing US transit systems at about 70% pre-Covid ridership.

WATER UTILITY

Water Distribution System:

- Repaired four water main breaks
- Replaced four service boxes
- Replaced three curb stop operating
- Replaced two main water valve operating nuts
- Replaced two lead services
- Replaced one copper service
- Capped water main at W. Division St & Tallmadge St
- Retired and installed new water service for Plamore Park

Meter Shop:

- Meter Service Technicians installed 12 meters between 5/8" to 6".
- Meter Service Technicians notified 50 customers of leaks or high use.
- Commerical Cross Connection: HydroCorp inspected 16 facilities, 14 were compliant.
- Conducted 725 residential cross connection and clear water inspections.
- Continued to conduct private water service material inspections. Visited 696 properties in September.

Water Plant/Operations:

- DNR required monthly 50 bacteriological samples were taken from distribution.
- One bacti sample came back positive for coliform. All follow-up samples came back clean, no further action required.
- Repaired HMO mixing motor at Well 21.
- Installed a new well vent at Well 25.
- The new SCADA server was installed and is now working.

Water Business Office:

- Mailed out 4,834 water/sewer cycle bills and 1,446 delinquent notices.
- Staff tested and registered Utility owned backflow devices.
- Completed 393 work orders (work orders consist of manual meter reads, assistance to plumbers, seasonal meters install, pressure tests, and various customer requests)
- Completed 341 initial/finals for water service changes. (Services starting/stopping from people moving)
- Received two toilet rebates in August (10 total this year)
- Took inventory of all Galaxy boxes in storage.
- Completed ten billing assessments and mailed revised bills to customers.
- Started to remove seasonal meters.
- Held meetings with Origin to start the billing software upgrade process.

CITY OF FOND DU LAC - Council Communications

Department of Administration

Date: October 17, 2022
To: Joe Moore, City Manager
From: Tricia Davi, Director of Administration
Re: Department of Administration Monthly Report



COMPTROLLER

- Held ratings call with Standard & Poors (S&P) as part of the debt issuance process. S&P confirmed the City's AA- rating for general obligation debt, and issued an A- rating for the water revenue bonds.
- Staff participated in the final meeting of the Transit Development Plan to discuss final recommendations and possible timelines for implementation.
- Along with Police and Fire/Rescue staff, completed physical inventories of ambulance supplies and ammunition. Annual physical inventories are required by auditors.
- Attended week-long Project Discovery sessions with the Origin team and internal staff in order for Origin to begin configuration of new water billing software. Origin team learned about City business processes related to water meters and billing. Data clean-up also continued.

Department Statistics

Statistics	September	2022 YTD	2021 Totals
Accounts Payable Checks	468	4,168	5,183
Payroll Checks/Direct Deposits	1,209	8,518	10,458
Purchase Orders Approved/Issued	282	2,813	3,290
Utility Bills Processed	5,123	49,283	64,554
Utility Bills sent electronically	17	118	4,491
InvoiceCloud on-line utility payments	2,496	23,186	22,997
Credit card payments made in person	248	2,497	3,561
Parking meter/ticket credit card payments	634	6,873	13,218
WebTrac on-line reservations/payments	26	471	468
Tax Refund Intercept/State Debt Collection	\$5,232.96	\$100,592.20	\$163,910.82

PURCHASING

- Auctioned old Franklin Park playground equipment for \$4,600.
- No bids were received for the Clean and Televiser Sanitary Sewer project.
- 2 bids were received for demolition work at 220 Elm St. Bids are currently under review and will be awarded in the next few weeks.
- Continued working with Rhyme Business and internal departments on new multi-function print devices City-wide.
- Held kick-off for Police Department renovation project.

CITY CLERK/CENTRAL SERVICES

Elections

- State law requires that Municipalities send absentee ballots to their military and overseas electors with requests on file by September 22, 2022 (47 days prior to the election). The City Clerk's Office met that requirement and mailed out those requests by September 16, 2022. Military, Temporary Overseas, and Permanent Overseas voters may request to receive their ballot via email or fax and clerks are required to honor those requests. Military and Permanent Overseas voters may also request to receive their ballot online via the MyVote Wisconsin website (myvote.wi.gov). Voters who request their ballot to be delivered to them online will receive an email notifying them their ballot is ready. A total of 2,581 absentee ballots were mailed/emailed in the month of September.

Department Statistics

Statistics	September	2022 YTD	2021 Totals
Park Facility Reservations	58	1051	787
Dog Licenses	12	903	1006
Cat Licenses	6	137	190
Print Shop Orders	60	1255	1223
License Applications	16	802	871
Special Assessment Reports	89	856	1192
Special Event Requests	6	110	126

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

- Staff found that permits have slowed slightly this September with 251 new permits issued. For comparison there were 266 issued in September 2021 and 316 issued in September 2020
- Staff has been reviewing the 117 sales/transfers recorded in September to determine if they are market value sales and will report their findings to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. Property sales listings are also reviewed to identify any discrepancies with assessment records.

CITY OF FOND DU LAC – Council Communications

Public Library

Date: October 19, 2022
To: Joe Moore, City Manager
From: Jon Mark Bolthouse, Library Director
Re: Library Monthly Report

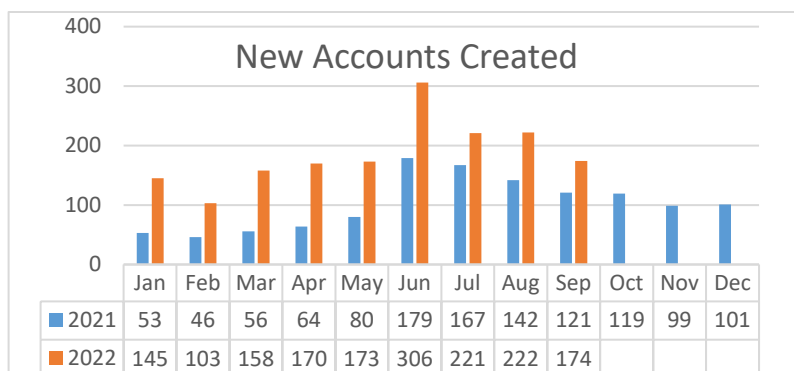


Award from Literacy

On September 20, the Literacy Services office held an open house here at the Library to celebrate 40 years of service to the community. Part of the event included the presentation of a special award, given to the Library. The “Friend of Fond du Lac Literacy Services” award acknowledges the special relationship between the Library and Literacy. The Library’s role in helping to support Literacy’s mission is evident in our in-kind gifts of personnel accounting, space accommodations and printing support.

Library Card Signup Month

September was Library Card Signup Month and Circulation staff continue to be amazed at the number of new accounts that are opened every month. Going fine free in June had a definite increase in the amount of new users we welcomed to the library.



Children’s Department Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

In celebration of Hispanic and Latine Heritage Month, Gabriela prepared a limited kit for kids. The kit had a game called Loteria; it is like Mexican Bingo. The more than 100-year-old game is still played in Mexican gatherings, but included some images that are not appropriate for kids. Gabriela edited the game to remove the controversial images and translated all the calling cards to make it bilingual, making it easier to play for kids and their families. The kit also contained a DIY Mayan mask with some explanation about the Mayan culture and information on how the Maya used masks in many ceremonies. We prepared 40 kits.

Foster Care Outreach

Sarah had a meeting with Kay Metty-Reinhard, the Foster Care Supervisor in Fond du Lac County. They talked through some possibilities of how the library could partner with them in order to provide more targeted services to foster families. Sarah was grateful to Kay for providing an overview of foster services in Fond du Lac and what they already have in place for services; this provided a framework from which to start planning what the library could do. She is very excited about working with us and we’ve scheduled another meeting with the rest of her team (and as much of the team as is able to attend) for the end of October.

History at Home program highlights Hispanic Heritage Month

History at Home this month was on the topic of Latinos in the Midwest. The presenter was Professor Sergio González, who teaches Latinx Studies at Marquette University. He is an engaging speaker who is passionate about his studies and very active in promoting Latino voices in the state, serving as a co-founder and lead organizer for the Dane Sanctuary Coalition and as a board member of Voces de la Frontera, Wisconsin's largest and most active membership-based immigrant and worker justice organization.

Banned Books Week recognized

The third week of September sees the start of Banned Books Week. For Banned Books Week and the week following, Alana put up a display of the ten most banned books in the U.S. in 2021.

Banned books that people have enjoyed for generations were on display, along with a list of "classic" banned books, "Reading unites us; censorship divides us" bookmarks, "I read banned books" stickers, and a crossword puzzle,

We were pleasantly surprised by the positive feedback we received both online and in person from patrons. With the recent increase in book challenges and the majority of recent attempts to ban books targeting books by or about people of color and/or LGBTQIA+ individuals, it seemed even more important to acknowledge Banned Books Week this year and to appropriately convey the somber state of affairs.