

Forest Lodge Library

Report to Towns, 6/12/2018

- Traffic at the library is picking up, as it does in the summertime! Nice to see our “summer people” returning!
- Director Lendved traveled to Washburn on 5/17 for a meeting of the Bayfield County Library Committee. Under discussion were the Building Strong Libraries Grant Program and the 2019 County Reimbursement plan. Counties are bound by State Statute to reimburse libraries for services provided to county residents who live in communities without public libraries. The amount due is based on the number of circulations times respective libraries “cost per circulation” which is operating expenses divided by total number of circulations. Reimbursements to be paid in 2019 will be based on 2017 library statistics. Counties are required to reimburse at a minimum of 70% of amount reported. Bayfield County, for a long time, reimbursed its libraries at 100%. For the last decade they have fixed the amount at 2009’s level. That level of support, initially in the 90% area, is now down into the middle 70% level. In an effort to continue to support its libraries, Bayfield County created the Building Strong Libraries Grant Fund. The amount of funds available, annually, is the difference between what would be 100% reimbursement, and the amount actually dispersed. There are a number of categories open to libraries to apply for these funds, from property acquisition to hardware acquisition, and other items. The Forest Lodge Library has used these funds to...purchase additional solar panels, to purchase an outside musical instrument and to purchase tech equipment for the library. In 2018 this program paid for the purchase of two new laptops for patron use. Other libraries in our system, who own their buildings, have used funds to replace windows or to purchase new furnishings. The grant funds are for capital expenditures, which do not have an effect on the “cost per circulation” formula, as do regular operating expenses. Kind of a complicated explanation, but, thought our Towns should be aware of this benefit afforded to Bayfield County libraries. Our County is well-regarded for the support it offers its libraries.
- Director Lendved also traveled to Ashland, on 6/24, for meetings of the Merlin Consortium and the Northern Waters Library Service Directors. We discussed various arcane library subjects, like patron registration policies and how to spend additional funding received from the State in this budget cycle. At our next meeting we’ll be reviewing a couple of different services that offer online courses in many useful subjects. Gale Courses and Lynda are the services under consideration. One subscribed, our patrons will be able to take courses through whichever of these services we choose. Additional State funds were also used to reinstate our library system’s subscription to Ancestry.com, which we had decided to cancel, based on other budgetary decisions.

- We are working on developing a new website, since we learned that our library system will no longer support existing sites, created back in 2009, after the end of 2018.
- We remind you of upcoming events! On 6/22 we're offering a Tailgate Party and documentary film screening at the Cable Community Centre. The Tailgating will be conducted in the parking lot, weather permitting, and will include beer, root beer and snacks, beginning at 4:30. The screening of the documentary CHEESEHEADS, a film by John Mitchell, originally of Cameron, who will be present for the evening, begins at 6:30. While we'd be happy to know if you plan to come, so we have enough food, (please call 715-798-3189 or email cablelibrary@cable.wislib.org) there is no fixed cost for this event, we are requesting your goodwill donation to help us cover costs.
- On 7/6, a Friday, we're offering a Reading Carnival, to be held on library and adjacent grounds, again, weather permitting. (otherwise that will be at the Cable Community Centre.) It will begin at 11 with a Makerspace: knots event. Kenton Whitman will teach kids how to tie some basic and useful knots, and also how to weave cord into a bracelet, which they can take with them. At 12 we'll offer some lunch and lawn games. At 1 it's puppet theater. Plan to bring the kids and grandkids!
- On 7/11, a Wednesday, Mark Moran, the Antiques Appraisal guy, will return to our area, this time to the Namekagon Town Hall. If you have something you'd like Mark to appraise, please call the library to make an appointment. Your goodwill donation for the appraisal will be greatly appreciated. Please check our website for information on categories of items that Mark is able to appraise.
- As always, we encourage you to keep up with all the happenings at the library by visiting us, our website; cable.wislib.org...or following us on Facebook.