

Craig, Sondra

From: John Pendleton <jfpkog@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 6:10 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library/pool

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I have a suggestion to save the northside library. Stop WASTING money on lazy, unmotivated homeless people who refuse to help themselves! All of the money that is thrown away trying to help drug addled criminals that have ruined things like the farmers market and forced the closing of once beautiful downtown green spaces don't deserve a penny of aid. Money that could save the library for sure and maybe the pool. Instead, resources are dedicated to providing free internet at the southside branch for the folks who refuse to contribute to society. Thank you to Council members Goggin and Kahlow (who should be the mayor) for leading the fight to save the library. Shame on the rest of you, you're failing the people of Lacrosse.

John Pendleton
Sarasota Florida-Proud Northsider

Craig, Sondra

From: Mary Nelson <nelsonfox.jm@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 21, 2025 8:47 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Closings!

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How many of our once beautiful parks now are fenced against taxpayers? How many more will be fenced? What safety concerns? How are they being addressed? Some cities use law enforcement to, well, enforce laws.

Copeland , north side beach, north side pool, north and south libraries! And the once beautiful main library has been changed to a loud, crowded, odiferous shelter that happens to have some books. It seems that the salaries of those in charge of facilities that are no longer available should somehow be reflected. Or perhaps property tax bills should reflect the lowered benefits?
Frustrated!

James Fox

Sent from my iPad

Craig, Sondra

From: Goggin, Erin
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2025 11:12 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: FW: Northside Library

From: Elaine Yager <elaine@threesixty.bz>
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 7:19 PM
To: Northwood, Rosanne <northwoodr@cityoflacrosse.org>; kathycivey@gmail.com; mccanna2@gmail.com; aengel@lacrossesd.org; eraymus@ywcalaz.org; thill.jess@gmail.com
Cc: ZZ Council Members <zzcouncilmembers@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Northside Library

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Good Evening,

After attending last night's board meeting I walked away beyond disappointed, not just in the vote but in the lack of information about where library funds are actually going. The Northside Library is only open approx.. 27 hrs per week, and accounts for approx.. 10% of programming to the best of my understanding. Last night it was mentioned that moving forward "Outreach" would focus on the unsheltered and proving possible vending machines (big price tag) and a mobile book van to go out into the community. None of which are cheap to pursue. How will this be funded? There was also talk about usage, with very limited hours at the Northside. The real question is how do you adjust programming to meet them where they are and with what they need? While my email will not change anything from last night, my hope is that you will take another opportunity to listen to your community/tax payers and find options that meet the need. What we don't need is a Service Provider who has forgotten the core of who they serve. Education like poverty, becomes generational. We need opportunities to encourage our young people when their home lives do not. Lastly, community seniors also need this connection, they are often forgotten. Let's not do that. And, yes, I do have a library card. I admit I have not been a frequent user, but the my kids and my Grandkids have spent many hours at the library.

To our City Council Members, I included you in this email as I have a question...Why is it the council has the power to approve or not the library budget, but the library board has the power to close/discontinue a service location? Why does the board have more power than other committees or commissions and the council? As a taxpayer, I voted for a council person and a Mayor. My expectation was they would make critical decisions for our community, that an appointed board would not have the power to shut down a service location. I humbly request you do not approve the budget and ask that they come back with viable options to meet the community need. You may not have the authority to say what they spend the budget dollars on, but again as a taxpayer, I expect you are holding them accountable. I think a budget of 5Mil +, we can do better. I appreciate your time and efforts on our communities behalf.

Thank You, Elaine

Elaine Yager

Commercial Property Manager

1243 Badger St. La Crosse, WI 54601
Office: (608) 782-6345 | M: (608) 799-1637
elaine@threesixty.bz



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Craig, Sondra

From: Goggin, Erin
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2025 3:44 PM
To: Kelly Colgan Hammen; ZZ Council Members
Subject: RE: North Side Library and Pool

Kelly-
Thank you for the email.
I continue to fight for these two resources.
Council voted to not fund either at the last meeting. Districts 1,4,5,8,9,10,11,12,and 13 voted not to fund. Taxpayers are not being listened to – and it is beyond reason.

Erin Goggin
District 2-City Council

From: Kelly Colgan Hammen <kly809@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2025 12:02 PM
To: ZZ Council Members <zzcouncilmembers@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Fwd: North Side Library and Pool

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Good Afternoon Council Members,

I am writing once again to respectfully urge you to reconsider the operating budget and to fully explore every possible option for preserving the North Side Library and the North Side Pool. I also believe our community would benefit greatly from a more transparent, consistent, and honest public conversation about these proposed closures. The shifting messages, varying explanations, and tension between stated budget constraints and the value of these services have been disheartening. As a community member, it has been difficult to distinguish fact from misunderstanding, and many residents are struggling to make sense of the situation.

I live in District 4 and regularly visit the Main Library with my children. Many advocating for the North Side Library do so because we know firsthand how exceptional the Library staff is. Their dedication is a major reason why North Side children, in particular, deserve continued access to these outstanding community resources. While policymakers at all levels often speak about the importance of “investing in our children,” too often funding decisions do not reflect that commitment.

My son attends North Woods Elementary, which serves many families on the North Side. I see daily how essential these public resources are to his classmates, some of whom arrive at school without breakfast or a warm coat. I ask that you keep these children in mind as you review the budget. Investments in economic development will fall short in the long run if we do not also invest in the education, well-being, and stability of the children who will become our city’s future workforce, leaders, and neighbors.

I love La Crosse. I was born and raised here, returned after college because I knew it was the best place to raise a family, and now operate a small family-owned business while my children attend La Crosse public schools. I hope they grow up loving this city as much as I do. Protecting institutions like the North Side Library and Pool is part of what makes La Crosse such a strong, vibrant, and compassionate community.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your thoughtful consideration of this deeply important issue.

Sincerely,

Kelly Colgan

221 26th St S

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kelly Colgan Hammen** <kllly809@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 2:07 PM

Subject: North Side Library and Pool

To: <zzcouncilmembers@cityoflacrosse.org>

Good Afternoon Council Members,

I'm writing to ask you to prioritize keeping the Northside Pool and Library open. These facilities are more than amenities; they are preventive investments in our community's future. By funding safe, free, and structured places for children to learn and play, we reduce the need for more costly responses later to problems like homelessness, addiction, and crime.

Many Northside children currently lack safe, productive options in their neighborhood. When young people have few positive outlets, they are far more likely to fall into trouble. Access to free programs at the pool and the library gives kids opportunities to learn, stay active, and develop skills that lead to healthier, more successful adult lives.

I recognize the City faces difficult budget choices. I respectfully ask the Council to review the budget line-by-line and consider the long-term return on investment of keeping these facilities open. Choosing to preserve two staff positions and closing an entire facility seems short-sighted. The loss of services affects the whole community and the city's future vitality. If we don't act now, declining services will create larger costs down the road.

Prevention is less expensive and more effective than cleanup. I wonder how much money our City would have towards these services if we didn't have to fence off parks, hire private security and clean up various parks on a regular basis?

Thank you for your dedication and for the hard decisions you make on our behalf. I know your jobs aren't easy and I appreciate your time reading my concerns.

Sincerely,

Kelly Colgan

221 26th St. S La Crosse

kly809@gmail.com

Craig, Sondra

From: Newberry, Aron
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2025 4:30 PM
To: elaine@threesixty.bz; ZZ Council Members
Subject: Re: Northside Library

Hi Elaine,

Thank you for your email and for attending the meeting. I understand your frustration about the Northside Library, and I appreciate your advocacy for library services in our community.

You've asked an important question about the council's authority versus the library board's authority. The answer is in **Wisconsin Statute § 43.58**.

The City Council controls the total amount of funding appropriated to the library. We can approve or reject the library's budget request.

The Library Board controls how those funds are spent, including operational decisions about hours, programming, and service locations.

This structure is established by state law. The statute gives the library board "exclusive control of the expenditure of all moneys" appropriated to the library fund.

You suggested the council should withhold budget approval to force the library board to keep the Northside Library open. I need to be clear about why that approach would be problematic.

The statute intentionally separates funding decisions from operational decisions to protect libraries from political interference. Using budget approval as leverage to dictate operational decisions would undermine that legal structure and could jeopardize state aid.

The council's role is to determine appropriate funding levels based on community needs and fiscal capacity, not to use funding as a tool to force specific operational outcomes that are legally the board's responsibility.

The council approved the library's budget request. That decision is final for this budget cycle.

Your concerns about service levels and community needs are valid and important. Those concerns should be directed to the Library Board, which has the legal authority to make operational decisions.

I encourage you to attend Library Board meetings and share your concerns directly with board members. They need to hear from engaged community members like you.

Here are some additional resources that might be helpful:

1. [Wisconsin Statute § 43.58](#)
2. [League of Wisconsin Municipalities FAQ](#)
3. [UW Extension Fact Sheet on Library Boards](#)
4. [Justia Law - Wisconsin Statute § 43.58](#)
5. [Library Board Control and Custody of Funds](#)

Best,
Aron

From: Goggin, Erin <goggine@cityoflacrosse.org>
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2025 11:11 AM

To: ZZ Council Members <ZZCouncilMembers@cityoflacrosse.org>

Subject: FW: Northside Library

From: Elaine Yager <elaine@threesixty.bz>

Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 7:19 PM

To: Northwood, Rosanne <northwoodr@cityoflacrosse.org>; kathycivey@gmail.com; mccanna2@gmail.com; aengel@lacrossesd.org; eraymus@ywcalaz.org; thill.jess@gmail.com

Cc: ZZ Council Members <zzcouncilmembers@cityoflacrosse.org>

Subject: Northside Library

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I appreciate your time and efforts on our communities behalf.

Thank You, Elaine

Elaine Yager

Commercial Property Manager

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elaine@threesixty.bz



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Craig, Sondra

From: Goggin, Erin
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2025 5:22 PM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: Library

From: Edward Diamond <ed390diamond@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2025 9:20 AM
To: Goggin, Erin <goggine@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Library

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Hi, I see the library board is more concerned about the main library salaries, and not touching their friends that work their. As usual. Maybe they could let the senior citizens volunteer to have some hours open for the north side. Notice how they never touch the main library?

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