

An Eye to the Future

Jessica Bergin, the new library director at the Baraboo Public Library, has been on the job since April 23. A self-confessed bookworm, Bergin says she has always been an enthusiastic reader.

“My mother, who is a great reader, and my grandmother, who was an English teacher, instilled in me a love of books and knowledge.”

Bergin’s personal relationship with libraries began while she was in elementary school in her hometown of Topeka, Kansas.

“I remember in elementary school, going to something called Library Club. Once a month, everyone in Library Club would eat their lunch in the library, and talk about what we were reading. Not everyone got to do this, so it was special. I credit the school librarian with bringing libraries to the forefront of my development.”

Bergin earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, with a minor in Art History, from the University of Kansas in 2007. As a student, she had a job in the university libraries and enjoyed helping people track down primary sources for research, and discovering the impressive collections owned by the university. For example, the University of Kansas has one of the largest collections of Science Fiction and comic books in the country, Bergin says.

Following graduation, Bergin worked in Senior and Outreach Services at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library (TSCPL), in Topeka, Kansas. Even after she started library school at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri, she continued to work at TSCPL, working in Reference and Media. She found it rewarding to work in each of these library services.

After earning her Master’s degree in Library Science, Bergin again worked at the University of Kansas libraries, this time as an assistant librarian in Serials and Electronic Resources. In 2014,

however, she had the opportunity to work as library director for the Delaware Township Public Library in Valley Falls, Kansas. While working in many roles in this small-town (population 1,200) library, she also managed a library building expansion project.

“It was a wonderful project with lots of community involvement,” says Bergin.

When her husband was to begin graduate school at UW-Madison in 2016, Bergin started working as library director at the Portage Public Library. She and her husband and three children searched for housing in the area, and landed in Baraboo. Although she enjoyed working at the Portage Library, and loves the community of Portage, when the library director position opened up in Baraboo, she felt compelled to apply.


“We feel Baraboo is a great fit for our family. I am also excited at the prospect of helping with another building project,” Bergin says. She notes that the library is also embarking on its periodic strategic planning process, a perfect complement to the building project.

“Libraries have changed a lot in the last 10 years, and I expect they will continue to change at a rapid rate,” Bergin says. “Libraries have always been in the business of connecting people with resources and serving the community’s needs. For many years, that came in the form of books. We still check

out a lot of books, but we also provide people access to cultural, social, and educational resources through DVDs, CDs, ebooks, local history archives; through our events, workshops, and classes for all ages; and through our friendly assistance in technology, business and research.”

“Here in Baraboo, with our strategic planning process and our building planning, we have a unique opportunity to explore the best ways the library can serve the community, now and in the future.”



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 2018 Programs		 BARABOO PUBLIC LIBRARY 230 Fourth Avenue Baraboo, WI 53913 608-356-6166 baraboopubliclibrary.org			1 Wii Bowling for Adults 12pm	2
					3	4 Jenna Knapp: I Kept Things I Did Not Need 6:30pm
10	11 Teen Book Club for Homeschoolers 1:30pm Twilight Tales 6:30pm	12 Booker's Buddies Story Time 10am Rhyme Time Story Time 11am TEEN TUESDAY - Be Instrumental 4pm Lit Wits Book Group 6:30pm	13 Babygarten at Oak Park Place 9:30am Puppy Club Story Time 11am Building Blocks (LEGO bricks & Minecraft) 1:30pm	14 Animals Rock! 10am CrafterNoon 2:30pm	15 Wii Bowling for Adults 12pm	16
17	18 Twilight Tales 6:30pm Word Games for Adults 6:30pm	19 Booker's Buddies at Oak Park Place 10am Rhyme Time Story Time 11am TEEN TUESDAY - Sheet Music Art 4pm Tuesdays with Murder 6:30pm	20 Babygarten Story Time 9:30am Puppy Club Story Time 11am Building Blocks (LEGO bricks & Minecraft) 1:30pm Readers Anonymous 6:30pm	21 Shake, Rattle and Roll@ Circus World Museum (first show) 8:30am Shake, Rattle and Roll@ Circus World Museum (second show) 9am CrafterNoon 2:30pm	22 Wii Bowling for Adults 12pm	23
24	25 Twilight Tales 6:30pm Story Time for Adults 6:30pm	26 Booker's Buddies Story Time 10am Rhyme Time Story Time 11am TEEN TUESDAY - Radio Station Tour 4pm Encouraging Native Pollinators 6:30pm	27 Babygarten Story Time 9:30am Puppy Club Story Time 11am Building Blocks (LEGO bricks & Minecraft) 1:30pm	28 Lithuanian Dancing 10am CrafterNoon 2:30pm	29 Wii Bowling for Adults 12pm	30