

From: Meagan Ronsman <mhrnsman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 11:16 AM
To: ZZ Council Members; Washington-Spivey, Shaundel
Subject: Concerned City Resident re: Potential Northside Library and Pool Closure

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Dear Mayor Washington-Spivey and Council Members,

As a resident of La Crosse, I am writing to express my concern about the potential closure of the Northside Library and Northside Pool. I understand that our city is facing a significant budget deficit and that difficult decisions must be made. However, I urge you to preserve these essential community resources, which provide immeasurable value to La Crosse residents—especially children and working families.

As a parent of three young children, I have seen firsthand how vital public spaces like libraries and pools are for healthy child development, family connection, and community well-being. Since the pandemic, there has been a steady erosion of support systems for our kids—through school closures, the closure of the Southside Library, education cuts, and reduced funding for enrichment opportunities. Closing the Northside Library and/or pool would only deepen this loss, particularly in neighborhoods that already face barriers to access and opportunity.

I believe these facilities are critical to the vitality of our entire city. They help ensure that La Crosse remains a place where families want to live, grow, and invest at a time when people continue to move out of the city to surrounding suburbs. I encourage you to engage residents in exploring creative, collaborative solutions to keep these spaces open—whether through partnerships, fundraising efforts, or reallocation of existing resources. Once these community anchors are gone, they will be incredibly difficult, if not impossible, to restore. Please consider the long-term social and economic costs of losing them.

Thank you for your continued commitment to serving La Crosse. I recognize that leading through times of fiscal strain is no easy task, and I deeply appreciate the work you do on behalf of our community.

Sincerely,

Meagan Ronsman, City of La Crosse Resident

Craig, Sondra

From: Ann Fry <annfry55@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 11:03 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North side library and pool

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In regards to the subject of the pool and library. There's enough money in the library budget to keep this open. How do expect the elderly to get to main branch if they have no transportation? This is crazy that everyone is expected to get to the main branch. Maybe the renovations shouldn't have been so extensive. The pool now, you are closing everything on the north side, and we are left with nothing. Where are the kids supposed to go? If both of these close, don't be surprised if crime goes up, just saying. Please keep theses open

Thanks
Sent from my iPad

Craig, Sondra

From: Harlow Richardson <harlow.richardson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 11:37 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: closing of the north side library!

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I think it would be a terrible thing to close the North Side library ! I learned to read as a youth using the library. As a young man working on the road I used to go to libraries at night instead of the bars. Andrew Carnegie was an American hero ! I went to Vietnam as a young marine and to Afghanistan as an old soldier. I did not see any libraries there ! I was raised in poverty and libraries saved my life. Harlow Richardson

Craig, Sondra

From: Kids Godfrey <godfreykids17@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 3:00 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Closures

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Please do not close the pool and library on the north side. This isninsane, 1 library already closed, and kids and families need these places for safe enjoyment and learning. Otherwise everyone can go to neighboring towns for simple luxuries? Keep them open

Craig, Sondra

From: Treasure Roraff <treasureguthrie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 7:28 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Closure of Northside library and pool

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the city budget draft setting the Northside community library and community pool to close. I understand these budget cuts are needed to qualify for state tax credits, but please consider cutting from somewhere else. The Northside is already an underserved area and stripping it of these community resources further exacerbates that disparity. I know these are not easy decisions for you to make and I appreciate your dedication to serving our community, I just beg you to reconsider this decision. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Treasure Roraff

Craig, Sondra

From: Austin Cooper <austins93@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 7:30 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North side pool and library

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I just read an article on the LaCrosse tribune's website that the Northside pool and library are on the "chopping block" for 2026. As a citizen and father of three young children living on the North side and utilizing these facilities on a regular basis, I sincerely hope that this is false. The Northside needs these two facilities to stay open. They are about the only things left for kids that don't have access to other facilities in the lacrosse area.

Austin Cooper

Craig, Sondra

From: Cassie Vorbach <cassievorbach@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 8:01 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Pool and Library

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Hello,
Please reconsider closing the North side library and pool. Both are a huge part of the community and they give kids a safe place to go. They are most likely a different budget but if you can take money from bike lane projects, maybe that would help. Safe places for members of our community to go are far more important.
Thank you,
Cassie Vorbach

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Craig, Sondra

From: Grace Gaugert <ggaugert@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 8:06 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and Pool

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Hello city council members,

I am writing to express my concern regarding potential closure of the north side library and community pool. Both the library and pool are highly valued resources in La Crosse, and I urge you to consider an alternative to taking them away from children in our community. Library programs such as play shoppe, story time, and after school club serve as a safe space for children to learn, create, play, and connect in a space where they feel safe and welcomed.

A 2019 study published in the Journal of Community Health discusses the impact of public libraries as a resource for reducing place-based health disparities. The authors examine how public libraries address social determinants of health, such as “social exclusion” through providing safe spaces for vulnerable groups such as LGBTQ+ youth, or “work and unemployment” through providing job training programs and resume preparation classes, or “stress,” through hosting workshops and exercise classes. I have attached a link to the study below.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6329675/>

Clearly, our public libraries provide so much to our community, but can only provide these resources as long as they are properly funded. Again, I urge you to consider an alternative to eliminating the library and pool from the north side. Thank you for your consideration.

Grace Gaugert

Craig, Sondra

From: Lori Bagniewski <lorib54601@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 8:17 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Save Northside pool and Northside library

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I am writing to urge you each to find solutions to keeping the N side pool and library open. These are community resources used by families and public.

I live a couple blocks from the empty SS library...still empty and not repurposed. A community resource gone.

It's almost like you just decided we need to cut ...***\$.so to make it easy, close a resource and tell the community its needed to save money. COME ON.....trim the budget and start from the TOP down. We don't need a mayor and administrator. Two positions to do one job is not efficient business.

So please explore other options before closing community resources...

And another thing. ...come up with a better solution for isle plume vs charging residents fees. We are charged fees for so many things but the benefits decrease. Oh I know budgets budgets. We all need to watch our spending...including you.

Thank you. Lori Bagniewski

Craig, Sondra

From: Megan Marsh <meganhalldc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 8:23 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside pool/library closures

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To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident and taxpayer of La Crosse since 2012, I am writing to all city council members to express my concern and disappointment at the recent budget cuts that target the Northside Library and Northside Pool.

These community resources are vital in an area of our city where children, our most vulnerable citizens, are in great need of caring adults and community spaces to aid in their ability to grow into successful and productive members of our city and society as a whole.

I ask that you please reconsider these budget cuts as they will be devastating and have a long-term negative impact on the city of La Crosse and its families and children.

Regards,

Dr. Megan Marsh, D.C.

Craig, Sondra

From: Jody Biergiel Colclough <jlbiergiel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:22 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Cc: Sleznikow, Larry
Subject: Closures of North Side institutions

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Hello -

I have heard that the North Side Library and the North Side Pool may be closed as part of the budget process.

I am sure there are hard decisions having to be made. I attempted to research what these might be but the minutes are unfortunately lacking these details, and I don't have time tonight to watch the Common Council meeting videos.

Allow me to express as a citizen how much **I do not want the North Side library and North Side pool to be closed.** I use both myself, but more importantly they are resources for people that might have trouble gaining access to the Main Branch and the pools in the center of town. It is not fair to take these resources away from our neighbors with fewer personal resources to begin with.

Please reconsider this option.

Jody Colclough
2802 Quarry Place

Craig, Sondra

From: David Ronsman <dhronsman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:24 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; Washington-Spivey, Shaundel

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Subject: Northside Library and Pool

Dear Mayor Washington-Spivey and Council Members,

As a La Crosse resident of 20 years and parent of three young kids, I'm very concerned about the possible closure of the Northside Library and Pool. I understand the city's budget challenges, but these spaces are essential for families, kids, and the broader community.

Public places like the library and pool support healthy child development, family connection, and community well-being. Since the pandemic, families have already lost so much support. Losing these Northside resources would deepen that gap, especially for neighborhoods that already face barriers to access.

I also encourage you to reconsider the significant cuts made to the library's budget and explore creative, community-based solutions to keep these spaces open—through partnerships, fundraising, or rethinking how resources are allocated. **Once we lose community anchors like these, they're nearly impossible to get back.**

Thank you for your leadership and for considering the long-term impact of these decisions.

Sincerely,
Dave Ronsman
La Crosse Resident

Craig, Sondra

From: Leah Justin <justin.leah@alumni.uwlax.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 8:28 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside closures

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Hello council members,

As many of the community members, I learned about the potential cuts to funding for the Northside pool and library today. As a La Crosse resident, La Crosse mom and as a La Crosse teacher, I am asking you to reconsider. I have been to this pool with my own child, I have taken family members to swim lessons here, listened to story upon story about students going to the pool with their families or with BGC. It is busy and full of life. In addition, as a teacher, I know that both of these are staples in the community for Northside families but also many other families. Taking away these two spaces for kids, especially in such a vulnerable place in the city, you are removing a safe space for many kids.

Thank you for reconsidering,
Leah Fread

Sent from my iPhone

Craig, Sondra

From: Alexandra Larsen <larsen.leinss@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:48 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North library possible closure

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Hello,

I'm a resident of Central La Crosse and I'm deeply concerned to hear about the possibility of closing the Northside library location. While the main library is our closest location and we certainly do use it, my toddler and I also love the Northside location. It is smaller, more intimate, more relaxed, and we love the play group collaboration with the parenting place that happens on Tuesdays. My toddler is usually too overwhelmed to attend the main library storytimes but does well at the smaller North location. We will miss this resource if it closes entirely.

It also seems unfair to consider taking this valuable service and amenity away from our Northside community, which also may lose their pool (I'm also opposed to that if there's still room for change on that decision. The Northside pool has a the best zero entry for littles to play and my toddler loves that he can go down the waterslide with us). I realize something must likely be cut somewhere but please, save the north library if you can.

Thank you for your time.

Alexandra Larsen
320 21st Street South
La Crosse WI

Craig, Sondra

From: Sarah Yehle <yehle.sarah@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:31 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North community library/Logan pool budget cut

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Hello!

My name is Sarah Yehle. I recently heard about due to budget cuts, the North community library and the Northside pool are at risk for being permanently closed. I am writing today to ask to consider amending this decision.

A little background on me and why I personally feel these are two important places to keep for the Northside of La Crosse. I grew up on Loomis Street. I attended Roosevelt Elementary, Logan Middle, and Logan High School. And when school was not in session for the summer, the library and the pool were within walking distance for myself and 2 younger brothers to go to. I remember attending many library events, hanging with my friends while on the computers, finding my next good book to read, and participating in summer reading programs. And at the pool, of course there were tons of memories and fun to be had with friends (and making new friends too!). During the school year while I was in middle school, the library was on my walk home, so you could often find me at the library after school. I have very fond memories growing up because of these places. Part of why I am still an active reader as an adult I contribute to from this library, it fostered a love of reading starting at an early age. These were two safe places for me to entertain myself, especially when I came to an age that I could go by myself and find independence. So why would we take away that opportunity from current and future generations of children?

I have concerns that there will be next to nothing for children and families to do if the pool and library were gone. I hear of talk of wanting to bring in young families to La Crosse and rejuvenating the Northside, which I think is great. But how will that be achieved realistically if these places are gone? These places are a part of the foundation to creating a sense of community to the Northside. What are children and parents supposed to do for entertainment, especially in the summer? Nothing? Cause trouble? Not socialize? Not learn to swim? I especially worry that instead of swimming or going to the library, children may get bored over the summer months and cause trouble in their neighborhood instead. The Northside is a food desert, but also the options are limited for safe and fun places for children to go to. The appeal to potential families to move to the northside is already lacking.

In conclusion, I think that the library and pool are important community spaces, vital to the northside of La Crosse. I encourage you to take action and reevaluate the decision of closing these places. The library and pool should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations.

Thank you for taking the time to read this!

Craig, Sondra

From: Chiana Valencia <chiana.valencia@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 11:44 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North Library and Pool

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Good Evening,

I'm writing to express my concern over the possible closing of both the North Side's Pool and Library. My children attend Logan Middle School and North Woods International School, and the pool and library are both third spaces where they can connect with peers in safe and welcoming environments. It seems especially short-sighted to simultaneously close two community gathering places on the North Side; access to the Main Library and other city pools are limited to North Side residents who don't have access to a car or public transportation. Could these votes be delayed until the public has a chance to hear more about the reasoning? What is the amount needed to keep either or both open?

Thank you for your time,
Chiana Valencia

Craig, Sondra

From: Goggin, Erin
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 1:28 PM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: North side library and pool

Another one –

There are more. I am sending as I get them.

Erin

From: Kelly Pfennig <kelly.schams@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 6:18 PM
To: Goggin, Erin <goggine@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: North side library and pool

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To whom it may concern:

Please do not close the Northside Library and Pool. These are invaluable assets to the entire community not just the north side of La Crosse. As a La Crosse resident and parent to two young children and another on the way, we are constantly seeking resources in our community to stay active both mentally and physically and to meet other families. I cannot imagine what is happening behind the scenes with the city budget, what kind of underfunding and mismanagement is causing these two community services to be on the chopping block. This is not okay, and it's not okay to prioritize a \$300k+ revision of a downtown bike lane. Save that project for another time if you must. If we don't start prioritizing resources for our children and families, these families will continue to move to other areas like Onalaska, West Salem and Holmen. I imagine this just perpetuates the funding problem! I hope my stance on this matter is considered and shared with the city council.

Kindly,
Kelly Pfennig
La Crosse resident

Craig, Sondra

From: Goggin, Erin
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 1:42 PM
To: Craig, Sondra; Dawn Wacek
Subject: FW: North Side Library and Pool

From: Laura Seielstad <seielstad05@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 8:32 PM
To: Dickinson, Tamra <dickinsont@cityoflacrosse.org>; Goggin, Erin <goggine@cityoflacrosse.org>; Janssen, Barb <janssenb@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: North Side Library and Pool

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Dear Representatives of the North Side,

I've heard that there is a possibility of closing the North Side Library and Pool due to budgetary issues. The library is used by the children of the North Side to study. It offers free use of computers for those (children and adults) who don't have them at home. There are books and other activities for children there. It has been a staple of the North Side for generations. How do you expect young children to get to the Main Library downtown. Do the children of the North Side not matter to the City of La Crosse? As our representatives you know that they matter.

The North Side Pool is also a safe gathering place for our children. You can argue that the North Side Beach is an option but the water is not always safe to swim in.

Do we really need extra bike lanes and new signs for those bike lanes on 2nd Street? No. How many people actually use those bike lanes, which makes 2nd Street more dangerous for cars to drive on. Have you driven that stretch from State Street to the Cass Street Bridge? It's a nightmare since those bike lanes were put in. Cancel those bike lanes & new signs and put the money towards things that will assist the children of our community. Please stand by them and save these precious resources.

Thank you for your consideration,

Regards,

Laura Seielstad (District 2)

Craig, Sondra

From: wesleykingston17 <wesleykingston17@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 4:20 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and pool

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Hello,

Writing this to advocate for myself and the other north side families, we utilize the pool and the library weekly when open. If these buildings get shut down or repurposed, it will negatively impact the north side, which does not need any more trouble. The children here need the pool and they need the library. We do appreciate the new expanded hours of the library. That was a very nice surprise, please don't take these away, please. Especially the library after the smaller south branch closing.

concerned citizen, mother

Thank you

Desirae Bahr
608-397-9246
wesleykingston17@gmail.com

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

Craig, Sondra

From: Goggin, Erin
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 3:16 PM
To: Dawn Wacek; Craig, Sondra; ZZ Council Members
Subject: FW: Cuts and misc

From: padyblu6@gmail.com <padyblu6@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 5:31 AM
To: Goggin, Erin <goggine@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Fwd: Cuts and misc

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: padyblu6@gmail.com
Date: October 14, 2025 at 5:26:59 AM CDT
To: dickinsont@cityoflacrosse.org
Subject: Cuts and misc

Erin, first of all, thank you for stepping up to take on your position. Not a lot of people want to get involved.

With that being said, I fear that our interests here on the Northside are not being addressed. So everyone says say something, call your city council etc. So this is my attempt.

1. There must not be closure of the pool or the Library. Both ideas are just ridiculous! I did hear some rumblings about a new indoor pool, what is that about and when would that happen. I fear it would be talked about then close outdoor pool and that would be the end of that (new pool never built). Maybe repair Logan High indoor pool instead and leave outside pool alone. The Library is historic and important for our children and part of our Northside culture.

2. The whole bike lane debacle, so stupid! I honestly don't think I have ever seen a bike on it. No more money spent on this!!!

3. I have been reading many posts about the noise levels in this city. Please check the current ordinances and lobby for police to enforce any on the books already. You used to get stopped or cited for loud mufflers. Now there are these souped up cars literally racing around the city. Out my windows it sounds like when I used to live a mile from the race track! It's ridiculously loud!

4. The run down crappy looking buildings. So many eye sores. Just down a short span of George St you have the old blue ribbon cleaner building that now appears to be housing. They need to put solid door and closed blinds if they want to live like pigs. Then next to TJoers (north) that needs new paper or heaven forbid blinds or curtains and fresh paint.

The Margaret's hip hop fashion building.

The windows / buisness looks nice but that whole little stretch of buildings are dilapidated. If our

roofs get a few loose shingles letters are sent to repair. Please try to fight for common sense and decency in this town. I fear we will have a big exodus of families and businesses soon if this crap keeps up.

5. Entry to the city. The eagle watch looks nice but we put up all of these nice light poles and nothing is ever on them. No flags or flowers. Onalaska looks beautiful when you drive towards La Crosse then nothing.

Well, there is my rant for now.

Thanks for reading and God bless you on endeavors.

Patty Roberts

Craig, Sondra

From: barbara parnow <bsparnow@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 10:10 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Closing of pool and library.

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I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my concern regarding the potential closure of our local library and pool. These facilities are crucial to our community, providing invaluable resources and recreational opportunities for residents of all ages. I urge you to consider the significant impact their closure would have on our community and to explore alternative solutions to maintain these essential services. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Barbara Parnow

Craig, Sondra

From: Judith Hutchens <jahutchens79@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 10:37 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: NORTHSIDE LIBRARY AND POOL

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DO NOT CLOSE THE NORTHSIDE LIBRARY!!!
DO NOT CLOSE THE NORTHSIDE POOL!!!

Craig, Sondra

From: JEAN HOFMEISTER <hofmeister00@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 1:45 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North side library and pool

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Please don't take our pool and library away. These are two great assets for the kids on the north side. There will be many kids with nothing to do all summer, stuck at home while their parents work, sitting in front of Screens!! Our kids don't need more screen time, they need to read, participate in group activities and physical activity.. Please reconsider these actions, they will only hurt our kids here on the north side.

Jean Hofmeister
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Craig, Sondra

From: Judy Kerska <judy1@acegroup.cc>
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 4:06 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Request

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Please do not close the north side pool and library.
Sent from my iPhone

Craig, Sondra

From: Patricia Poellinger <pattiepea@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 5:16 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and Northside Pool

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Just giving a shout out to make my wishes as a taxpayer and community member known to the elected officials! I absolutely think that the library and the pool on the Northside of LaCrosse should NOT be closed. That library taught me how much fun it was to read....an activity I still enjoy. It's the only place like it on the Northside. Also, it would be a terrible shame to get rid of the pool on the Northside. These ideas put forth make Northsiders feel like the ugly step children of the City of LaCrosse. Please leave both the library and the pool open and available to the Northside youth and adults.

Thank you for your consideration

Pat Poellinger (a life long Northsider)

Sent from my iPhone

Craig, Sondra

From: Ron And Karen <fre1225@charter.net>
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 6:40 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside

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Sent from my iPhone

We definitely need to keep our Northside Library. So many need to have these resources available. It is also a very beautiful building.

I can't imagine not having a swimming pool on the North side. It is used by so many.

Please with all the negativity we have around us we need to keep what we have!

Craig, Sondra

From: Catherine Mach <kmach1806@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 10:35 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and pool closings!

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Please DO NOT close our Northside Pool or Library.

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Craig, Sondra

From: Kirsten Daykin <kirstendaykin@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 6:45 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North Side Pool and Library

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from kirstendaykin@me.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I support the Northside Library and the Northside Pool.

My son has been a lifeguard at the Northside Pool for the last 2 summers. I took our boys there every week when they were younger. The neighborhood kids depend on the pool over the summer. It's devastating to a kid and to the lifeguards (for real) when a kid gets banned for a week or more because of behavior. Last summer, after a kid was banned from the pool for a few weeks, my son called me at work asking for ideas for that kid. He knew that being away from the pool all day meant he was going to be wandering around less safe environments and this would not help him make healthy and safe choices. This closure is banning many kids, permanently.

There just aren't that many walkable options for kids on the north side. Already, these places like the library and the pool are working with kids with complex challenges. Closing spaces with supervision, caring guidance, and healthy activity mean more kids are wandering around looking for something else, somewhere else. What will they find? This is all our responsibility. Kids need these third spaces for them to find community, practice social skills, and grow identity outside of home and school. Directing and welcoming more kids and their adults to these spaces and their programming changes community dynamics and changes lives.

The Northside is a wonderful place to live and grow a family. It is also a great place to live and grow old. The pool and the library are necessary components.

Thank you!

Kirsten Daykin
Friend of the North Side
Proud Parent Logan Middle and Logan High students and grads

Craig, Sondra

From: Nikki Spies <nikkispiesmama@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 6:26 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Re: Northside Library and Community Pool

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Lisa Weston,

We understand times change and that comes with cost. So that we can keep these valuable resources in place. How does improving bike trails help in these kinds of situations? How is that more valuable than a pool for the children or a library for resources for many people. The Erickson pool had many upgrades to it last summer. Why wouldn't that be the same for the north side.

If we were to lose them, what would replace them?

On Sat, Oct 18, 2025, 8:14 AM Nikki Spies <nikkispiesmama@gmail.com> wrote:

I support the Northside Library and the Northside Pool. It's really saddens, our family that these could be at risk of losing for our four young children. We have children and all three schools and they love having the library and the pool available to them during the summer months. Our one daughter has girl scout meetings at the library every wednesday.

The Northside is a wonderful place to live and grow a family. It is also a great place to live and grow a family. Imagine losing such a wonderful addition to the northside. There isn't much left if these things would be removed from our community. Imagine yourself the neighborhood you grew up in. Don't you want to have great lasting memories? Ones that you can pass down to your grandchildren and your grandchildren's grandchildren.

What can we do as a community to help ensure that these things will not be removed? Yes, we know as a community. They are other issues that city officials are trying to deal with. Homelessness and drug issues are on the top priority. Why would we take away positive reinforcements for the children? So that they're not seeking other alternatives. Take away everything they have and they're going to be looking for trouble. As they seek, other ways to buy their time.

Thank you!

Nikki and Maria Spies
Friend of the North Side
Proud North Side Resident

Craig, Sondra

From: Lisa Middleton <elisemid@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 1:10 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Please preserve our neighborhood libraries

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Please preserve our neighborhood libraries. The neighborhoods deserve a cozy place not associated with a bar to meet, learn, grow, and share. The north side library can contribute all these services and more just by maintaining what we've got. The next generation will need these local centers too. Please don't let the northside dream die. They deserve a library. We need more family friendly public places in La Crosse! The library makes the area feel more quaint and protected.

Please, keep it open, North LaCrosse really needs the support right now.

Lisa Middleton 203 10th St S La Crosse WI 54601 406-471-7563

Craig, Sondra

From: Denise Pagonis <dfpagonis@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 5:10 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside pool and Library

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I urge you to find a way to keep the pool and Library open on the Northside. They are a key to the Northside community. They provide a positive place for our youth. These two facilities keep the Northside youth active and entertained, keeping them from mischievous behavior.

I watch my greats during the summer and we use both facilities all summer long.

Drop the City Administrator position !! Why is it needed? The mayor has been doing this work for years why now is it a must?? Drop the extra bike lanes , get rid of some Tiffs! Anything to keep those facilities alive!!

Sincerely a concerned Northside resident.

Denise Felton Pagonis

Craig, Sondra

From: David Konrath <davidkonrath@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:38 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and Pool

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Good Morning

As a lifelong resident of the Northside, I strongly oppose your plans to close both the Library and Swimming Pool.

Children need outlets for entertainment and both of these offer those options. Growing up, I used both of these facilities often. Swimming all day in the summer and checking out books to read and doing homework assignments in both grade school and high school.

I would much rather see funds used to keep both of these facilities open, rather than have another bike lane...

Sincerely,

Dave Konrath

Craig, Sondra

From: Goggin, Erin
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 10:59 AM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: Please Protect North Side Community Resources

Legistar please

Erin

From: Elizabeth Nicolai <elizabethnicolai2200@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 10:35 AM
To: Goggin, Erin <goggine@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Please Protect North Side Community Resources

You don't often get email from elizabethnicolai2200@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Council Member Erin,

I hope you are doing well. My name is Elizabeth Nicolai, and I am a resident of the North Side of La Crosse. I am writing to express my deep concern and disappointment about the possibility of closing the North Side Library, as part of the city's proposed budget cuts.

I only recently learned from a news article that the La Crosse Library Board is considering the option of closing the North Side branch in order to save money. This news is deeply disheartening to me, because the North Side already lacks many services and amenities compared to other parts of the city. The library is one of the few positive, community-oriented spaces left for residents here, along with the pool, and other city-run resources that bring people together, support education, and provide safe outlets for youth and families.

If the library is closed, we will lose access to free books, educational programs, internet access, and a place for children to go after school. The North Side needs more, not fewer, invested public resources. I understand that the city has a budget shortfall and must make difficult choices, but I strongly urge you and the Council to look for alternative cuts or new funding sources rather than removing a vital service in a part of the city that already faces resource inequity.

I would like to know:

1. What steps the City Council can take to prevent this closure?
2. What alternative funding or cost-saving measures are being considered?
3. How I, as a North Side resident, can help advocate to preserve these services.

Thank you for your time, and for your dedication to serving all parts of our city. I hope that in your role, you'll stand with North Side residents to ensure we are not further deprived of essential community resources.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth

--

Elizabeth Nicolai

elizabethnicolai2200@gmail.com

(608) 461-1813

"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." – Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Craig, Sondra

From: Goggin, Erin
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 11:21 AM
To: Dawn Wacek; ZZ Council Members; Washington-Spivey, Shaundel
Subject: FW: Save the North Side Library and Pool!

From: Luke Reader <lukerussell1837@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 4:25 PM
To: Goggin, Erin <goggine@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Save the North Side Library and Pool!

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Council Member,

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed closure of the North Side Library and pool.

This library is a vital part of the North Side community. It is one of the few safe, accessible, and educational spaces left for North Side residents. The North Side already faces serious disparities in resources and the library provides essential services like free Wi-Fi and computers, access to books and printers, youth programs, and a safe space for kids and families. Closing it would take away one of the last community hubs that bring people together and support learning and opportunity.

The North Side Pool plays an equally important role. It offers kids and families a healthy, safe place to be outside, to stay active, and to connect during the summer months. For many families in this area, it's one of the only affordable recreational outlets available.

I understand the city must make tough budget decisions, but cutting from the North Side again is not the answer. Please explore other funding options or cuts before eliminating such a vital resource.

Thank you for your time and for standing up for equity and community access in La Crosse.

Craig, Sondra

From: Kathy Arntson <kathy_arntson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 1:54 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Closing of Northside Library and Pool

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Hello,

I am completely against these proposals.

How do we have money for bike lanes, that truly do not get used year round. Yes, a few diehards, but generally not.

With the price of things continuing to rise the library may become the only place families can use internet. Or maybe read more after ending streaming services or cable. How can one be justified and the other not. What kind of City does that show we are?

The Pool makes me sad, as I understand life guards are hard to find, but it cheap entertainment for kids and families. It is barely open 3 months! Cannot we find ways to keep both?

Very disappointed that this is even considered as possibilities!

Thank you

Proud Nothsider

Kathy Arntson

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: Janet Bahr <jlbahr1@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 2:00 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Concerns

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October 20, 2025

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to voice my concern about the upcoming closure of Logan pool and the library. I live two blocks from each facility and have used the pool about 10 times this summer and the library several times. Since the hours were expanded at the library, I noticed it was full every time I went there. The pool was also filled with people, and I often see groups of children walking to the pool. I am concerned that taking away these services in an underserved community will greatly impact the community. I grew up on the north side and remember the time before we had a pool as a child. We were able to walk anywhere back in those days, and I still think it was not safe at the beach. The northside beach is not a good option for kids to go to with inadequate supervision and needing to cross a busy road to get there. I would not let my children go to the beach.. Many of the families in the neighborhood do not have the means to drive to other areas to find pools. I think this is a grave misjustice closing these facilities down.

I know there is a limited budget, but we need to look at how we are utilizing our resources. I am not against bike lanes, but as a bicyclist myself, I would not necessarily head downtown for a route. Often, I go to a trail or find a bike path. I have done the trail through the parks but recently have been more concerned about safety traveling the trails through the marsh, which I use to enjoy.

In a time when we are trying to balance everything, it feels like more services are getting taken away from the taxpayers of La Crosse. I moved away from the south side in 2015 when I was having a sidewalk placed through my boulevard. I could not fight that then, and even when they said the sidewalk would connect. It was an owner/occupied duplex. I lost a fence, invisible dog fence, tree and part of my front yard. 10 years later the sidewalk goes down the street and does not connect to another sidewalk. I call it the sidewalk "nowhere". I left for lower taxes in my parents' house on the north side since I knew the taxes would go up with the sidewalk. I have been by my place on the southside, and it looks horrible. I had maintained that property in great condition and have a hard time going by it now. We have a group of great neighbors but see that more people are putting houses up for sale. That means more landlord owned properties, and we all know how well some of those are maintained.

I am asking you how many people will use the bike lane versus a pool and library. I think we need to invest in our children. I am active with Trinity Lutheran Church, and we do Monday meals, block parties, clothes closet and donate to the elementary school. The churches are doing a lot for the community. I think it is time for us to take care of our taxpayers.

My current property assessment has gone up \$60 in two years without an assessment.. I live in a 120-year-old house with older water heating. My two daughters have left La Crosse recently for Onalaska. I am concerned more people will leave the city with the loss of services we are experiencing.

I am a proud northsider and am trying to be a good neighbor in my community. I retired from Gundersen Health and currently work one day a week at the Northside Neighborhood Clinic, which is also trying to help underserved patients. I am asking you not to forget the northside. I have had several offers to sell from rental businesses. I would really like to stay where I am, but may consider alternatives if we keep losing services as taxes increase. I am asking you to reconsider your plans to close the pool and the library.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me at 608-406-6401

Janet Bahr

Sent from my iPhone

Craig, Sondra

From: Cheryl Peters <capeter2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:14 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North side pool and library

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As a resident of the north side I urge you to NOT close the pool and library. These are essential for the residents, especially the children of the north side. Many of these children have no transportation to the south side pools [and libraries] and would lose healthy ways to spend time - both physically and mentally. If you must close a pool close municipal pool by UWL. Plz think about the children.

Craig, Sondra

From: Teri Williams <twdw_77@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 9:06 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and Northside Pool

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Dear Council Members,

Please do not close the Northside Library or the Northside Pool! These are some of the best resources for the Northside and La Crosse and are both greatly needed. Needed both by youth and adults. Especially for the kids who need a place to go. Both the library and pool provide this! I strongly feel children need activities to keep them out of trouble. Why take this all away from them? The Northside needs these facilities. It is not so easy for kids, getting to other facilities that are farther away. Once you close these, we will never get them back! Try to find a better solution and keep both the pool and library open. Also, they took away the Northside pool's funding and used for repairs to Erickson Pool. Now they want to close the Northside Pool. We want our funding back. Don't always take away from the Northside. We need great things on this side of town too. Thanks for listening.

Teri Williams

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Craig, Sondra

From: Lily Wagner <catsareawesome010@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:01 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: please don't shut down our public library and pool!!

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Dear City Council,

While I am a french island resident, I grew up on the northside of La Crosse until i was 14. I attended Logan middle and High school, and have always considered myself a northside at heart. I grew up going to that pool, that library is where I got my first library card. These are amenities that are still being used by the public, and northsiders deserve to have them.

Over the summer I worked with a non-profit that walked kids over to the community pool every day. Northside kids deserve something to look forward to during the summer.

please do what you can to keep our public spaces!!!

Lily Wagner

Craig, Sondra

From: renee travelexpertsoflacrosse.com <renee@travelexpertsoflacrosse.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:04 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: SAVE the Northside Pool and Library

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Good Morning -

I'd like to address the closure of the Northside Pool and library:

I have lived on the Northside for 25 years and have been a lifelong resident of La Crosse.

We need the northside pool..as a 20 year resident of northside I am here to tell you it is a valuable community resource kid friendly, family friendly and something our kids look forward to every year My boys and I went there for years..kids go to swim lessons, can walk and ride their bike for an afternoon of fun on a hot sunny day. The last day of school tradition of going to the pool lives on.

The feeling of community needs to live on for future generations -we need safe places for our kids, families and elderly to go.

Also think of this -if you close the pool families and children are going to end up at Black River Beach which offers no life guards -and then there is a drowning?

Why not offer sponsorships like the loggers do -have advertising and signage or something that businesses can sign up and donate some money like they have on their outfield wall

Somehow it seems there is money for additional bike lanes and unnecessary city jobs but we can't keep the pool up??? And our library being targeted as well, where many of our kids and elderly go to use the resources of the library.

Maybe let's stop dumping all that money into the homeless crisis and offer services to the people that actually live, work and pay taxes here.

Thank You

Renee Paisley

Travel Experts of La Crosse

608-780-6694

Craig, Sondra

From: Jenny Schroeder <jenny.schroeder3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:37 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: The pool? The Library?

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Come ON!!!

Our families need these resources. Please do whatever it takes to keep these available to the children of LaCrosse.

I've had enough of screen time. Let's put our money where our mouths are. We want our children out in the fresh air, splashing in the pools. We also want them reading year round, discovering their world in books.

Craig, Sondra

From: Rane Andersen <ranecat50@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:56 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and Pool

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Dear council members,

I have lived in LaCrosse for 35 years now. The majority of that time has been on the north side. It is really frustrating sometimes to see how the city resources are spent. Do we really need to spend over 500k on bike lanes? How much money has the city spent cleaning up after the unsheltered? What did it cost to clean up Houska park after the city allowed the unsheltered to treat it like a dump and worse? How much has been spent cleaning up Cameron park multiple times to just watch it get trashed again? It is disgusting that the farmers market was forced to move from Cameron park. If I remember correctly, the cover over the parking spots were included for that reason to have a beautiful place for vendors to sell their produce and families to gather and purchase healthy local food.

I feel like the northside has lost so much and we are treated like the poor stepchild. Taking away the library and pool will be a huge disservice to the community. Please reconsider closing these two gathering places for the children and adults of the northside. We deserve better.

Thank you.

Ranee Andersen

Craig, Sondra

From: Shelby <shelbyniicole@aim.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:44 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North side Library and Pool

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Please keep the library and pool open! They were staples of my childhood and a safe place for me to grow up. I still attend the library whenever I can and even went to their first clothing swap!

It's a great resource for the community.

Thank you,
Shelby Jacobson

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

Craig, Sondra

From: mrs.markf <mrs.markf@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:39 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Save our library and pool

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Dear Council Members,

I have lived in the city of LaCrosse my whole life of 67 years. My husband and I chose to purchase a house and live on the Nortsides of LaCrosse because of the strong community pride and all of the conveniences. We love being able to go to the library, even though they have removed most of the books, and my grandchildren love visiting there with me. Ee also love our summer pool experiences. The zero depth pool is extra special for my 4 year old grandson.

It seems LaCrosse is constantly removing services for we the tax payers, but can find money for homeless and rich. You can find money in the budget to clean up the messes the homeless leave and build expensive boat docks. Also purchased a building by the GECU with no purpose in mind, but can't keep our pool & library open? Sell some things. Get creative. Don't spend money on stupid things like road blocks for bike lanes, that only a few people use. Don't build more boat docks. Look out for we the tax payers. We need our library!! I know we will be looking to move if more services are removed. We don't want to live in a city where the citizens and our children are less important than those who don't pay taxes.

Idea....charge a service tax to the patrons of downtown restaurants like you do to hotels. The restaurants benefit from all the Civic center shows, Weber Center shows & festivals, but don't pay in.

Save our library & pool.

Sincerely,

Carol Francksen

Craig, Sondra

From: Vicki Engevold <vickihappelengevold@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:11 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library & Pool

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I STRONGLY OPPOSE the closing of the Northside library and pool.

Craig, Sondra

From: abigail treu <abbytheacrobat@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:48 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside pool

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Good morning,

My name is Abigail Kruger and I own a home in Lacrosse at 2317 State St.

I would like to share my support in keeping the Northside pool and library.

Although from time to time Lacrosse tries to reinvent itself, it will always only be a city of 50,000 people that's a good place to grow up in. This is our unwavering brand and rock.

Keeping our city safe and enjoyable for children and families will keep our city alive.

Please turn your focus back to that principal and keep it there.

Thank you, Abby

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Craig, Sondra

From: Stephanie Schroeder <mariegem2083@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:56 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside library and pool

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Please save the library and pool on the Northside! I'm a teacher in La Crosse, have lived in La Crosse, and was born in La Crosse, the kids and community need these! Thank you for your help!

Stephanie

Sent from my iPhone

Craig, Sondra

From: Goggin, Erin
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 5:22 PM
To: Dawn Wacek; Aaron Engel; Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: Pool and library

From: Lynn Walker <lynnwalker1447@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:25 PM
To: Goggin, Erin <goggine@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Pool and library

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Ms. Goggin,

I want to strongly encourage you to vote to keep the Northside Library and pool open. We live on the north side and really rely on these resources. My children visit the library several times a week are year long and we need the pool for swimming lessons. We would be severely hindered in our ability to visit the library if we had to use the Main Library exclusively, and we simply would not be able to use the other pools at all, they are too far away from us to be useful.

In these challenging economic times I can definitely appreciate the difficulty of balancing a budget, but starving the Northside of resources is not the way to do it. Please save our treasured library and pool!

Lynn Walker

Craig, Sondra

From: Goggin, Erin
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 5:37 PM
To: Craig, Sondra; ZZ Council Members
Subject: FW: Fw: Webform submission from: Contact Us

From: Katie Bittner <kljleigh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:41 AM
To: Goggin, Erin <goggine@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Fwd: Fw: Webform submission from: Contact Us

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Morning Erin,

I am not sure if this one went to your Council email as well, but I wanted to share it with you from the Library form since it so beautifully captured how special the Northside Library is. Hoping we keep seeing more!

Have a great day,
Katie Bittner

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

From: Dawn Wacek <dwacek@lacrosselibrary.org>
Date: Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 9:35 AM
Subject: Fw: Webform submission from: Contact Us
To: LibraryBoard <LibraryBoard@lacrosselibrary.org>

From: La Crosse Public Library <webcal@lacrosselibrary.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:22 PM
To: Dawn Wacek <dwacek@lacrosselibrary.org>
Subject: Webform submission from: Contact Us

Submitted on Tue, 10/21/2025 - 20:21
Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:
Name:
Elizabeth Laack

Email: ekrand1818@gmail.com
Address:
2219 Mississippi st.
La Crosse , Wisconsin. 54601

Library Card Number: 24226003365775

Nature of feedback (check all that apply): Concern

Feedback:

To the La Crosse Public Library Board and City Council,

I am writing with deep concern regarding the potential closure of the Northside branch of the La Crosse Public Library. This space is so much more than a building. It is a place where families, neighbors, and friends come together to learn, grow, and feel connected.

As a parent, I have watched my daughters eyes light up every time we walk through those doors. The Parent Place programs offered there have given us a sense of community and belonging, while helping my children learn and explore in meaningful ways. The sweet play area has been a place where their imaginations have come alive, where they have spent hours pretending, creating, and discovering new things.

Part of what makes the Northside library so special is its size and deep history. It feels personal and welcoming in a way that larger library branches cannot always offer. The smaller space creates a sense of closeness and comfort, a place where staff know families by name and where children feel truly at home.

The Northside library is a place that nurtures curiosity, encourages early learning, and provides a safe, welcoming space for families. Losing it would take away so much more than books or story time.

I hope you will consider how much this library means to the families who depend on it. Keeping the Northside library open means keeping a place of imagination, connection, and opportunity alive for our community.

In a nation where third spaces are becoming increasingly more important and in a community where they are sparse, the thought of closing one should be non-negotiable.

With gratitude for taking the time to read this,

Elizabeth Laack

La Crosse Resident and Parent

Would you like to receive a reply to your feedback?: Yes

--

Katie Bittner

Great Lakes Sustainability, LLC

(651) 485-0832

Craig, Sondra

From: Goggin, Erin
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 5:44 PM
To: Dawn Wacek; Aaron Engel; Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW:

-----Original Message-----

From: heywitch@icloud.com <heywitch@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:37 AM
To: Goggin, Erin <goggine@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject:

[You don't often get email from heywitch@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Sent from my iPhoneCindy Snider here. I'm very disappointed that they want to take this away from the north side. I've lived here my whole life and the library has been a part of that. If the north side is to thrive we need these. What are the kids on the north side expected to do in the summer. What about new families that would like to move here. The north side doesn't have any grocery stores, soon so library and no pool.

Craig, Sondra

From: Doug and Nancy Casper <dncasper@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 7:17 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North Side Concerns

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Dear Councilpersons,

As a former Roosevelt Elementary and Logan High School student and graduate, I wish to express my concern with regard to the elimination of the historic North Side Community Library. Personally, as a young student, I read hundreds of books from this Library and always participated in the summer library reading program. I also studied in the Library while attending college. This small Library, with its charm, organization and the very scent of the books, brought the World to generations of North Side students like myself. I absolutely loved walking down Kane St. with the Library as my destination, by myself or with a friend. Please imagine all the North Side children who became productive adults in their professions or added to society in many ways who honed their reading skills as a result of time spent and books checked out at the North Side Community Library. In these times, a positive place for children should be encouraged and enhanced! It is a positive place for learning, study, peace, reflection and growth.

Also, please consider the lack of a pool for not only the North Side but for the entire City. How is it we can do without one pool in a place "where three rivers meet"? Unthinkable! So we have safety concerns ie lack of swimming skills to consider as well as a needed positive experience plus exercise for our youth and all to consider.

Personally, I am from a multi-generational North Side family. We have always gone to the mat when it comes to our beloved North Side and we will continue to do so. The quality of life of the North Side, City and Area all will be affected by the La Crosse City Council's decision.

Respectfully,

Nancy Ruud Casper

Logan Class of 1974

608.790.2322

Sent from my iPhone

Craig, Sondra

From: Patricia Lokken <patti.lokken@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:39 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and Pool

Some people who received this message don't often get email from patti.lokken@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Council Members: Please do not close the historic northside library. Also, please do not close the northside pool. Thank You for hearing my sincere request.
Patti Lokken

Craig, Sondra

From: Mary Keefe Barrett <mkb195152@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 10:30 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North side pool and library closing

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Please, please please do not close the Logan Middle pool. The pool at Logan HS is too deep for poor swimmers, and would not hold all the kids who go to the other pool. Also, kids need to be outside because it is healthier.

We tell kids not to do drugs, but we need to give them alternatives. We need to keep them off the streets, and out of trouble.

Closing the south branch library was a mistake. Closing the north branch would be a worse one. Again, it keeps kids off the streets. For some, it is their only access to computers, which are well supervised. By the way, where did all the money go from the sale of the south branch, computers, etc?

Speaking of the library, I think we should spend a lot less money on DVDs, and more on books and literacy.

Thank you.

Mary M Barrett
Sent from my iPad

Craig, Sondra

From: Ann Fry <annfry55@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 11:03 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North side library and pool

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In regards to the subject of the pool and library. There's enough money in the library budget to keep this open. How do expect the elderly to get to main branch if they have no transportation? This is crazy that everyone is expected to get to the main branch. Maybe the renovations shouldn't have been so extensive. The pool now, you are closing everything on the north side, and we are left with nothing. Where are the kids supposed to go? If both of these close, don't be surprised if crime goes up, just saying. Please keep theses open

Thanks
Sent from my iPad

Craig, Sondra

From: Harlow Richardson <harlow.richardson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 11:37 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: closing of the north side library!

Some people who received this message don't often get email from harlow.richardson@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I think it would be a terrible thing to close the North Side library ! I learned to read as a youth using the library. As a young man working on the road I used to go to libraries at night instead of the bars. Andrew Carnegie was an American hero ! I went to Vietnam as a young marine and to Afghanistan as an old soldier. I did not see any libraries there ! I was raised in poverty and libraries saved my life. Harlow Richardson

Craig, Sondra

From: Kari <kbueros@mwt.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 12:00 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North side swimming pool and library.

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from kbueros@mwt.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Please do not close these facilities. I am a taxpayer in LaCrosse and I don't support your decision in closing these facilities. I will be attending all meetings.

Respectfully,

Kari Bueros

Sent from my iPhone

Craig, Sondra

From: Brittany Hensgen <bahensgen@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 12:22 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Request to Keep North Side Pool and Library Open

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To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to urge you to keep the North Side Pool and North Side Library open. These facilities are vital to my family and many others in the community, providing essential spaces for our children to enjoy. Closing them would be devastating for North Side families and could drive residents away from the area due to the lack of amenities.

We've seen positive growth with businesses emerging in various areas on the North side such as Caledonia Street, but closing these municipal facilities could reverse this progress, deterring both new residents and businesses from investing in our community. Families in the area depend on these resources. Please reconsider any plans to close them to ensure our community remains vibrant and supportive.

Sincerely,

The Hensgen/Binsfeld Family

Craig, Sondra

From: Connie Forseth <crforseth@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 12:27 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Cc: Connie Forseth
Subject: Stop picking on the North Side

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Save the library and the pool! What will you take away next? When will it stop?

Thank you,

Connie Forseth
Concerned South Sider

Craig, Sondra

From: Trina Schlifer <trinaschlifer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 12:53 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside

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To the Council Members who represent the people....

Keep the pool and library on the Northside. LaCrosse is already turning into rental housing forcing people to leave to go elsewhere.

Trina

Craig, Sondra

From: Deb Heller <debron1617@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 1:44 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside library and pool

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from debron1617@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear City Council members,

I'm writing in concern for the City of La Crosse considering closing the Northside Community Library and Pool.

If you consider people in the surrounding area of French Island, Barre Mills, and the Northside of La Crosse, there are plenty of those that would and do use the library and pool. Those that don't have access to public transportation, that walk, ride bikes, or drive think of these places as part of their community. The City of La Crosse needs to understand that people like local grocery stores, shopping, library, and pools, parks, and schools, churches, restaurants and businesses as a convenience in their communities. The more the City takes away the less likely people will want to relocate or become a home buyer in area that do not have amenities. The prices of homes and properties in area will likely be less attractive. Businesses won't want to consider these locations. The City of La Crosse must stop segregating the Southside and Northside and remember them together as a whole.

Sincerely,
Debra Heller
debron1617@gmail.com

Craig, Sondra

From: Trinie MacFarland <triniemac@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 2:04 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Pool and Library

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I would like to be part of the email group backing the support to keep the pool and library open and operating. These are vital to our families. The Southside Library was already sad to lose, and when Erickson pool was closed in the summer of 2024, it was sad for many families. Libraries and pools keep our children active in our communities, and give them productive ways to be active and have meaningful social interactions and ways to engage with their family and friends. Please keep these important places in our community and in the budget.

Thank you!
Trinie MacFarland
Sent from my iPhone

Craig, Sondra

From: Maribeth Trey <mabraa13@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 2:33 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and Pool

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Dear Council Members,

I am writing in regards to the recent decision to close the Northside Library and Pool. I did not grow up in this area but moved here about 8 years ago. I do everything I can to promote La Crosse. I know it is a blue collar town. I try to bring in people to bring dollars into the community. Closing down vital places like these does not help promote the community. It sends the opposite message. Empty buildings send a very negative message. Especially establishments like these that could get grants and funding because they contribute to children's education and exercise.

I have 4 sons that recently married and have started families, they live in towns in MN, WI, and SD. The first areas they scope out when they move into communities are schools, libraries and pre school educational activities available for their families. If we are trying to attract new families and young families to our town, then closing these already funded gems would be a vital mistake.

Also living on the Northside, what is left for the youth to do? The bike paths have been peppered with homeless people to the point that I won't even walk on them. There are no bowling alleys, movie theaters, or even arcades. There are a few parks (again homeless people hang out there) and the beach. That is it. Oh there are bars. So what message are we sending our youth?

Please think about what you are doing and if you are taking these things away, consider replacing them with something that will attract and help our children thrive or soon you will not have any children on the northside.

Respectfully Yours,
Maribeth Jensen
2710 Prospect St.
La Crosse, WI 54603

Craig, Sondra

From: Katie Troyanek <katietroyanek@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 2:52 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Save the pool and library!

Some people who received this message don't often get email from katietroyanek@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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The library is so much more than just a building filled with books—it's a space filled with programs and support for everyone, from babies to senior citizens. It's a safe place for kids who need help with homework because their single parent is working multiple jobs just to keep the lights on. It's a place where a child can grab a small snack or piece of fruit—maybe the only food they'll have until the next day at school.

I was the oldest child, helping my dad raise three younger siblings while he worked hard to provide for us. I don't know what we would have done without places like the public pool we could bike to, the park and rec leagues that kept us active, or the library where we checked out books, movies, and found free programs to be part of.

It breaks my heart to think that kids and parents on the Northside might lose access to these essential places. They aren't luxuries—they're lifelines.

The city always seems to find money for unnecessary projects: redoing barely used bike lanes, installing random curb bump-outs on Cass Street that just get wrecked by snowplows, building countless roundabouts, and funding massive additions to the lacrosse center that didn't add seating or bring any clear benefit to the area. There's extra lighting all over Huska Park—but then they kicked everyone out.

Meanwhile, the things that actually benefit people get cut. You already closed a beautiful Southside library that my kids and I loved. Erickson Pool was closed for an entire summer for repairs that could've taken a week—and you had months to do it. Park and Rec Youth baseball and softball programs were cut. Shelby Ball is gone.

What are kids supposed to do in the summer?

There is money available to redo the oktoberfest grounds? Also, Somehow, there was money to redo the municipal pool, which still isn't great for kids. But now there's no money to keep community spaces like the pools or our libraries open? It's frustrating and honestly pretty ridiculous. These are the kinds of resources that actually matter to families and kids.

You can do better city of La Crosse listen to voices of the tax paying citizens for once!

Signed

A 37 year long La Crosse citizen,
Kaitlyn Troyanek

Craig, Sondra

From: Markie P. <mbeedancer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 2:57 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: La Crosse Northside Library and Pool

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I am writing to request that La Crosse City Council Members seriously rethink removing the Northside Library and pool. These are community building places that provide programming and support for Northside La Crosse people and families. Those of us without access to cars can find busses to be difficult on severe weather days, and community is so important for us at any age, for brain and physical strength.

I strongly believe that more community discussions are needed on these subjects, especially now when the economy is tightening our pocketbooks. Community is strongly needed to get through hard times. Thank you for your time.

Craig, Sondra

From: Kahlow, Chris
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 3:49 PM
To: kay rutherford; ZZ Council Members
Subject: Re: please

Kay,

Thank you for contacting council. I will not support any operating budget which closes either of these important neighborhood assets. I'm hoping my colleagues agree.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kahlow
District 6 Council Member
City of La Crosse
Kahlowc@cityoflacrosse.org
608-448-5114

From: kay rutherford <kaymarilyn64@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 1:29:07 PM
To: ZZ Council Members <zzcouncilmembers@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: please

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keep the north side library open
and save the pool..
thx, kay rutherford

Craig, Sondra

From: Susie Schultz <susieonthelane@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 3:51 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Re-evaluate Closure of Northside Library and Pool

Some people who received this message don't often get email from susieonthelane@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Every time the City of La Crosse decides budget cuts need to be made, things on the Northside of La Crosse are the first on the chopping block. I especially feel the library needs to remain open for accessibility reasons for those living on the Northside. A library should be the very last thing to ever close!

Craig, Sondra

From: Laurie Nelson <grow.where.u.are.planted@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 3:42 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Pool and Library.

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As someone that lives on the Northside the loss of the library and pool affects our children's lives and the adults living on the Northside adversely!

We need to have places to go for learning, recreation, and exercise. These are places that build childhood memories and are family friendly.

What I took for granted as a child and when raising my kids, as a natural part of a community seems to be slipping through our fingers to something that once was.

I pay property taxes and these are amenities that I want my dollars going towards!!

Thank you!

Laurie Nelson
The Creative Naiad LLC
thecreativenaiad.etsy.com
thecreativenaiad.com
<https://the-creative-naiad.square.site>
308-360-0000

Let your soul enjoy your own creative journey!

Craig, Sondra

From: Dave Eggum <laxdge@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 4:39 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside

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L would like Northside library and Pool to stay

Craig, Sondra

From: Amie Kish <kish.amie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 5:39 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside pool

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from kish.amie@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Please keep the pool! An indoor aquatic center would be so amazing for this town in the winter.

Amie Dworschak

Sent from my iPhone

Craig, Sondra

From: Laura Seielstad <seielstad05@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 6:33 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and Pool

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Dear Council Members of La Crosse,

I've heard that there is a possibility of closing the North Side Library and Pool due to budgetary issues. The library is used by the children of the North Side to study. It offers free use of computers for those (children and adults) who don't have them at home. There are books and other activities for children there. It has been a staple of the North Side for generations. How do you expect young children to get to the Main Library downtown. Do the children of the North Side not matter to the City of La Crosse?

The Northside Pool is also a safe gathering place for our children. You can argue that the Northside Beach is an option but the water is not always safe to swim in. Last year you took money that had been budgeted to repair the Northside Pool and used it to repair the Southside Pool instead. That shows how little you care about the children and people on the north end of town.

Do we really need extra bike lanes and new signs for those bike lanes on 2nd Street? No. How many people actually use those bike lanes? They make 2nd Street more dangerous for cars to drive on. Have you driven that stretch from State Street to the Cass Street Bridge? It's been a nightmare since those bike lanes were put in. Especially at State Street. Cancel those bike lanes & new signs and put the money towards things that will assist the children of our community. Please stand by them and save these precious Northside resources.

Thank you for your consideration,

Regards,

Laura Seielstad (District 2)

Craig, Sondra

From: Tami Plourde <tami@pearlstreetbrewery.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 8:26 PM
To: Dawn Wacek; ZZ Council Members
Cc: Tami Plourde
Subject: Plz Save Northside Institutions!

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Hi.

I'm writing with an urgent plea to consider all of the families on and around our beloved Northside La Crosse and save the Logan Pool and the Northside Library.

As a business owner located on the Northside for the past 20+ years, I've had a chance to meet so many families that live here. Many of whom rely on these such institutions for their families to thrive.

I feel like the short term budget "fix" is short sighted when you consider the long term harmful ramifications of those actions. I urge you to consider exploring other avenues of fiscal restorations and other solutions that will take into consideration the needs of so many!

Thank you for your consideration!

Tami Plourde

Pearl Street Brewery

Board Member North La Crosse Business Association

Craig, Sondra

From: scottkimp@charter.net
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 2:07 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library

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Please figure out how to keep the Northside library open. I am not going to pretend to understand so many of the things that our tax dollars are used for in this city, but I would think that we can all agree that a neighborhood LIBRARY is a very important component. (Some would say a crucial one). It is time to reassess our city's priorities and provide funding for things that benefit all instead of catering to niche interests.

Kim Puchalski

--

Craig, Sondra

From: KEVIN HANSON <kevinsautobodyllc@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 7:26 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Fwd: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

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From: Mail Delivery Subsystem <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 23, 2025 at 1:31 PM
Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
To: <kevinsautobodyllc@gmail.com>



Address not found

Your message wasn't delivered to **zzcounsilmembers@cityoflacrosse.org** because the address couldn't be found, or is unable to receive mail.

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The response from the remote server was:

550 5.4.1 Recipient address rejected: Access denied. For more information see <https://aka.ms/EXOSmtpErrors> [BL02EPF0001B419.namprd09.prod.outlook.com 2025-10-23T18:31:37.199Z 08DE11DB71348EC4]

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

From: KEVIN HANSON <kevinsautobodyllc@gmail.com>

To: zzcounsilmembers@cityoflacrosse.org

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Thu, 23 Oct 2025 13:31:21 -0500

Subject: Closing of northside pool and library.

As a lifelong resident of this city I am trying to figure out what is going on. Why is it that when funds are supposed to be low, things get cut by our city administrators. It wasnt that long ago that this pool that you are referring to was built. what is the deal with removing it now. The pool is less than 25 years old, if it needs that much repair, I think the city should be looking into warranties when things are built. Taking away the pool is not a good thing for the northside, or the whole city for that matter. Same with the northside library. it has been a fixture in this city for well over a hundred years. I remember when I was in grade school a librarian, who has her portrait hanging in there, used to come and tell us about the things going on there. Does anyone do that anymore? I am sorry but it gets me all worked up when I think about the city taking away things from our younger generations. And that is what is happening, not just now but for the future as well. I don't have any idea what our city officials are thinking when they mention stuff like this. It's not your money, it is ours. You have been taking the money from our taxes and spending it somewhere. And I believe there should be an audit done. There is money being spent on things our voters had nothing to say about, and now you just want to close 2 facilities. I would like to know when meetings are held for this stuff, because our local news on the radio don't say anything until the day of or after. There is a lot of things going on in this city that are not for the better of its residents and I for one am getting sick of it. Barb, You or Erin or even Kris can reach me to let Kari and I know when things are going on with time to plan on being there. Thank you for reading this. And to understand that we, and a whole lot more are not happy.

Craig, Sondra

From: Linda Stone <lskowgirl12@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 8:54 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside pool

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I urge you to NOT close the northside pool. It is a valuable resource for many of the citizens of the city. To have invested all that time and money to build it and then not to fund the upkeep & continue to keep it open is an inexcusable waste and a kick in the head to the taxpayers of the city. I recently began using the pool twice a week and it was a godsend for me. It is a beautiful facility and should not be abandoned.

As a lifelong resident, property owner and faithful taxpayer I hope you will please reconsider this pending budget cut.

Linda Stone
811 North St
La Crosse WI

Craig, Sondra

From: Peter and Jean Smith <jptsmith72@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 8:44 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Concerns

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Council Members,

I strongly oppose closing the northside library and Logan pool. Please vote against these proposals. Have you personally been in the northside library - it is so beautiful and historical. Its location just across the street from the Northside Elementary is such a bonus for those students. I went to Franklin and loved our class trips to that library to learn how to use it and enjoy researching and reading. Take the time to visit and just enjoy the beauty and serenity of that building.

I also grew up enjoying the Black River Beach. Now, I don't believe that the beach is as safe as it was years ago. The river is more polluted and there aren't the lifeguards and safety ropes. I also believe it has become a hangout for some of the homeless.

Keep the northside library and pool for all our students, kids and families to enjoy

Jean Smith
Proud Northsider!!

Craig, Sondra

From: KEN RILEY <ken@ed3solutiongroup.com>
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 12:17 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Cc: jay@ed3solutiongroup.com
Subject: Opposition to Closing the North Side Pool and Library

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La Crosse City Council
City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Dear Members of the La Crosse City Council,

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the potential closure of the **North Side Community Pool** and any reduction in services at the **North Branch Library**. These facilities are not just amenities—they are vital resources that strengthen our neighborhood, support families, and keep the North Side connected and thriving.

Reports indicate the North Side Pool needs around **\$1 million in repairs**, including a new liner and roof. While that is a challenge, closing the pool would cost our community far more in lost opportunities for recreation, safety, and wellness. The pool provides affordable swim lessons, summer jobs for teens, and a safe, supervised space for children during the warm months. For many North Side families, it's the only convenient and accessible swimming option.

Similarly, the **North Branch Library** has become even more important since the South Branch was closed. It offers free access to books, computers, internet, and educational programs—resources that many residents rely on. Scaling back its hours or services would widen the equity gap in our city and limit opportunities for learning, connection, and growth.

We understand the City faces serious fiscal pressures, but we urge you to seek **alternative solutions**—including grants, community partnerships, or phased maintenance—before taking steps that would permanently diminish our North Side neighborhood's quality of life.

Please keep the North Side Pool and Library open and operating. Their combined impact on our community's well-being, safety, and sense of belonging cannot be overstated.

Thank you for your service and for considering the lasting importance of these community assets.

Sincerely,
Jay Lokken & Ken Riley

Ken

Ken Riley, Ed.D - President & Founder
319 Main Street - The Batavian Building
La Crosse, WI 54601 / 608.792.9360
<http://www.ed3solutiongroup.com>



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Craig, Sondra

From: Beth C <bcuta311@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 12:59 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; Washington-Spivey, Shaundel
Subject: Save the northside pool and library!

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Hi,

I'm a lifelong resident of La Crosse, and a homeowner on the northside of 14 years. I have lived in nearly every area of this city at some point in my life, but decided to put my roots down on the northside to raise my family, and have no plans of moving anytime soon! My son and daughter have received their education at northside schools - Roosevelt Elem, Northside Elem, Logan MS, and Logan HS. My son graduated LHS in 2023 and is now a **LCpl** in the USMC. My daughter is a junior at Logan HS - a honor role student and National Honor Society member. We have frequented both the library and pool over the years for education, socialization, exercise, and entertainment. I grew up on 10th & Farnam Streets and saw my childhood library shut down not too long ago due to budget cuts which broke my heart. I spent so many hours there - a tragic loss for that neighborhood. When not at the library, I would ride my bike to Erikson Pool - also providing countless days of fun in my memories. We can't eliminate these invaluable resources from the northside. If anything, we should be investing in them to get more kids citizens to use them! Kids and adults alike are becoming less healthy by isolating themselves behind screens. They should be encouraged to participate in neighborhood activities - the library and pool are key areas outside of schools that provide spaces to make this possible. If it means sidelining projects like bike lanes, so be it! We already have a food desert up here, unless you count the food banks which not all of us utilize. Don't make it less desirable for people to live up here. It's great!

Thanks for your consideration.

Beth Cuta-Swertfeger
2031 Loomis St

Craig, Sondra

From: Reggie Lezpona <reggielezpona@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 2:41 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Save the Northside Pool and Library

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Dear Council Members,

I am writing in regards to the Northside Library and the Northside Pool. I feel building a new Indoor Competitive Indoor Pool, and closing the outside Northside Pool is a mistake. Why can't we renovate the Northside Pool and turn the Indoor Logan Pool into a Competitive Pool for High School Meets? Children need to be outside with their family and friends during the summer. My other question is why have these pools not been maintained. That is very irresponsible on the city's part.

The Library needs to stay open period. Children need to have a positive resource for doing homework and other activities the Library offers. **DO NOT CLOSE!**

On another matter, what is being done with the Homeless Situation. Our Northside Business, Ardies Flipside, has had the homeless use our bathrooms, come in and ask for free meals, go through our dumpsters and even put their trash in it, sit outside in the back with their lawn chairs, use our wifi and now vehicles are being damaged. This can not keep happening.

From my understanding you have hired a full time position at the taxpayer expense to help solve this problem. What is being done? The person in this position should give a monthly report and an expense report every month to the council and it should be available for review by the public. Actually every council member should submit a report and an expense report. There needs to be more transparency and accountability. Please do better for the hard working taxpayers of the beautiful city.

Sincerely,
Regina Lezpona

Craig, Sondra

From: Chris Woodard <chris.woodard715@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 3:17 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Pool and Library

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Good afternoon,

I'm reaching out in support of our Northside Pool and Library. I want to reiterate the importance of both of these on our Northside. They must be kept in the budget to ensure our Northside friends have safe and equitable access to amenities.

Thank you,
Chris Woodard

Craig, Sondra

From: Kat Johnson <kjohn928@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 4:06 PM
To: ZZ Council Members

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To whom it may concern:

The northside public pool has been a beacon of unity for the friends and family of La Crosse. It had made an impact on the public since 1999. The thought of it being closed down for good breaks my heart. I'm 26 years old and I've been attending the pool since I was 5 years old, that's 21 years for me. Every day of the summer as a kid rain or sun I was there swimming, living my childhood among hundreds of others. I highly recommend to find any way to keep it open, this would be detrimental to the public especially to families of La Crosse and surrounding areas.

Thank you, Kathryn Johnson

Craig, Sondra

From: Vonda Gruntzel <vgruntzel@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 4:33 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Save the pool and library

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Im a life long resident of the lacrosse area and I feel a need to write in and express the need to save both the pool and library on the north side. I vividly remember going to both those places as a child, then, taking my own kids, and finally my granddaughter. If we don't have such places like these to take kids to, they then will find alternative things to do, which are not all good. Keep kids outside to play, to engage with one another, and to most likely stay away from possible troubles they then will most likely get into.

Vonda gruntzel

Craig, Sondra

From: Becky Wurzel <wurz0701@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 5:41 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside side library and pool

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To all,

I support the pool and library. Our kids, and all of us, need these places.

Rebecca Wurzel
2021 Green Bay St
La Crosse, WI 54601

Craig, Sondra

From: Lori S <lilladybug1000@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 5:54 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Kane st library and logan pool closing

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Our family goes to both they are much-needed for are northside families the kids deserve to able to go these The kids are our future please save the library and pool

Craig, Sondra

From: Becky Nobrega <becky.nobrega@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 9:08 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North side

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Council members:

I would ask you to reconsider cutting funding to the LaCrosse north side library and pool. As a long time resident of the north side, I am always excited when our side of town gets an upgrade. The whole intersection area with the newly expanded Kwik Trip, renovated McDonald's and Starbucks, and the Eagle Watch is a great addition. The new apartment buildings and Dunkin Go were welcome additions. The new fire station is great. What we need is to keep adding businesses and amenities that will attract families to the north side to increase pride of ownership and property values. We do not need more "low income" businesses such as title loans, smokes for less, etc. Families will want to move where there are good things for their kids: updated schools, libraries and the pool. My kids made heavy use of all of these. Please keep investing in the north side.

Thank you for your consideration.

Becky Nobrega

Craig, Sondra

From: mriahr@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 10:51 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Pool/ library

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As a new northsider these last few years we have enjoyed our times at both the pool and the library. It would be a shame to see them go.

Maria Ramirez

Craig, Sondra

From: Lisa Veglahn <laveglahn@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 5:46 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Support for the Northside Library and Northside Pool

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Dear La Crosse city council members,

I am writing this email to urge you to support ongoing funding for the Northside library and the Northside pool so that they may remain open and accessible to our community. Please consider the multiple examples I've listed below as evidence that these facilities are vital to our fragile Northside community and give them your ongoing support.

My husband and I are proud 2nd generation members of the Logan middle and Logan high school families and now have 2 of our 3 children attending Logan middle school. The pool is used yearly as a celebration for middle schoolers to enjoy a pool day at the end of the year - for many kids, this is the only chance they will have to attend a pool for the rest of the summer. Extra pool time is also used as a reward to help motivate our middle schoolers to participate in positive behavior and school attendance, and in reaching fundraising goals. Access to the pool negates the need for a costly bussing fee to take a field trip elsewhere. As a PTO parent I can assure you that there is minimal funding in the schools' budgets for this. Once summer starts, the pool provides a safe environment for kids to exercise, socialize, and otherwise avoid negative behaviors. Many of these children are coming from low income families where their parents are working multiple jobs and are unable to transport them. Being able to access the pool with a short walk is essential. They do not have the means to instead go to a pool on the south side of La Crosse, Onalaska, or Holmen. Many of the children receiving childcare services at the Boys and Girls Club look forward to their weekly pool day, again where they can walk a few blocks and have a chance to experience a fun pool afternoon or swimming lessons they otherwise would not have.

Loss of library services is a heartbreaking reality we have already experienced in this city. The Northside library is an important safeguard for so many kids in our schools. It provides them a place to go after school for a quiet environment to do homework, a place to get a snack, and a place to be with friends or get some social support from the caring employees of the library. Many of them may otherwise be returning to an empty house. Northside community members with lack of access to transportation need the library as an important institution not only for access to reading materials, but to access internet services for job applications, to maintain benefits, and so many other essential services of daily life.

As a tax payer of La Crosse, I cannot stress enough how important these facilities are to our family and countless other families in the Northside community. The fact is that our family could easily choose to move to one of the surrounding cities and pay less in taxes for more abundant services while sending our children to schools that are currently seeing more growth and stability. This is something we have considered. However, we feel a strong connection to La Crosse and the people that make up this community, as well as an obligation to stand up for our neighbors who do not have the same means to make another choice when essential services are taken away. I hope you can see how extremely important these facilities are to our community, and find a way to maintain them.

Thank you for your time.

Lisa Veglahn

Craig, Sondra

From: Brianna Gibbs <briannamgibbs@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 6:08 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Save the North Side

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As a resident of the North side for the last 15 years I have seen what the power of community can do. I have pride being a resident of Hayes Street and ehat beautiful things and places you can find on La Crosse's North side. The pool and the library being integral pieces of childhood that should not be taken away to save money. Please encourage the council to re-look at other options than taking away more from the north side's children and residents.

Brianna Gibbs

Craig, Sondra

From: CAROLYN GLENZ <cglenz608@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2025 8:12 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North side cuts

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Please vote NO on cutting north side swimming pool and library! These assets are far too important to the community to lose!!

Carolyn and Martin Glenz
2219 Winnebago Street
la Crosse, Wisconsin. 54601

Craig, Sondra

From: Paige Nobrega <paige.nobrega@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2025 2:18 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside cuts

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Hello, my name is Paige Cappuccio. I grew up on the 2000 block of wood street. I went to Roosevelt, Logan Middle School, and then Logan High School. I briefly moved to the campus area, french island, and the south side in my early 20's but in 2022, my husband and I bought a house just one block from my parents house. It felt like coming home. We tried for a baby for 2 years before doing IVF and I gave birth to our baby girl in June of this year. I am devastated to hear that I'm not going to be able to do any of the things I did as a child with her. I can't send her to my elementary school, the high school will likely not be there when she is of the age to go, and now I can't take her to the pool where I practically lived during the summer. If you want adults and families to want to live on the north side, you need to stop taking things away. So many run down, low income businesses, and empty buildings sit. Every time you take another thing away from our neighborhoods or let things fall into disrepair, it sends one clear message, the people here don't matter. I'm asking you to please reconsider closing the library and logan middle pool, and continue to improve the north side so that generations of kids can grow up with the same happy memories I had. Thank you.

Paige
Sent from my iPhone

Craig, Sondra

From: Rachel Moore <rachelhelen95@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2025 2:27 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Save the Public Library/Pool

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Hello,

I am writing you to share my concerns about closing the Northside pool and library. People will be so sad if this comes to be reality. Please don't do it, and save them for future generations.

Thank you,
Rachel Moore

Craig, Sondra

From: Alayna O'Brien <alayna.rose72@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2025 3:16 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North Side Library

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Hi,

I'm emailing in response to hearing the northside library being closed. I think this is a horrible idea, that library is used by so many in the community and it's a token of the northside. PLEASE reconsider.

Regards,

Alayna OBrien

Craig, Sondra

From: April Zielke <zielkeapril@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 12:43 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside pool and Library

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This city is starting to feel like a jail, no amenities nothing for children, closing parks, closing pools, closing libraries, what is the reason people will want to live here, to pay high taxes and what? Have an incompetent mayor. We need the pool and we need the library. Kids need something they can do. Stop closing public services.

Sent from my iPhone

Craig, Sondra

From: Kelly Colgan Hammen <kly809@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:08 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North Side Library and Pool

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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: Dianne Hamann <rdhamann90@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 7:23 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Opposition to closing Northside Library and Pool

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Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to closing the Northside Library and the Northside Pool. I grew up attending Logan Middle School and Logan High School. The Northside Library was a valuable resource to me growing up, and it continues to be valuable to the current Northside residents. The same is true for the pool, it gives kids somewhere to go in the summer that is close to home.

I am a CPA who has worked at UW-La Crosse and Western Technical College, so I understand the difficulties of balancing budgets. I looked up the Library's 2025 budget online and saw \$325,000 was budgeted for books and publications. Perhaps this number could be reduced by \$100,000 to help cover the \$175,000 shortfall? I also looked at the 2025 City of La Crosse General Fund budget, and saw the budget for personnel and contractual services was 60 million dollars. Perhaps there are some other small reductions in that number that could be made to help the Library.

I also looked at the City's 2025-2029 capital budget and saw there is \$900,000 in the capital budget for Logan Pool. Why is this being taken out of the capital budget? It seems inequitable to have put almost 4 million dollars in the Memorial pool 5 years ago, but now do not have any funds for the Northside Pool.

One final point: While I realize the Council ultimately voted down the additions of a City Administrator or Operations Director, many of us questioned why you would even entertain the possibility of adding a City Administrator or Operations Director when you are also considering closing a library and pool? One of those positions costs as much if not more than the \$175,000 needed to keep the Northside Library open. I believe keeping the Northside Library and Pool open is vital to our community.

Thank you for your time,

Dianne Hamann
3301 Greenspire Lane
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 797-9751

Craig, Sondra

From: Pamela Mueller <pmueller112657@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:27 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Closure of Northside Library and Pool

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To the City of La Crosse Council,

Once again the northside of La Crosse is under attack with the City budget cuts. It truly amazes me that the northside seems to get the brunt whenever the City needs to cut money somewhere.

I am against the closure of the northside library and pool.

I am asking the council to please amend the budget and find other solutions instead of closing these 2 valuable resources.

The City Council was elected to serve the citizens of La Crosse. I know that you have all received many emails on this subject which speaks volumes because the citizens are passionate about keeping the library and pool. Please do the right thing!

Respectfully,
Pam Mueller

Craig, Sondra

From: Amy Fuchsteiner <afuchsteiner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:59 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: In Support of the Northside Library

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Dear Board Members

I am writing to express my strong support for keeping the Northside Library open and operational. As a La Crosse resident of 50+ years I have witnessed the invaluable role this library plays in our community, and in my own life.

As a child, I walked to the Northside Library after school from St. James Catholic School. My sister, my best friend and I would trek down Windsor Street to Freddy's Market, then over to Charles Street past the Tyler household, crossing over Clinton Street to walk up Kane Street to the library. We would wander through the stacks of stories, waiting for our mothers to pick us up. Those afternoon hours spent among the shelves were transformative. The library didn't just give me access to books, it fostered my love of reading, built my self-confidence, and ignited a sense of wonder about the world. The librarians welcomed me, encouraged my curiosity, challenged my abilities and created a safe space where I could explore, learn, and grow.

This library shaped who I am today, and I want that same opportunity for my neighbors.

I currently live within 4 blocks of the library. I see my neighbors walk over on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We banter about their book choices when they pass. For the littles and bigs in my neighborhood, the library is within walking distance. I recognize this may appear to be a small detail, but for many it makes a difference between isolation and exploration. Not every family has transportation, but every child deserves the opportunity to discover the magic of books and the confidence that comes from learning about a world bigger than you.

Closing this library would disproportionately affect our northside residents and create a significant gap in services. More importantly, it would deny future generations the transformative experience that so many of us were privileged to have.

The investment in our library is an investment in our community's future, literacy, and the dreams of children who deserve the same opportunities I had.

I urge you to prioritize funding for the Northside Library and explore alternative solutions before considering closure. Our community stands ready to support efforts to keep this vital resource open.

Thank you for your consideration and service to our community.

Sincerely,

Amy Fuchsteiner

1452 Wood St

La Crosse, WI

afuchsteiner@gmail.com

Craig, Sondra

From: Julie Thoftne <thoftnej@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:27 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside pool and library

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from thoftnej@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Please reconsider closing the Northside pool and library. I grew up on the Northside of LaCrosse and spent many summers attending the library reading program and swimming daily at the pool. Both the pool and library are vital to the Northside community families. I am a member of Trinity Lutheran Church on the Northside and volunteer at the Clothes Closet. I see the need within this community. Please don't take away these most valuable resources to these families. Thank you.
Sent from my iPhone

Craig, Sondra

From: Kiya Thomas <thomaskiya70@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:49 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Kane st Library and Logan pool

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The library and the pool are so needed for the Northside the families truly need them to stay open please keep them open our neighborhood need to be open please think of the kids thank you

Craig, Sondra

From: Pam Groth <psgroth26@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 12:11 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Save Northside pool

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Please fight for the Northside pool. We utilized this pool a lot when our kids were small. We even did swim lessons there. When they could ride bikes they had somewhere to go on their own. The location is convenient. It's a great spot to be next to middle school as well for those kids to use it as well. The pool is apart of the Northside history and would be devastating to those that currently utilize it especially the schools that have surround care and the boys and girls club.

Thank you,
Pam Groth
(608) 317-4439
psgroth26@gmail.com

Craig, Sondra

From: hjohn71@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:37 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: NS library/pool

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I rarely write to an official but this time I feel it is needed.

To even consider closing the NS library and pool is atrocious!

I live on the SS so this issue doesn't directly affect me but as a citizen I find it appalling how the citizens of this city are getting screwed.

Taxpayers are leaving because LaCrosse has turned into a cesspool of crime and cut services.

Please do NOT let the pool and library close!!!

Thank you
For you time,
Heather Morales

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

Craig, Sondra

From: Vicki Engevold <vickihappelengevold@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 7:32 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library & Pool

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I strongly oppose the closing of the Northside Library & Pool!

Craig, Sondra

From: jolene.quinn@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:15 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Pool

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Sent from my iPhone

Please save our Northside Pool. It means a lot to so many people. Northsiders pay taxes too and it appears to save money, the city always looks to the Northside instead of the lesser used pool on the Southside. We also need a library for our Northside. It's a beautiful historic building. Please help us keep it. Thank you.

Craig, Sondra

From: Diane Brose <brose.diane@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 12:02 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Pool

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As a La Crosse native of all my 65 years, I know first hand the value of a neighborhood pool. I lived at the pool every day it was open, all summer long. It was a place to meet friends, stay active, learn to swim, learn to become independent (biking there at a fairly young age), avoid boredom, and perhaps most importantly, stay out of trouble!

We must provide activities for our youth, or they will find their own, less desirable ones. And in this era of crime, screen time and childhood obesity, a pool is a bargain!

I am willing to contribute to a fund to keep a pool on the northside. If such a fund exists, please feel free to contact me with information.

Sincerely,
Diane Brose
131 24th Street South
La Crosse

Craig, Sondra

From: Diane Brose <brose.diane@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 12:12 PM
To: Dawn Wacek
Cc: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside library

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We must save the library! It is a great equalizer--providing books, internet, activities, and items from the lending library to all, regardless of income. It needs to be local and accessible! Northside kids will not travel to the Main library.

Pools and libraries show our kids we value them, that we want to improve their quality of life, even if they are low income. I feel these things should be prioritized, and are worth every penny of investment in the long run.

If there is a "save the library fund", please let me know, as I am willing to contribute to the quality of life in my hometown.

Sincerely,

Diane Brose
131 24th St S,
La Crosse, WI 54601

Craig, Sondra

From: CAROLYN GLENZ <cglenz608@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 12:18 PM
To: Dawn Wacek
Cc: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Save Northside library and swimming pool

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Although we are not Northside residents, we recognize how valuable the library and swimming pool are to Northsiders. We strongly advocate for the protection of each of these.

Carolyn and Martin Glenz
2219 Winnebago Street
La Crosse, Wisconsin. 54601

Craig, Sondra

From: Nancy Halverson <halverson.nancy@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 3:06 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and Pool

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Greetings - I live on the Northside of La Crosse and understand in the next two weeks the fate of both the northside library and pool is being voted on.

At last night's listening session I was hoping to have more council members there to hear the community share how important these two are to the northside. Now I know you are all busy, so I wanted to share some of the things I heard.

Not only does the pool and library provide a safe place for the children to visit, but they also provide a social and educational environment.

As you know, the northside is not an affluent area of the city. With the library so close to the schools it is used by many of the kids. The length of the city and the routes that need to be taken on the overhead and railroad tracks, it is not safe for children to ride their bikes to the library downtown or either of the pools.

A couple of parents said that when they asked the kids, on a scale of 0-10, how important it is to keep the two open. They said it was an 11.

Technology and physical exercise is a focus these days.

- The library is a free place children can go to do their homework when there is no computer in their home.
- The pool gives the children and adults a chance to exercise, without even realizing it is exercise.

I realize every area needs to make some cuts. I'm hoping that you can take into consideration the cut the northside made within the last few years to make sure one of the other pools received additional funding.

We understand there may be the possibility of having the pool needs come out of the capital improvement budget. It would be prudent to take that into consideration and not eliminate the NS pool from this year's budget.

Thank you for listening to our comments and concerns

Nancy Halverson

Craig, Sondra

From: Pamela Schmehrer <pamela.schmehrer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 6:55 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Destruction of the northside

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Good Morning

I am sick of this destruction of the nside, do you people look at the impacts of these ideas? Why do you continue to harm the poorer prople of the community, that dont have transportation, or funds to get to the sside.

If a pool is removed:

1. Public health and recreation decline

Fewer safe, affordable places for exercise—especially for kids, seniors, and low-income families.

Can increase risks of obesity and heat-related illness in summer.

2. Youth and community impact

Teens and kids lose a structured, supervised space—sometimes leading to more unsupervised or unsafe activities.

Swimming lessons and lifeguard training programs disappear, which can increase drowning risks over time.

3. Economic effects

Local businesses near the pool (ice cream shops, gas stations, etc.) may see a drop in summer revenue.

Property values can slightly decline, since nearby recreation amenities often boost desirability.

4. Community cohesion weakens

Pools are social hubs for neighborhoods—without them, community interaction and sense of belonging can decrease.

If a library is removed:

1. Educational access declines

Students, job seekers, and seniors lose free access to books, internet, and learning programs.

Digital divide widens—especially for those without internet or computers at home.

2. Economic & employment effects

Fewer resources for job hunting, resume help, and adult education classes. Taxes.

Lower community literacy and fewer spaces for tutoring or small business work.

3. Social and cultural loss

Libraries serve as safe, quiet gathering spaces for all ages.

Community events, workshops, and children's storytimes disappear, reducing social connection.

4. Long-term community decline

Neighborhoods often become less vibrant and less attractive to new residents.

Civic engagement can decrease, since libraries often host meetings, voter info, and local notices.

Thank you
Pam Schmeh

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

Craig, Sondra

From: Ali Merk <merka3211@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:19 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Pool

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I have lived here all my life I'm 32 with 4 children. 2 of whom are autistic and getting them to come to this pool is my easiest battle with them. That's a huge deal if you know the spectrum. This pool will be and is used and loved very much. Anywhere there is a gathering in the city, it's called bringing people together. There is nothing left to the Northside as a community go to, except this pool. I hope you guys sleep on it and really think about the impact.

P.s. No local pool is going to come up with that type of money for fixes in a few days that are given for voting. This pool makes history and brings the community together!

Make the right decision by keeping the pool open.

Thanks

Craig, Sondra

From: Gordo Pankratz <2littleguy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 11:48 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Library and pool

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It's very sad to learn the city is even considering closing the pool and library. The times I have gone by the pool it was in use. People need an outlet for water fun in the summer. The pool is lots safer than the Mississippi main channel. The congestion to the other pools would be a hazard in itself. Being a city kid the pool was a great outlet. We enjoyed it so much my three younger siblings went through swimming lessons to be lifeguards and swim instructors.

And a library is also a no-brainer as a need for the city. Reading proficiency is dropping according to the polls and this will certainly help in the decline. My wife and daughter much prefer to hold the book and turn the pages vs looking at a kindle or nook.

I actually live on the south side and care about the whole city. If one was to ultimately decide to make changes it should affect all, not just one area.

Please keep them both open.

Gordon Pankratz

--

"May your mind be as sharp as your hooks"

Gordo

Craig, Sondra

From: Ashley Lorenz <cute_baby_gurl_4_ever@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 1:06 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Hello

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think it's bullshit that you guys want to get rid of the north side pool and the north side library! A lot of people benefit from the pool during the summer and a lot of people benefit from the library! The library is educational a lot of reading material for people to read and learn! Mainly some of the children can't travel by themselves across town to go to the other library or pool! Please don't get rid of their fun on the northside
Get rid of the bike lanes nobody hardly uses them

Craig, Sondra

From: Marianne Torkelson <mtorkelson@coopcu.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 1:34 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; Dawn Wacek
Subject: Northside Library and Pool Support-Co-op Credit Union
Attachments: 20251030133602.pdf

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mtorkelson@coopcu.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good afternoon,

We are sending our support for both the Northside Pool and Northside Library. Please review attached letter.

Thank you for your consideration.

MARIANNE TORKELSON
CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



mtorkelson@coopcu.com

800.258.0023 x 8139

Leave a Review



Craig, Sondra

From: Linda Pampuch <lindapampuch@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 1:37 PM
To: ZZ Council Members

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Please save the Northside library and pool!!!

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Craig, Sondra

From: Carol F. <carolf857@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 1:55 PM
To: sjanglehart@gmail.com; kathycivey@gmail.com; aengel@lacrossesd.org; KielM@westernnc.edu;
ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and Pool issue

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I'm going to send this to everyone that I was given the emails for because it really is that important to me, and it should be that important to **everyone**. Even those of us who don't have children but who were once children ourselves.

It's hard to even imagine that closing a library and a swimming pool are even considerations. Among other things a library provides a wonderful educational source for our growing children particularly nurturing a wonderful social environment with others. It also benefits community members of all ages who use the library for more than just checking out books or other periodicals (including DVDs and CDs).

If any of you were fortunate enough to have a pool in their neighborhood then you know the benefits and memories it provides. There isn't much on the Northside to entertain them except the pool and the library. What are the neighborhood children supposed to do? Idle hands are the devil's workshop.

I'm wondering how much this city paid to put bike lanes around town. Hardly ever see those used. The ones in my neighborhood end right at Logan H.S. and the cars are forced to drive into that bike lane!! I guess that's the end of the line if you're on a bike. Then they use the sidewalks. Too much traffic and it's dangerous biking up the viaduct. Kids biking to school would be safer taking the side roads.

Then how about the three very poorly planned roundabouts on King Street where I have never witnessed another car when I was driving down that road? Isn't the purpose of roundabouts to help heavy traffic flow? That street has never had that kind of heavy traffic flow. These are just two of the NOT SO BENEFICIAL but costly decisions this city has made. Yet I'm fairly confident that the Northside library is used EVERY DAY it's open.

I'm sorry you all have such a difficult decision to make. I don't know who inflicted these Municipal budget cuts that are forcing you to make crucial decisions for our city. However, if it has anything to do with the current federal government, I hope that come election time, you remember what is happening in our communities.

I vote to keep the Northside Library and the pool, and I hope whatever decision you make doesn't trickle down into a bad decision for the future of our children and our whole community.

Thank you,

Carol Froehlich / 20+ year Northside Resident

Craig, Sondra

From: Lynn Miller <clynn@irishfern.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 2:47 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Houska Park versus pool library?

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Sent from my iPhone

Very upset about the attempt to close library and pool on NS !

Do something about homeless of course ! Not at the cost to the kids and family's that love that library and enjoy the pool !

Lynn Miller

Northsider at heart

Craig, Sondra

From: David Riel <driel1974@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 3:11 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; Washington-Spivey, Shaundel; Elsen, Nikki; ZZ City Clerk External; Dawn Wacek; sjanglehart@gmail.com
Subject: Continue Operating The North Side Library And Pool

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Dear City Leaders,

My name is David Riel. My wife Tiffany Trimmer and I are both asking you to please continue operating the North Side Library and Pool.

Eleven years ago, Tiffany and I bought our home on Caledonia Street because we saw the potential inherent in the North Side. A few people suggested we should avoid the North Side and buy a home in a "good" neighborhood. The fact is, there wouldn't be a good neighborhood anywhere in this city without people willing to invest in them.

If you close the North Side Library and Pool, this disinvestment will create a permanent burden to address a temporary problem. Most of the neighborhood school-age children have parents that work 9-5 jobs, and they can't easily walk or ride their bikes to the library downtown.

The North Side Library is more than a physical space to check out a book. It provides a safe space for neighborhood residents to learn, access resources and make connections to their community and the world, regardless of their income or social standing. Libraries should adapt to the changing needs of society, not be abandoned. Likewise, our public pools should also adapt. The idea of having an indoor pool that can be used year round makes a lot of sense and should be pursued, not abandoned. The destruction of these community spaces will have a negative impact on future generations and should be avoided at all cost. Please continue to invest in the North Side, and thank you for your time and consideration.

David Riel and Tiffany Trimmer

Craig, Sondra

From: David Konrath <davidkonrath@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 3:22 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and Pool

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Good afternoon,

I am following up with another email regarding the possible closing of both of these Northside facilities.

I was very disappointed and shocked to find out the Houska Park cleanup cost the city 250,000. What were the costs to clean up Burns and Camerons Park? I am sure they had an outrageous price tag as well.

Looking at the above it's really hard for me to understand that we cannot fund half of that amount to keep both the pool and Library open.

Sincerely,

Dave Konrath

Craig, Sondra

From: SHARON GRISEN <sgrisen@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 4:35 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: NORTHSIDE LIBRARY

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This library is WONDERFUL.

Craig, Sondra

From: Lee Ann Glazier <ladyglaz55@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 5:03 PM
To: ZZ Council Members

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Northside library and pool - We can't keep losing these precious commodities. Sincerely, Leona Glazier

Craig, Sondra

From: Linda Stone <lskowgirl12@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 5:22 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: City Budget: save the pool and library

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There is absolutely no justification for not keeping the northside library and pool in the budget.
Our city allocated \$250,000 for just the cleanup of Houska Park.
It would require \$125,000 to preserve the pool and library for at least one year.
Ill-conceived decisions foster taxpayer discontent. Once again, the Northside bears the brunt of the impact!
This money can be found without impacting the Park & Rec or library ☹

I strongly urge you to do what is fair and just.

Linda Stone
811 North St
La Crosse, WI 54603
Lifetime resident, Property owner and taxpayer

Craig, Sondra

From: Carma Burfield <burfieldcarma@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 5:40 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Preserve North Branch library and Logan Pool

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Council Members!

I'm writing as a long-time La Crosse resident—45 years in the city and 30 years on the north side—to express my strong opposition to the possible closure of Logan Pool and the Northside Branch Library.

These two places are cornerstones of our community. They provide safe, affordable recreation and access to vital resources for families, seniors, and children who might otherwise go without. For many of us on the north side, they are among the few remaining gathering places that truly serve local residents, not just visitors.

It's disheartening to see continued investment and improvement in the downtown and riverfront "tourist areas" while essential services in long-established neighborhoods face cuts or closure. The north side deserves equal consideration and investment—our residents, families, and young people matter just as much as those in other parts of the city.

I urge you to vote against any proposal that would close Logan Pool or the Northside Library and instead look for creative ways to preserve and strengthen these vital community assets.

Thank you for your service and for listening to the concerns of your constituents.

Sincerely,
Carma Burfield

826 Caledonia Street
La Crosse, WI

Craig, Sondra

From: PAMELA STRITTMATER <ptstritt@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 6:14 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; sjanglehart@gmail.com; kathycivey@gmail.com; aengel@lacrossesd.org; kielm@westerntc.edu; Northwood, Rosanne; Dawn Wacek
Subject: Library and Pool

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Dear City of La Crosse Council Members and others involved with this topic,

My name is Pamela Strittmater.

I urge you to find ways and resources to keep our library and pool open.

Please let's not focus this issue on a Northside versus Southside or democrat versus republican issue. Our country is too divided. This is a City of La Crosse issue that affects everyone. Libraries, pools, parks, bubblers, handicap accessibility, roads for all forms of transportation and so many other entities and amenities have an effect on who lives in our city and where they live. If we take away all of the good places for young, middle aged and old to go they will create mischief and cause problems. I'm grateful every time I go past Leuth Park and see kids skateboarding, riding their bikes or just hanging out. We need our parks, playgrounds, pools, libraries, basketball courts, zoos and everything that positively impacts a neighborhood and the people of all ages within the city limits. Let's focus on and tap into the resources that are needed to keep these amenities open for all to enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration and discernment.

Pamela Strittmater
Citizen of La Crosse

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

Craig, Sondra

From: Susan Ness <suemness@charter.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 6:21 PM
To: ZZ Council Members

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Please keep the Northside library. The kids on the Northside need this vital institution. They aren't able to get to the main library without transportation. It was awful when they took the south branch, but they still had the main to go to, not the same on Northside. Some of these lower income homes use the internet there.

Craig, Sondra

From: Mike Rosenau <quinnbirdman@centurytel.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 7:42 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Closing the north side library

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I think what you, the council and mayor are doing is an absolute abomination. I saw this coming when Reynolds's was the mayor.

You can't make a decision on anything that is important and now we reap those non decisions.

Our parks remain closed due to the very important decisions you have to make but won't. We (taxpayers) lose money because of that. Our folks on the north side might lose access to a library that contains information valuable to people of all ages.

You should be ashamed of yourself whenever you cash the check you think your earning by being on the common council!

Respectfully
Mike Rosenau
Sent from my iPhone

Craig, Sondra

From: Kirsten Daykin <kirstendaykin@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 8:00 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North side kids

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from kirstendaykin@me.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hello,

Please preserve the Northside pool and library. Our kids need the important third spaces, safe programming, and community the pool and library provide. The spaces and of course the people who work there help families in complicated economic and political times and prevent social ills rather than exacerbate them.

Our kids go to Northside schools and my son works for the city as a lifeguard—the last two summers at the North pool. My husband and I both work in education are members of multiple La Crosse community organizations. We serve La Crosse and believe in the future of our city!

Kirsten and Brian Daykin

Sent from my iPhone

Craig, Sondra

From: Carol Schroeder <carol408a@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 9:20 PM
To: ZZ Council Members

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the residents of the Northside need both the pool and the library. Quality of life!!!

Craig, Sondra

From: Jan Sahagian-Crandall <jandretti99@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 12:30 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Closing the north side pool & library

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Dear Council Members,

I have been a resident of LaCrosse for 43 years and I am also a retired teacher of the La Crosse school district of 33+ years. I can't even fathom what you are proposing to do by closing the pool and the library on the northside. Knowledge has always been power and exercise has always been healthy. This council has managed to find hundreds of thousands of dollars to clean up our parks after the homeless destroy them time after time, but we can't find \$125,000 to keep the library and pool open? I would say this council has their priorities mixed up and is not listening to their constituents.

The council is charged with doing what is best for its residents. Giving the residents access to knowledge and exercise will never go out of style, especially at a time when our children aren't getting enough exercise and when our children's reading scores are declining. Access to a library and a pool during the summer months are the kinds of activities we want to promote in our children as lifelong skills. It only takes a second to think of the many nonproductive activities our kids could get involved in if they didn't have these healthier choices. I believe you need to think of the long-term health of our citizens and especially our youth. I believe every resident of LaCrosse would be Willing to give an additional \$2 a year in tax money to keep the pool & library open, But I also believe that this council can look at the city budget and find that money elsewhere because we all know there's plenty of waste in government.

I urge you to vote against closing the Northside pool and Library and instead Vote for the future of our children by keeping them open.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jan Sahagian-Crandall

Craig, Sondra

From: David Marcou <davidjmarcou@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 1:04 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: From LaX-Born Prolific Author-Photographer David Joseph Robert Marcou

Some people who received this message don't often get email from davidjmarcou@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Unfortunately, tho I empathize with people wanting to save the North Branch Library (my first library 70 years ago), not even the LPL & Archives answers many questions these days about anything I've asked them. That downtown library is undergoing reconstruction this year, & physical access by patrons to that archives is impossible. The archives answers queries 4 hours/day via phone &/or e-mail approaches, But when the main library is out-of-commission basically so long, it's hard to find out much about any city business, unless you subscribe to the LaX Tribune or view local news on TV. If you check records, you'll find the North Branch Library was my first neighborhood library, when I was 4-5 years old; I'll be 75 y-o this Nov. 25. Also, I am likely Wisconsin's alltime most-prolific book-author/photographer, & tho some US authors have authored/published more books than I have, e.g. LRonHubbard did nearly 1900 books during his lifetime, but almost all were sci-fi books. I've done more than 400 books so far, & counting, including 325+volumes of my series Spirit of America. Unlike most authors tho, mine have been in every literary & photo genre. They are in libraries & archives around the US & world, & the La X Main Branch Library Archives has more of my works & documents in it, I believe, than any single library or archives anywhere.--From DvJ RMarcou, T. 1-608-519-1955 (landline).

Craig, Sondra

From: Ralph Geary <rg4819@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 12:36 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and Northside Pool

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I am opposed to closing the Northside Library and the Northside Pool. It will deteriorate the neighborhood and sense of community it brings. Being across the street from Northside Elementary it is being used after school by many students, Many of them are from low income families who do not have computers at home.. Older adults stop in to read newspapers and magazines, and if needed, get help on the computers .The function of a library is to serve people and to do so you must be accessible. Having to go to the Main Library would be a major impediment (transportation) not only for students and the elderly, but the public at large. The pool serves both young and old. Senior citizens are doing water aerobics. Students not only learn how to swim, but learn lifelong skills in a safe environment. The city has been pushing for more neighborhood revitalization, but this will do the exact opposite of that.

I strongly support keeping the Northside Pool and Northside Library open.

Ralph Geary
1733 Loomis St.
La Crosse , WI 54603.

Craig, Sondra

From: Corky Huber <richcork523@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 2, 2025 6:46 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Pool and Library

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To All Council Members:

Please, Please, Please do not close the Northside pool and/or library! These are both vital to the Northside community and, therefore, all of La Crosse. Many of the Northside kids and families do not have transportation out of their neighborhoods to the La Crosse Public Library or La Crosse pools. These important places of learning and social interactions are necessary for everyone's physical and emotional well being!

Please find funding somewhere so kids can continue to walk, ride their bikes, etc., in their community to important facilities and families won't feel as if no one cares about their neighborhood.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPad

Craig, Sondra

From: Rebecca Schroedl <rschroedl1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 2, 2025 4:06 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: LaX NS Pool and Library

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from rschroedl1@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Council Members,

My neighbors are selling their homes and moving to cities/villages close to LaX to escape this cities high taxes and increase in crime. Police have hundreds of home security video submitted by my fellow neighbors of kids wondering the neighborhoods stealing, breaking into yards, porches, cars at all times of the day and night! How do you justify removing access to a library and pool that provide positive options for kids rather than wonder the streets and alleys! You were elected by the taxpayer and citizens of the city to represent our needs/wants not to come up with high salary positions and eliminate citizens services and beneficial/positive citizen/child educational opportunities. Very disappointing you are accepting a wage to increase city employee roster at the expense of eliminating additional citizens services. Please go out and talk with the people you represent and represent our needs!
Sent from my iPhone

Craig, Sondra

From: Debbie Kaiser <d61kaiser@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 9:53 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Save the northside library and pool

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from d61kaiser@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Please!

I grew up on the north side of La Crosse and went to the library all the time, especially in the summer participating in the reading program. My favorite books were curious George and I remember every time reading a book I would get a gold or red or silver star. Such great memories! Keep the good for the northside. 🍷

Sent from my iPhone

Date: October 31, 2025

To: Mayor Shaundel Washington-Spivey, the La Crosse Library Board Members, and City Council Members

From: Richard and Rita Morehouse.

Re: Status of the North Side Library

Given that the North Side has the Harry J. Olson Senior Center and the North Side Community Center, why do we need a North Side Library as well as a Main Library? Shouldn't our goal as budget-conscious citizens be to ensure that we do things as efficiently and inexpensively as possible? The answer is that a community Library is more than a gathering place, it serves as a source of curated information, a quiet space for study and reflection, assistance with job searches, and much more.

Many North Side residents lack reliable home internet, making the library's free broadband essential for daily tasks, job applications, and online learning. Given its location next to the North Elementary School, young students need a place close by to access the library's computer and the other libraries services. It is not only a safe and quiet space for study but it provides easy access to curated, and accurate resources. The internet is filled with equal amounts of information, much of which is inaccurate or outright false. Librarians can guide young (and mature) people to good sources of information. They can assist students in developing the life-long skill of sorting the "wheat from the chaff".

These skills are important to young and old; we all at some time need to remember and sharpen our critical thinking skills and our ability to find and recognize the most accurate information. Librarians are well equipped for this task.

Libraries by design and mission are assessable to persons of all ages. They offer a quiet, welcoming environment for study, relaxation, and shelter from the weather, acting as a de facto community center. Libraries combat isolation by offering a sense of communities.

In summary, a community situated library is more than a community center: it is a resource for people of all ages and incomes. It ensures that curated educational and informational resources are accessible to everyone, not just those living near a central library.

Craig, Sondra

From: resa silha <pippinlax@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 11:43 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North side Pool and Library closures

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Dear Mayor and Councilors

The proposal to close the North side Library and pool infuriates me. Way to value Northsiders in those decisions!

If there are budget shortfalls, they should be shared, reducing services for all.

I grew up on the north side and spent many hours in that library. Riding my bike there to give book reports for the summer reading programs. Walking there in winter to checkout and return books. Shame on you for thinking of denying today's children of an opportunity to do the same.

The pools on the north side were also used by me as a kid. Where do you expect children to learn to swim? Or doesn't that matter anymore?

It certainly seems you do not value North spiders by trying to take these necessary services away from this section of town! If that happens, you should be ashamed of yourselves.

Sincerely
Teresa Silha
1311 Badger St #405
La Crosse, Wi 54601
Pippinlax@yahoo.com

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

Craig, Sondra

From: Randi Pueschner | Smith's Bike Shop <randi@smithsbikes.com>
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 2:22 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library
Attachments: Northside Library - Pueschner.pdf

Some people who received this message don't often get email from randi@smithsbikes.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear La Crosse Council Members – please see the attached letter regarding the potential Northside Library Closure.
Thank you.

Randi Pueschner, Owner | 608.386.3446



Ebikes will change your life.

Craig, Sondra

From: maureen dolan <reenosworldrules@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 4:09 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Save the library and pool

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I was born and raised on the north side of lacrosse, both the library and the pool were places we went to all the time. I implore you to NOT close these places. Kids need a safe and fun place to go, if you shut these down, especially on the north side, I see trouble on the horizon, kids will find other activities that are not so productive. Thank you

Craig, Sondra

From: Linda Caponigro <lindacaponigro6@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 5:06 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; Dawn Wacek; sjanglehart@gmail.com
Subject: Save the library and Pool

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Good Afternoon,

As a lifelong Northsider, I want to let you know how important it is to keep these two essential resources active. It is my understanding that only \$125,000, needs to be found in order to save the library, and keep the pool going for another year so that a viable solution for the repairs needed might be found. We need these facilities in this part of the city, I can't believe that money can't be moved from other departments to keep these entities from closing. As a tax payer, I believe we have a lot of wasteful spending. I would like to see funds made available to provide these services for the children and adults who make use of them. For as long as I can remember, going back to old Logan High School, the Northside gets short changed. Please work harder to find a solution to this issue. Once the Library and Pool are closed, they will be gone forever. Don't let this happen! Communities are not just dollars and cents, your constituents deserve better.

Sincerely, Linda Caponigro

Craig, Sondra

From: Thomas Caponigro <gideoncap@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 5:20 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; Dawn Wacek
Subject: Save the Pool and Library

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Good Afternoon,

Please do what needs to be done and save these resources for our Northside residents. It always seems that, the Northside is treated like a second class citizen when it comes to being on the losing end of a these big decisions. I can't believe the funds necessary to keep the Library and Pool open can't be found. Please listen to the wishes of your constituents and vote accordingly. Thank you, Thomas Caponigro

Craig, Sondra

From: babyti13@aol.com
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 5:34 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Save our pool and library

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[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

Begin forwarded message:

On Monday, November 3, 2025, 5:11 PM, MAILER-DAEMON@aol.com <MAILER-DAEMON@aol.com> wrote:

Sorry, we were unable to deliver your message to the following address.

<zzcouncilmembers@cityoflacrosse.com>:

Unable to deliver message after multiple retries, giving up.

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

Hello, my name is Kathi Blanchard. I am a proud lifetime resident of the Northside of la Crosse. I am also a business owner on the Northside. As a child I spent many days at the old Logan pool and at the North Branch library. These were two places that my parents let me gain a little independence and grow as a young person. Supervised programs, safe environment to explore. I was also raised in a single parent household with no extra money for fun programs (the YMCA and Park and rec), I learned a love for reading at the library from my dad who would take us to the main branch every weekend, and showed me the pleasure of reading, but I couldn't use the main branch on my own as a young child because it was too far from my house. That is when he showed me the North Branch library.....only 6 blocks to walk....easy to get to and easy to use. I could easily walk there after school and the librarians would even help me with school work if they were able to, learning how to use the Dewey decimal system to find research materials was a very important tool. When my husband and I bought our home before we had children we knew it was going to be in the Northside part of town. Our home is 3 blocks from this library, 3 blocks from the pool....perfect for when we would have children to utilize these resources. The library was the first place I felt was a good starting point for our children to earn some independence on their own. Located conveniently kitty corner from their elementary school. They would walk over after school and enjoy activities there, computer use, video games, board games and reading. They would meet up with friends to just hang out. Some kids are latchkey kids and simply don't want to be home alone. Our kids are lucky we have Internet at home, but many of their friends do not so they need the access to this location so they can complete homework on their school issued iPads. If you go into the library you'll see adults also using the computers to search for jobs and check emails. Closing this branch would close off so many opportunities for neighbors and residents on the Northside. The pool is also an important feature on the Northside and a great selling point to

people looking to move to this area. Let's face it, the Black River beach is not a safe environment for kids. It's not watched with lifeguards, there's weeds and trash and even used needles in the sand, and the water is not safe to swim in most of the time. The pool gives affordable lessons to beginning swimmers, and water exercise to seniors. Its a refreshing respite in the heat of the day to many who need an oasis in their own town. I realize that every city has a budget and sometimes decisions get made on a spreadsheet and not on emotions, however I think that as a resident and a tax payer there are other areas that could be trimmed to save these two features on the north side. We on the Northside get the short end of the stick on most city decisions, let's remember that WE are also residents of the city of La Crosse and we deserve to be treated equally. Stop destroying the great asset's we have by removing them. Please and thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathi Blanchard

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

Craig, Sondra

From: sue26 <sue26@charter.net>
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 11:24 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Library and Pool

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These 2 place have to stay open!
What can we do?
Fundraiser?
Volunteers? What what?

I'm willing to help out. We need to work together to keep them open.

Sue Ganschow

Sent from my Galaxy

Sent from my Galaxy

Craig, Sondra

From: Angie Bernstein <angela.k.bernstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 1:43 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Re: Save the Northside Library and Pool

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Dear City Council members,

While I do not live on the North side, I feel invested in keeping that part of our community thriving. I want those kids (and adults) to have access to a neighborhood pool in the summer. (We use it too!) I want the North side to continue to have a library. (We also use this!)

If these community staples disappear, it will reduce the quality of life in those neighborhoods, and ultimately hurt our city overall, by making La Crosse a less attractive place to live.

I am happy for my tax dollars to go towards keeping these institutions alive.

Thank you for listening!

Angela Bernstein
1518 Winnebago St., La Crosse
608.606.6889

Craig, Sondra

From: Sue Bulk <suebee4147@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 4:18 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and Pool

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Dear Council,

Please don't shortchange the Northside of our city. There are alternatives for these services. The library is one of the important 3rd places in a city. I think it would be acceptable to shorten hour and spread the staff to cut costs, but don't close it! As for the pool, it is a fun and useful summer diversion for all kids and adults. I would like to see it remain available, but of the 2 (library or pool), the library is essential. Perhaps a summer service could be initiated to bus residents to the other pools. I'd really like to know that the Northside is not being left in the lurch because of cost cutting.

Thanks for all you do for ALL of us.

Sue Bulk
2322 Winnebago St
Lacrosse

Craig, Sonda

From: BRUCE NUTTALL <brucen16@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 6:04 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Closure of Northside Library

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Dear La Crosse City Council Members,

I am writing to express my profound concern and deep sadness regarding the potential closure of the northside library. This decision will have a devastating and disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable members of our community: our low-income children.

As a child I remember spending countless hours at the library, it's a place where kids can escape to new worlds through books they couldn't afford otherwise. For many children in this northside neighborhood, this is their only access to books and learning materials outside of a classroom. Most of these kids don't have the resources to get transportation to another library miles away (many can't even afford a bicycle).

The northside library should be thought of as an investment in our northside children. The return on investment for the lives of these kids is immeasurable. Cutting funding takes away the best tools for ensuring that kids in our poorest neighborhood receive the support they need to succeed.

I encourage you to reconsider any decision that would close this library. Our public library is a beacon of hope and a crucial resource for the future of the children in this neighborhood. Please explore alternative solutions to keep our northside library doors open for all children who need their services.

Bruce Nuttall

608-769-5008

Brucen16@gmail.com

La Crosse, Wi 54601

--

Bruce Nuttall

608-769-5008

brucen16@gmail.com

Craig, Sondra

From: Neva Von Haden <nevam@rocketmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 7:35 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North Side Library

*** **CAUTION:** This email originated from an external sender. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear City Council Members,

As a resident of our city, I urge you to keep the North Side Library open. It serves as a vital resource for the entire community—providing access to information, education, and connection for residents of all ages, including our children.

Neva Von Haden

La Crosse, Wisconsin

Craig, Sondra

From: Kathy Scott <tkscott@charter.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 9:34 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and pool

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Good Morning:

Please consider voting to keep the Northside Library and pool. There are many families that rely on them. Often times they do not have a way to get down to the main branch or pools. Everyone should be able to use these facilities and not take away from the northside of LaCrosse. We don't need to make bigger bike lanes. Thank you for your consideration and time to keep the Northside Library and pool open.

Kathy Scott

Craig, Sondra

From: kari <karirae29@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 9:25 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside library and pool..

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Hello La Crosse counsel members,

Having gone to the community meeting on October 28th and learning about the plans, or lack thereof, for the Northside, I need to air my grievances. The Northside has systematically been neglected by the city for years, this is no secret. From my childhood onwards, this city has continuously dropped the ball on the Northside and its residents. The city continuously touted plans of "revitalizing" the Northside, meanwhile, you're going to defund and shut down two of the only decent things we have. While everything else goes to shit in the area, we still had these locations for our kids and families to enjoy. Generations of northsiders have taken their families to the library and pool and I'd personally like to take my future grandchildren to both, but this city seems to give two shits about that.

When it comes down to it, closing the pool and library are direct attacks against the poor families in this city. Are you intentionally trying to turn northside kids into a bunch of liabilities? Oh no, let's just keep putting money towards cleaning up after the homeless, providing Narcan to the dope fiends that continuously harass the law-abiding and taxpaying citizens of this city, more dumbass bike lanes, and whatever other pet project the Mayor wants to push this week. He's awfully quick to take publicity photos for whatever bullshit event he's attending, but has no issue with pulling resources from this city's children. We don't need him and his performative activism, we need resources in our area. If a lack of foot traffic is the issue, maybe do ads for both? Make residents feel welcome. Provide real services for kids, especially during the summers. Organize AND advertise block parties for these areas. Let families know that the city is encouraging them to utilize these places. Send flyers home with kids in the spring advertising events held at the pool and library. You have no idea what kids go through day in and day out, especially on the Northside, and you just pulled two of the only safe spaces for these kids. So what, do you expect kids to take the bus, which is full of tweakers, to the main branch library or a different pool? And when all of these kids start turning into hellions, then what?

Taxpayers aren't receiving raises, yet the city and county workers are. Instead, we get our taxes raised and lose access to the things our taxes are SUPPOSED to pay for. The Northside is tired of the few things we have being defunded or destroyed because this city very publicly HATES our area. We shouldn't have to continuously fight for the few resources we do have. The Southside has been revitalized and is continuously receiving funding for various projects, why are we not given the same treatment? Is it because you want to force all of us out to make more apartments or because you truly just don't give a shit about our area. It's ridiculous. We're tired of the city robbing Peter to pay Paul. The Northside is Peter and we want our damn money back.

Thanks for the time.

Kari Hanson

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

Craig, Sondra

From: Gordo Pankratz <2littleguy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 8:47 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Fwd: Library and pool

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

From: Gordo Pankratz <2littleguy@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 30, 2025 at 11:47 AM
Subject: Library and pool
To: <ZZCOUNCILMEMBERS@cityoflacrosse.org>

It's very sad to learn the city is even considering closing the pool and library. The times I have gone by the pool it was in use. People need an outlet for water fun in the summer. The pool is lots safer than the Mississippi main channel. The congestion to the other pools would be a hazard in itself. Being a city kid the pool was a great outlet. We enjoyed it so much my three younger siblings went through swimming lessons to be lifeguards and swim instructors.

And a library is also a no-brainer as a need for the city. Reading proficiency is dropping according to the polls and this will certainly help in the decline. My wife and daughter much prefer to hold the book and turn the pages vs looking at a kindle or nook.

I actually live on the south side and care about the whole city. If one was to ultimately decide to make changes it should affect all, not just one area.

Please keep them both open.

Gordon Pankratz

--

"May your mind be as sharp as your hooks"

Gordo

--

"May your mind be as sharp as your hooks"

Gordo

Craig, Sondra

From: Mary Monsoor <monzinlax@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 6:20 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North branch library

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Dear City Council- I am writing to express my strong support for keeping the North Branch Community library open and fully funded. The library is a cornerstone of education, technology, connection, and opportunity for the community.

Closing the library would affect families that rely on children's programs, seniors that use it as a safe and welcoming community space, and local students that use it to study and learn in a safe environment.

I urge the city council to keep this vital service and retain the North Side library.

Thank you for your time and continued work on behalf of our community,

Mary Monsoor
338 19th. Street South
La Crosse, WI

Craig, Sondra

From: pmmgilles@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, November 9, 2025 9:12 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Possible closing of the Northside Library in La Crosse, WI

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La Crosse Council Members,
I support keeping the Northside Library in La Crosse open hopefully with no layoffs. The accessibility of free information is utmost.

Thank you,
Patsy Spars
1724 Mississippi St.
La Crosse, WI 54601

Craig, Sondra

From: Judith Skifton <skiftonj43@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 7, 2025 10:58 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Library closing?

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Keep that library opened! We need that library! Why are you taking another valuable asset away from the citizens of Lacrosse? You took the one on 16th St. in spite of what we wanted to do. Now another one?? What's wrong with you? Everyone of you that vote to get rid of these libraries should be voted out. You are not serving your constituents!

Craig, Sondra

From: Kathy Zieja <kathyzieja@centurylink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 10:01 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North side library

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Good Morning,

As a La Crosse city resident, I would encourage you to vote to keep the north side library open. Residents and especially children in that area, need this vital resource. Hours of operation should especially be accessible to kids after school. Transportation to the downtown library is difficult if not prohibitive for many. Libraries have always been a safe and welcoming environment for all, and to cut off this option would be detrimental to the north side community. As a land locked city, it is vital to encourage resources that help keep the north side vital and appealing to residents. Please protect this resource.

Kind regards,

Kathy Zieja
Copeland Ave. La Crosse, WI

Craig, Sondra

From: Carol F. <carolf857@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 10:49 AM
To: sjanglehart@gmail.com; kathycivey@gmail.com; aengel@lacrossesd.org; mccanna2@gmail.com; thill-thill.jess@gmail.com; ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside Library and the Northside Pool

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I'm sorry that I cannot make the meeting tonight but the decision to keep the Northside Library and the swimming pool is **VERY** important to me. It should be that important to **everyone** because even those of us who don't have children, were once children ourselves. If you never utilized these resources, then you are cheating yourself of lifelong treasured memories!!!

It's hard to even imagine that closing a library and a swimming pool are even considerations. Among other things, a library provides an immeasurable educational source for our growing children and significantly enhances an individual's socialization with others. In our world of cell phones and social media, young people (really all people) have less and less physical contact and real conversations with others. I think we all can see some of the downside to losing those interactions.

The Northside Library also benefits community members of all ages who use the library for much more than just checking out books or other periodicals (including DVDs and CDs). **The library is a wonderful source to really connect with people**, and being connected with other people is necessary for a life well lived! If you take this away, everyone loses.

If any of you were fortunate enough to have a pool in their neighborhood then you know the benefits and memories it provides. There isn't much on the Northside to entertain them except the pool and the library. What are the neighborhood children supposed to do? Idle hands are the devil's workshop.

I'm sorry you all have such a difficult decision to make. I don't know who inflicted these Municipal budget cuts that are forcing you to make crucial decisions for our city. I vote to keep the Northside Library and the pool, and I hope whatever decision you make doesn't trickle down into a bad decision for the future of our children and our whole community.

If someone is reading emails out loud at the meeting, please feel free to read mine also.

Thank you,

Carol Froehlich / 20+ year Northside Resident

P.S. One thing I know for sure is that keeping the library and pool are much more important for a greater number of people, than putting some bike lanes on the heavily automobile traveled 3rd and 4th street!!!!

Craig, Sondra

From: Alexis Hagedorn <alexis.c.hagedorn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 9:43 AM
To: ZZ Council Members; Northwood, Rosanne; Washington-Spivey, Shaundel
Subject: North Branch Library

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To whom it may concern,

I am deeply saddened to hear of the vote to close the North Branch Library. I grew up on the Southside of La Crosse and moved to French Island when I was a teenager. We would normally go to the Main Branch, but it was easier to ride our bikes to the South Branch. I was sad when a decision was made to close this location, but we still had the Main Branch available.

The Northside does not have another library. It does not have another location to redirect people to, unless they want to drive across town to utilize the Main Branch. Or drive to the Onalaska Library. The only problem with that is lack of transportation or ability to get to said locations.

It isn't a secret that the Northside is one of the most poverty-stricken areas in the Coulee Region. Many don't have transportation, many are paycheck to paycheck and many need assistance. Having a community resource so close for so many is such a benefit. Some people don't have access to computers to apply for jobs or obtain resources; the library helps with this.

Everything the Northside community has is being taken away or has become extremely limited. The local grocery store is either Kwik Trip or WAFER. The only pool on the Northside is being considered to close. When you close community spaces, there isn't anywhere for people to go. People are going to start leaving the La Crosse community due to lack of resources, lack of community facilities and lack of an involved community.

When we keep adding bike lanes that no one uses, closing down parks for cleaning at least once or twice a year or providing luxury items for the homeless population, who decides where this money goes? You can't tell me that this funding can't be reallocated to the North Branch Library.

I understand funding can be the deciding factor, but I guarantee people of the community would donate their support, time and money to help with keeping this branch open. Taking a valuable resource from the Northside is not the answer. The community needs places for citizens to go. When places like libraries are closed, the city is sending a message that books and reading and knowledge aren't important. Please do the right thing and keep this branch open. The community needs it.

Sincerely,
Alexis Hagedorn

Craig, Sondra

From: Beth Banashak <banash8@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 6:45 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: La Crosse Northside Library

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Council Members:

When I moved to LaCrosse in 2017, I looked forward to making use of the south branch of your library system in my neighborhood. When I stopped to check out a few books, I found it extremely frustrating to find that the building was often closed. I worked full time hours and it was often closed when I wasn't working.

Currently, I find visiting the main branch of the library just as frustrating in different ways. It seems like the needs of the La Crosse City Tax payers come second to the needs of others. I find that taxes I pay continue to increase at huge rate while the services we receive continue to decrease over the time I've live here.

I believe having a strong Library system is important to a city, so I ask you NOT to close the beautiful northside library building and please don't reduce the hours that allow your citizens access to all it has to offer.

Elizabeth Banashak

Craig, Sondra

From: Laurel Mezera <mezera2004@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 4:42 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: North side decisions

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I am writing this as a resident of the North Side neighborhood. The fact that this council is not taking a bit more care in the whole budget is rather disheartening. Time to be creative.

Our city does not need more bike lanes. There are plenty.

It's time to put a little more effort into this. The North Side needs these resources.

Craig, Sondra

From: Nancy Halverson <halverson.nancy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 3:11 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Northside pool

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I understand that there is a need for every department to reduce spending, but closing both the NS pool and NS library is basically telling NS tax payers that they don't matter. I would like to know who oversees the big picture. It doesn't appear that they are taking into consideration how this affects the NS residents.

Last year there was money allocated to fix the Logan pool. I've been told by a council member that the Erickson Pool estimate for repairs was significantly more than what was budgeted for, so the money allocated for the Logan pool was moved to help the Erickson pool expenses. The construction was already being worked on and money needed to be found to pay for it. I completely understand why that reallocation from the Logan pool to the Erickson pool needed to happen. What I don't understand is why that wasn't taken into consideration for this year's budget. Of course the NS pool has maintenance issues because last year's budget was taken away.

Because the length of the city is stretched out, and to get to places outside of the NS, a person needs to cross many busy roads. Children would not be able to walk to the southside. Parents with children who have a bike, will be concerned about allowing their child to ride their bike to the South Side.

Currently the Pool and Library are safe places to send the children to. There is supervision so things don't get out of hand. Closing both of these means children have fewer options on where to spend their time. I'm sure you all know that without supervision children can easily be swayed to make undesirable choices, and be sucked into the "wrong crowd".

I know the departments need to make their recommendations, but I'm hoping the council will realize the message that is being sent to NS residents if they don't relook at the cuts. Please find creative ways to avoid sending this message.

Nancy Halverson

Craig, Sondra

From: Chella Caponigro <chellacaponigro@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 1:55 PM
To: sjanglehart@gmail.com; Dawn Wacek; ZZ Council Members
Cc: Linda_cap@msn.com
Subject: Northside Library

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Good Afternoon,

I was recently made aware that the city of La Crosse is proposing that the Northside Library be permanently closed and felt compelled to reach out to you.

While I no longer live in La Crosse, I was born and raised on the Northside in the 1980s by two incredibly young and hard-working parents. They often worked long hours making me the classic Latch Key Kid. Our street didn't have a lot of other kids for me to play with so I often found myself walking or riding my bike to the Northside library. There, I lost myself in books and records. I have many memories of the hours I spent at that branch, nose buried in books about people and places I couldn't have imagined without the words on the pages. And the music...well, I credit the Northside library with the beginning of my love for music. Every genre of music was available to me via the vinyl (yes, LPS!) section of the library. Not just the popular music on Z93 but a collection I could dive into headfirst. And I did. I took home so many books and records that the librarians made an exception to the checkout limit just for me!

Today, I am a working musician, avid reader, and all-around well adjusted human being. So much of that credit can go directly to the Northside library. Without that branch, my imagination, my creativity, my vocabulary, my knowledge of the world around me would be severely lacking.

Now, more than ever, the Northside needs the library. Not just for all the little curious kids like me but the citizens of the Northside that rely on the library for access to the internet in order to find jobs, communicate with loved ones, feel included in the outside world.

The Northside already suffers from a lack of attention from the city. Please do not take another valuable resource away from them. Please keep culture and knowledge available to anyone that needs it.

Thank you for your time.

--

Sincerely,
Chella Caponigro
608.780.6697

Craig, Sondra

From: Scott Neumeister <scott.neumeister@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 2:58 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Library

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Hello Council Members,

As you are aware, yesterday was a challenging day for La Crosse and our Northside. The library board has decided to close our library branch, which has been an integral part of our community since the late 1940s. It has served our children and seniors with essential access to the internet and a learning environment.

Budgetary constraints are a reality, and decisions must be made, even when they are not straightforward. While we may have considered alternative approaches and potential cost savings, the board has determined that closing the north branch library is the most appropriate course of action.

I am writing to inquire about the possibility of preserving our library. We could explore fundraising initiatives and utilize volunteers, similar to the approach taken with Harry J. Olson. It is imperative that we retain this significant piece of lacrosse history and ensure its continued accessibility to the public.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Scott Neumeister

Craig, Sondra

From: Melissa Updike <deafladyjesus2020@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 3:25 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: i am hurt

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dont close Library ;(..

why instead Pool..

leave open Library cause i love go there cause i grew up there and my mom going there many yrs grew up me too
please dont close please dont please stop i am hurt and crying i am painful i am hurt right now .. i love that
library very much i go every week please dont please dont please keep going open dont close please please
please ;(.. that why i cant sleep now ;(..

Craig, Sondra

From: Kris <pbtz42@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 3:42 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Budget approval

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I am a resident living on southside of La Crosse who is very interested that the budget reflects what the citizens desire. In this respect, I wish for the Council to re-visit and reject the budget as it now stands. I do not believe we need to have cuts that take away a library and pool.

There have to be other ways monies can be saved or cut from other projects, for example, bike lanes. There are plenty of years into the future when bike transportation can be addressed. As I see it, this is being done to give La Crosse bragging rights as a bike-friendly city.

Perhaps another way to get monies for the pool and Northside library is to cut some positions in the administration of the mayor's office, positions that are really no longer needed, like a diversity person or a person in charge of homelessness. My understanding is that homelessness is being addressed by the County plan.

There have to be ways to find the funds for the Northside library and pool. As a senior citizen and person born in La Crosse I am just astounded at what I see happening to our city. I hardly recognize it anymore. I am praying you find a way to make this happen.

Thank you.
Patricia Betz
5020 33rd St. S.
La Crosse, WI

Craig, Sondra

From: Elaine Yager <elaine@threesixty.bz>
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 7:19 PM
To: Northwood, Rosanne; kathycivey@gmail.com; mccanna2@gmail.com; aengel@lacrossesd.org; eraymus@ywcailaz.org; thill.jess@gmail.com
Cc: ZZ Council Members
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: Phillip Waselik <pwaselik@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 9:17 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Destroying La Crosse

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I cannot be silent anymore. It appears the current council is attempting to do all it can to destroy the future of La Crosse. Be rid of the Northside pool and library. The sure and certain hope of young families moving to the community. In addition, let be rid of parking on 3rd and 4th street that will pulverize local businesses for bike lanes that are never utilized. It also assures that elderly and the handicapped cannot enjoy the downtown area. I am astonished at the lack of creativity and understanding of community you say you serve.

Blessings,
Pastor Phil (this email does not represent Trinity)

Sent from my iPhone

Reverend Phillip Waselik