

# Monthly Road Map Report

## January, 2026

[midlibrary.org/board](http://midlibrary.org/board)

Prepared by Director J. Sansing

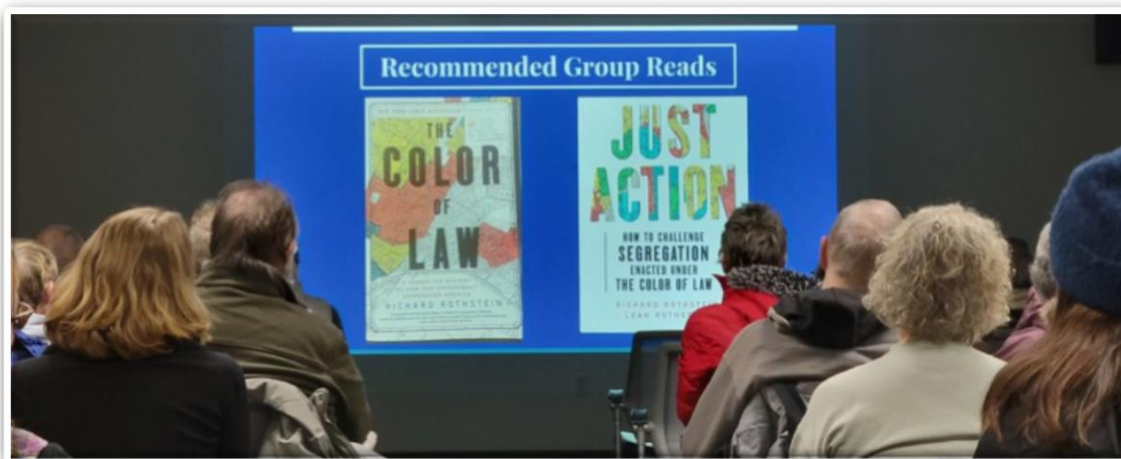
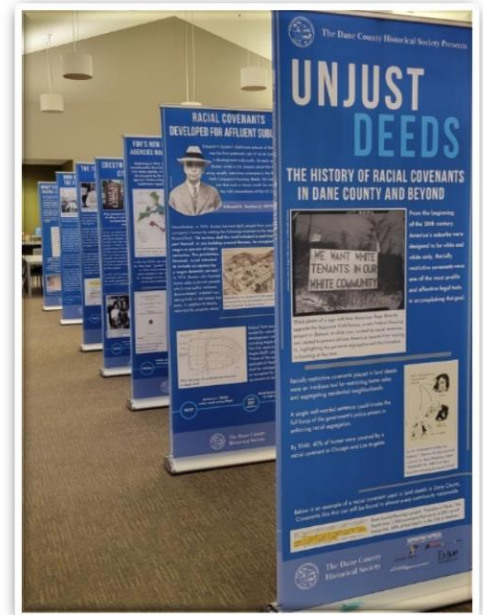


### Month in Review & Programming Highlights:

The library hosted 72 programs in January with a total attendance of 2,270 people.

- Children Ages 0-5 programs drew highest attendance at 47% of total.
- Children 6-11 had the highest average attendance per program averaging 50 attendees/program.
- Teen programming had lower numbers but consistent engagement
- Adult programs averaged 28 attendees/program

On January 22, 62 community members gathered for a public presentation titled “The History of Racial Covenants in Dane County and Beyond,” presented by Rick Bernstein, Executive Director of the Dane County Historical Society. The event was hosted as a Fill & File session, combining historical education with a practical opportunity for residents to take action. Attendees learned about the history and lasting impacts of racial covenants—discriminatory clauses that were once commonly included in property deeds and real estate records to exclude people based on race, religion, or ethnicity.



Although racial covenants were outlawed by federal law in 1968, many of these restrictions still exist in historical property records today. While they are no longer legally enforceable, their presence can be painful, confusing, and harmful. Understanding this history helps provide important context for how neighborhoods developed and why disparities still exist in our communities. At the event, residents had the opportunity to: Learn how to check whether their property contains a racial covenant; complete the required state forms on site; have documents notarized and recorded without paying standard fees. Residents who were unable to attend can still learn more and take part in the program. Dane County provides online tools to help property owners search their records and determine whether discriminatory language is present, along with step-by-step instructions for filing the removal form. <https://www.danecountyplanning.com/Prejudice-in-Places>



Top attended events included: “Virtual Author Talk with David Brooks” (158); “Tiny Tots Storytime Bears’ (81) and “All Ages Lego Day’ (79)

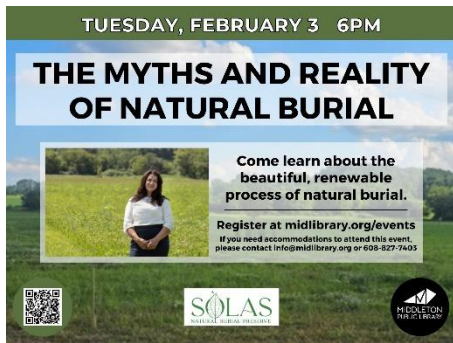


The afterhours program, “Traitors!” was in line with the January theme of ‘Once Upon a Crime’ and the “Magic Workshop with Dr. Magic”, “Little Gym”,



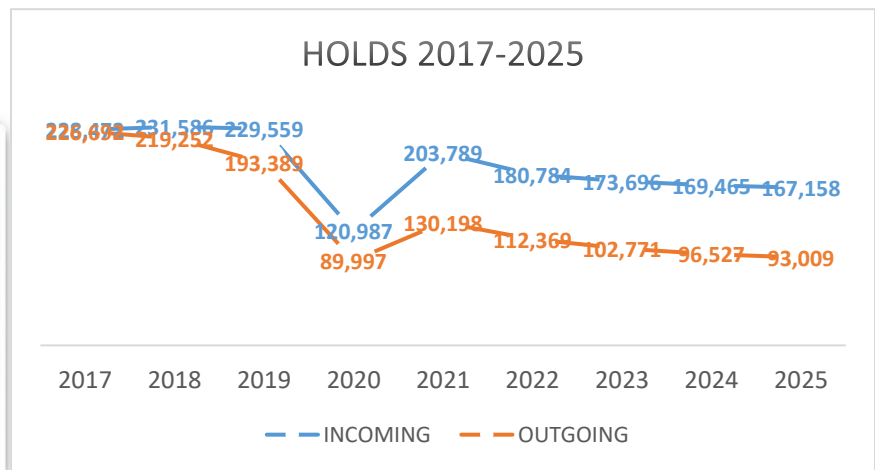
and “Green Zen Plant Terrarium Workshop” offered something for everyone.

Looking Ahead:



More events at [midlibrary.org/Events](https://midlibrary.org/Events)

By the Numbers:

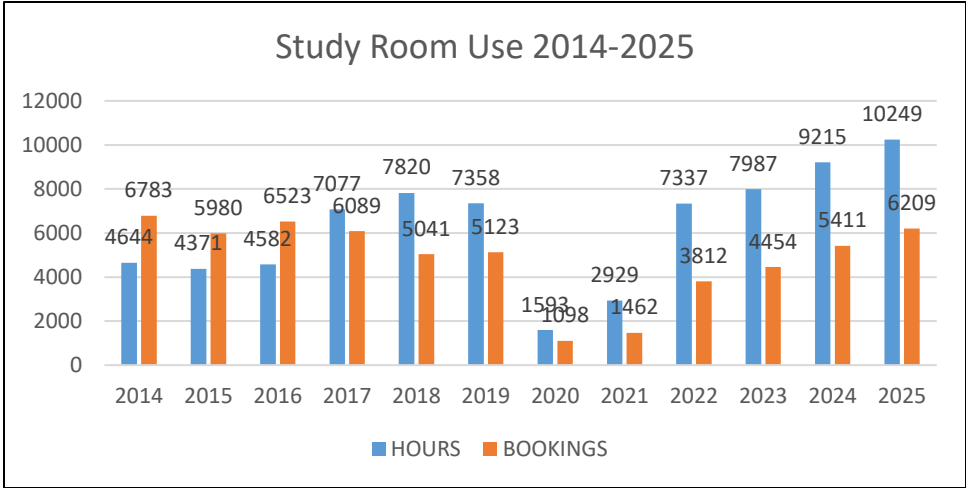


In 2025 the library received nearly twice as many holds as it sent out. This requires more staff time to process incoming available holds, more shelf space in the holds section, heavier work load from SCLS delivery, and means patrons are not finding what they are looking for on the shelves in Middleton, nor in LinkCat.



2024 Door Counts were: Middleton 267,350; Verona 230, 876; Sun Prairie 221, 887  
Middleton saw a 3.2% visitor count increase in 2025

88 hours for Home Delivery volunteers in 2025 and 703 library cards issued via online application!



Study rooms use continues to max out at capacity. For comparison, the brand new Oregon Public Library hosts nine study rooms and they were reserved 3,858 times in 2025, vs. Middleton’s four rooms were reserved 6,209 times. More library statistics may be found on

[www.scls.info](http://www.scls.info) and stay tuned for the official 2025 Annual Report to the public <https://www.midlibrary.org/Annual-Report>

**Strategic Focus:**



Some changes are coming to the youth area in February! After a nine year display the Reading Train mural will be painted over to make room for a new train display that works in conjunction with the “1000 Books Before Kindergarten” program. This fresh wall display will help celebrate young readers and promote the early literacy efforts of families and caregivers with young readers.

Efforts to improve display, collection discovery, and engagement in the Teen area include moving a shelving range up from the lower level, shifting

collections, and adding in-library use kits.

The Friends of the Library held their first-ever strategic planning meeting, building off of the November combined board retreat. This alignment with Library and the City of Middleton’s plans will continue to strengthen support with the three governing bodies invested in the library.



An initiative from the Friends of the Library coming this year is a 'Community Bookshelf' program that will increase the Friends volunteer capacity and offer free, withdrawn library materials at community businesses. Current locations include two laundry mats and a hotel. Stay tuned for an announcement later this spring.



It was nearly standing room only at the January Community Campus Info Session at the Senior Center with over 75 people in attendance. Next session is Feb. 25 5:30 at the library.

### Staff Spotlight:

iSchool student, Todd Rose, will be working at the service desk and shadowing some programming, and a library archive assessment has been identified as another student project opportunity.

The Middleton Police Department is working with all city departments on a Standard Response Protocol safety training. It is an all-hazards response that many school districts, including Middleton, have started using for their safety training and will be implemented in all city facilities.

Friday January 30<sup>th</sup> the library was closed for the annual Staff Development Day. The focus of the day was teambuilding through focusing on collection shifts, displays, cleaning, and misc. tasks. Each internal department provide updates and a snapshot of 2026 priorities, and special guests included City Planner, Abby Attoun, and Law Librarian, Kris Turner.

