

FALL 2026

Program Guide



Bangor • French Island
Holmen • Onalaska
West Salem

Online Events Calendar

For more information about any of these events or to register, visit the **Events** page of lacrossecountylibrary.org or scan the QR code.

R This symbol indicates that registration is required.



In this guide ...

- [1] Community Programs
- [2] Adult Programs
- [3] Youth Programs [Insert]
- [4] Driftless Regional Read

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

BOOK BINGO

WITH 608 BREWING COMPANY

Join us for all-ages fun at 608 Brewing Company in Holmen! Enjoy a few rounds of Book Bingo, and play for the chance to pick out your very own book prize. Geared for adults and youth (with their grownups).

608 Brewing Company

103 State St, Ste 103 | Holmen, WI

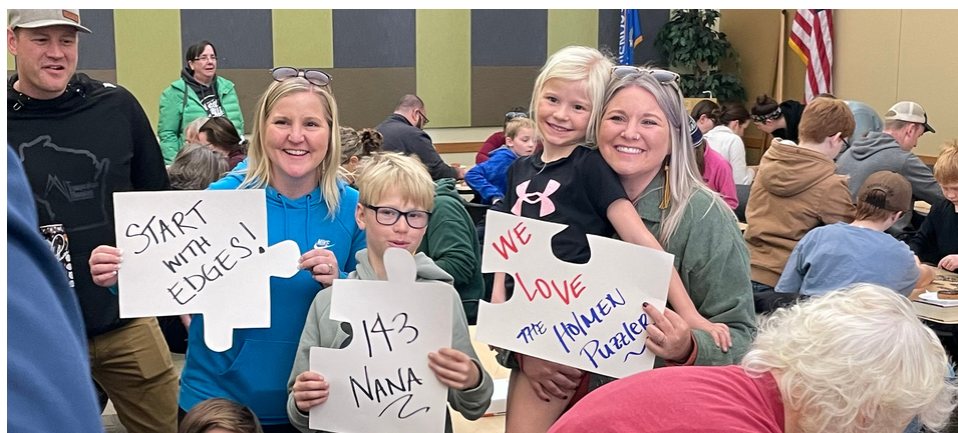
First Thurs of the month

6 PM – 7:30 PM

SALSA DANCING

Join the Creative Arts Dance Center in sharing an energy-filled exploration of salsa dance—its movements, music, culture, and history. Great for all ages—beginners welcome! (60 min.)

Holmen Library • Sat, Oct 17 • 11 AM



COMMUN-KNIT-Y FIBER ARTS KNITALONG

Join fellow yarn lovers for a creative gathering where we knit together, share tips, and inspire each other. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned stitcher, bring your needles, your current project (other craft projects welcome!), and your love for making. For ages 8 through adult. (60 min.)

6 PM – 7 PM

Holmen Library • Wed, Sept 30

Bangor Library • Wed, Oct 14

West Salem Library • Wed, Nov 18

JIGSAW PUZZLE BATTLE **R**

Participants will race to see whose team can finish a 300-piece puzzle the fastest. Each team may have between one and four members—children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. **Registration opens 10/14/26.**

Onalaska Library
Sat, Nov 14 • 10 AM

ADULT PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER

CREDIT 101

Introduction to how credit works and why it matters. This session covers the basics—credit scores, reports, borrowing, and managing your credit. Geared for adults and teens. (60 min.)

Onalaska Library • Wed, Sept 2 • 6:30 PM

SATURDAY MAKERS

NATURE PAPERMAKING

Session 1: Make paper using natural materials. Session 2: Bind paper into art journal. All materials provided. **Registration opens 8/10/26.** (2 hrs.)

Holmen Library • Sat, Sept 5 & 12 • 10 AM

BOOKS AND BOUQUET BAR

Drop in to browse books and create a bouquet with fresh flowers from Fair Winds Farm. Bring a jar or vase to take home your bouquet, or use a provided paper sleeve. While supplies last.

Onalaska Library • Tues, Sept 8 • Drop in 4 PM – 8 PM

YOGA ON THE LIBRARY LAWN

An instructor from PALM + PINE Yoga will lead introductory yoga classes. **Registration opens 8/10/26.** (45 min.)

West Salem Library • Wed, Sept 9, 16, & 23 • 6 PM

CUPCAKES & CANVAS

Art class for ages 16+. No experience necessary: instruction & all supplies provided. **Register in person with \$15 fee beginning 8/3/26.** (2 hrs.)

Bangor Library • Thurs, Sept 10 • 6:30 PM

LEARN LIBBY WITH LESLIE

Learn how to access FREE ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines from your library with one of our digital resources, Libby! **Registration recommended and opens 8/10/26.** (45 min.)

Onalaska Library • Tues, Sept 22 • 2 PM

OCTOBER

OCTOBER MINI READ

Complete a reading challenge and win a prize! Pick up challenge at any of our locations beginning Oct 1.

FALL BOOK SALE

Onalaska Library
Thurs, Oct 15 • 9 AM – 6 PM
Fri, Oct 16 • 9 AM – 5 PM
Sat, Oct 17 • 9 AM – 12 PM

Organized by the Friends of the Onalaska Library

OLD TIME BLUES AND GOOD-TIME FOLK MUSIC

JACK NORTON

Travel back in time with Emmy Award winning songwriter Jack Norton for a concert from “one of the most entertaining acoustic musicians in the Midwest!” (45 min.)

Holmen Library • Sat, Oct 3 • 10 AM

NEEDLE FELTING FOR MENDING

Join Macramé Mama to practice the art of needle felting for mending or patching clothing or other materials. **Registration opens 9/8/26.** (60 min.)

French Island Library • Tues, Oct 6 • 6 PM

CONSIDERING HOME OWNERSHIP

Join us to learn essential tips, smart strategies, and insider guidance to help you feel prepared as you take your first steps toward owning your own home. Geared for adults and teens. (60 min.)

West Salem Library • Wed, Oct 7 • 6:30 PM

WISCONSIN SCIENCE FESTIVAL | BADGER TALK

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?

Join Dr. Karen Schloss from UW–Madison for a discussion on how we form our color preferences, why different people have different color preferences, and why our color preferences change with the seasons. (60 min.)

Holmen Library • Thurs, Oct 15 • 6 PM

AUTHOR TALK AND BOOK SIGNING

MOCKTALES: ELIZABETH ONESS

Sip literary-themed mocktails while listening to award-winning author Elizabeth Oness read from her latest collection of stories, *The Hopefuls*. Followed by Q&A and book signing with books for sale by Chapter 2 Books. Mocktails crafted by The Bronze Dragon and available while they last. (90 min.)

Onalaska Library • Wed, Oct 21 • 6 PM

NOVEMBER

PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT

No matter where you are in your journey, join us to learn financial tips and strategies for making the most of the time you have before and during retirement. Geared for adults and teens. (60 min.)

Bangor Library • Wed, Nov 4 • 6:30 PM

GROWING MINDS THROUGH STORY

Learn with storytelling expert Terry Visger how to help grow healthy minds—from infants through new adults—through the power and science of story in your everyday life. (60 min.)

Onalaska Library • Wed, Nov 11 • 6 PM

CHEESECAKE & CANVAS ^R

Art class for ages 16+. No experience necessary: instruction & all supplies provided. **Register in person with \$15 fee beginning 10/19/26.** (2 hrs.)

West Salem Library • Thurs, Nov 19 • 6:30 PM

SATURDAY MAKERS

GRATITUDE JOURNAL ^R

This hands-on, experiential workshop invites a new exploration of gratitude journaling by connecting with nature. You'll go on a scavenger hunt to find things to sketch and watercolor in our gratitude journals to take home. No art skills necessary. Watercolor journals and art materials will be provided. **Registration opens 10/19/26.** (2 hrs.)

West Salem Library • Sat, Nov 21 • 10 AM

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS ^R

Join us for an introductory Dungeons & Dragons session designed for adults who are new to the game or curious to learn more. No prior experience needed. Sign up for one session or all three. **Registration opens 10/12/26.** (90 min.)

Onalaska Library • Mon, Nov 9, 16, & 23 • 6 PM

DECEMBER

AUTHOR TALK AND Q&A

MOCKTALES: ANNELISE RYAN

Sip literary-themed mocktails and hear author Annelise Ryan read from *Monster in the Moonlight*, the latest in her popular Monster Hunter Mystery series. Followed by a Q&A session. Bring a book to have it signed! Mystery mocktails crafted by The Bronze Dragon and available while they last. (90 min.)

Onalaska Library • Wed, Dec 16 • 6 PM

HOMINIDS TO HUMANS: THE DAWN OF US

Sean "The Mammoth Hunter" guides participants on an immersive journey through human origins. Using experiential archaeology and detailed fossil replicas, early hominids are brought to life as dynamic, resourceful members of our family tree. The program ends with a Q&A and a close-up look at the display materials. (60 min.)

Onalaska Library • Sat, Dec 19 • 12:30 PM

RECURRING PROGRAMS

FLOYDE'S SENIOR MOMENTS

Learning and entertainment for older adults. Join us for refreshments, camaraderie, and compelling guest speakers. *Program funding is provided by the Ben and Floyde Sias Library Trust Fund.* (45 min.)

Fall Series: August 12 – November 11, 2026
Onalaska Library • Wednesdays at 10 AM

FREE MOVIES ON THE BIG SCREEN

Our Bangor, Holmen, Onalaska, and West Salem locations offer free movie screenings each month. See our Events website for details.

DROP-IN TECH HELP

Drop in for help using Library digital resources or other common software applications.

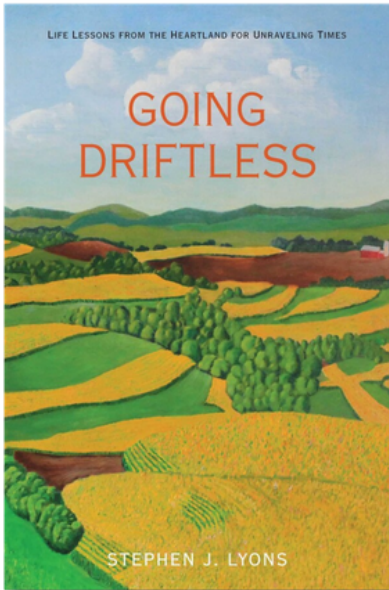
Holmen Library • Third Thursday of the month
11 AM – 12 PM and 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Events Website

Scan the QR code to visit our Events website for program details and registration.



DRIFTLESS REGIONAL READ



Going Driftless

Life lessons from the heartland for unraveling times

By Stephen J. Lyons

Join readers from across western Wisconsin for the **Driftless Regional Read**, a community-wide reading experience celebrating the people, places, history, and natural beauty of the Driftless Region. Read the book, attend an event, discover something new, and connect with others who share an appreciation for the place we call home.

Reserve the book from our catalog or pick up a free copy at a participating library this fall.

DRIFTLESS REGIONAL READ KICKOFF

Delve deeper into the culture, history, and ecology of the Driftless with a reading and Q&A by Stephen Lyons, author of *Going Driftless*. Features Driftless-inspired food and a specialty drink (while supplies last). *Sponsored by the Friends of the Onalaska Library.* (60 min.)

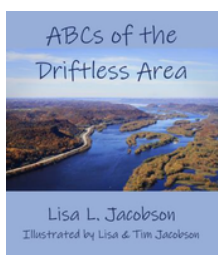
Onalaska Library • Sat, Sept 19 • 10 AM

BOUNTY OF THE DRIFTLESS: PLANT-BASED CHARCUTERIE DESIGN

Learn from Chef & the Foodie how to create charcuterie boards using locally inspired, plant-forward ingredients. For adults; **registration opens 8/17/26.** (60 min.)

Onalaska Library • Sat, Sept 19 • 12 PM

SPECIAL STORY TIME



A special Driftless Regional Read story time presented by local writer Lisa Jacobson, author of *ABCs of the Driftless Area*. Geared for ages 3 - 6, but all ages welcome. (30 min.)

Onalaska Library • Mon, Sept 21 • 6:30 PM

CHIP CARVING SHOWCASE AND INFO SESSION

Explore the ancient art of chip carving, a form of wood-surface decoration. Local artist John Carlson will lead us through the history and applications of chip carving in Scandinavia and regionally. Geared for teens and adults, but all ages welcome. (60 min.)

Onalaska Library • Mon, Oct 5 • 6 PM

CHIP CARVING MINI WORKSHOP

Hands-on introduction to chip carving, a form of wood-surface decoration. Local artist John Carlson will lead participants through the beginner steps to craft a wooden medallion to take home. For adults; **registration opens 9/21/26.** (2 hrs.)

Onalaska Library • Mon, Oct 19 • 6 PM

TASTE, TEXTURE, AND TOPOGRAPHY

A perfect multi-generational food workshop designed for pairs to explore sensory evaluation together. Participants will be guided through tasting exercises to connect the palate directly to the Driftless landscape. For youth (ages 7 and up) and adult pairs. **Registration opens 9/21/26.** (60 min.)

Holmen Library • Sat, Oct 24 • 11 AM

Youth Programs

FALL 2026



LEGO® AT THE LIBRARY

Kids of all ages are welcome at our Lego brick building events. Have fun free-building or be inspired by our suggested theme. (60 min.)

Mon, Oct 12	Bangor Library • 4:30 PM
Mon, Oct 19	West Salem Library • 4:30 PM
Tues, Oct 20	Holmen Library • 4:30 PM
Thurs, Oct 22	French Island Library • 4:30 PM
Sat, Oct 24	Onalaska Library • 12:30 PM

GINGERBREAD JAM ^R

Enjoy a mini story time with songs, movement, and a gingerbread hunt—and decorate your own gingerbread cookie! **Registration opens 11/2/26.** (45 min.)

Mon, Nov 30	Bangor Library • 4 PM
Tues, Dec 1	West Salem Library • 6:30 PM
Thurs, Dec 3	Holmen Library • 4 PM
Fri, Dec 4	Onalaska Library • 4 PM
Sat, Dec 5	Onalaska Library • 9:30 AM or 11 AM
Thurs, Dec 10	French Island Library • 6:30 PM
Sat, Dec 12	Holmen Library • 1 PM

^R This symbol indicates that registration is required.

LIFE-SIZE CANDY LAND

Travel through colorful game pathways, meet familiar Candy Land characters, and complete sweet-themed challenges along the way. This drop-in program is great for all ages.

Onalaska Library
Mon, Dec 7 • 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Tues, Dec 8 • 10 AM – 1 PM
Wed, Dec 9 • 1 PM – 4 PM



SIAS SATURDAYS

PINT SIZED POLKAS

Rediscover the fun of reading to the sounds of Mike Schneider's happy polka music! Great for all ages, but especially for kids through grade 5. (45 min.)

Onalaska Library • Sat, Nov 21 • 12:30 PM

THE MAMMOTH HUNTERS

Join Sean “The Mammoth Hunter” for an exciting, hands-on journey into Wisconsin’s Ice Age past. (60 min.)

Onalaska Library • Sat, Dec 19 • 10 AM

Program funding for Sias Saturdays is provided by the Ben and Floyde Sias Library Trust Fund.

STORY TIMES

Join us for story times full of books, movement, songs, and fun. Approximately 20–25 minutes.

LIBRARY LEARNERS ^R *Registration recommended.*

Ages 3 – entering grade 1, but all are welcome.

Sept 14 – Oct 9 and Oct 26 – Nov 25

Mondays	Bangor 10:15 AM Onalaska 6:30 PM
Tuesdays	West Salem 6:30 PM
Wednesdays	Holmen 10:15 AM
Thursdays	Onalaska 10 AM French Island 6:30 PM
Fridays	Onalaska 10 AM West Salem 10:15 AM

TINY TALES

Ages 0–36 months, but all are welcome.

Sept 14 – Oct 8 and Oct 26 – Nov 23

Mondays	Onalaska 10 AM
Thursdays	Holmen 10:15 AM



ALL-AGES HMONG STORY TIME*

Experience an interactive and engaging bilingual story time, featuring Lisa Yang of Western Technical College. Attendees can look forward to Hmong picture books, hands-on activities for fun and language learning, and free snacks. (60 min.)

Onalaska Library • Mon, Oct 26 • 6:30 PM

TWEEN & TEEN PROGRAMS

TWEEN BOOK CLUB

Tweens in grades 4-6 meet for fun book chats, snacks, and surprises. No assigned reading, pick any book you want within the monthly genre, and come share what you discovered! *Snacks provided by HyVee.* (60 min.)

First Wednesday of the month
Holmen Library • 4 PM
West Salem Library • 3:30 PM



TEEN BOOK CLUB

No assigned books, just read a book within the selected genre. *Snacks provided by HyVee.* (60 min.)

First Wednesday of the month
Onalaska Library • 3:30 PM

TEENS LEADING CHANGE (TLC)

Teens Leading Change gives teens in grades 6-12 a greater voice in designing teen spaces and services at the library, and a larger role in accelerating positive change. New members welcome. *Snacks provided by HyVee.* (60 min.)

Last Wednesday of the month
Onalaska Library's Youth Services Room
3:30 PM

TEEN TIME

Teens in grades 6 thru 12... are you looking for a place to recharge? Enjoy some snacks? If you're into hands-on projects, music, new teen books, or just chilling out, drop in the library and join us for Teen Time! Free pizza!

Fri, Oct 16 Holmen Library • 3 PM - 4:30 PM
Thurs, Oct 22 West Salem Library • 3 PM - 4:30 PM
Fri, Oct 23 Onalaska Library • 3 PM - 4:30 PM

FINALS DE-STRESS DROP-IN

West Salem teens can drop in to the library during finals week to de-stress, study, and unwind with relaxed activities in the Community room.

West Salem Library
Wed, Dec 16 • 9:30 AM - 3 PM
Thurs, Dec 17 • 9:30 AM - 3 PM
Fri, Dec 18 • 9:30 AM - 1 PM



DRIFTLESS ECO EXPLORERS

Enjoy nature walks, stories, and activities designed to foster eco-literacy and fun for all ages. Explore two local trails as fall sets in. Weather permitting. (~45 min.)

Meet at 11 AM ...

Outside Holmen Library

Wed, Sept 16, Oct 7, Nov 11

Great River Landing (101 Irvin St, Onalaska):

Fri, Sept 18, Oct 9, Nov 13

SEPTEMBER IS ...

LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

Sign up for your first library card and be entered into a grand prize drawing for a \$25 Toppers gift card. Adults receive a coupon for a free car wash at Mister Car Wash. Kids receive a library card lanyard. While supplies last. (Teachers, book your fall class visits now to get library cards into your students' hands.)



OCTOBER MINI READ

Complete a reading challenge and win a prize! Pick up the challenge at any of our locations beginning Oct 1.

These events are not sponsored or endorsed by any La Crosse County school, including the School District of La Crosse and the School District of Onalaska. (This material is not printed by the school districts.)

Events Website

Scan the QR code to visit our Events website for program details and registration.

