

Forest Lodge Library

Report to Towns

7/6/2020

- Our big news is, we are open. Limited hours. With protocols, but, we are open and happy to be serving our patrons again. As you know, having been noticed on it last month, we started our phased reopening on 6/22. At that time we had open hours four days a week and remained closed the other two. That enabled us to work through a backlog of returns from other libraries, etc. That also gave us an opportunity to see how that worked and we offer amended open hours commencing Monday, 7/6/2020. We now offer some open hours Monday – Saturday and encourage seniors or at risk individual to make an appointment if they wish to visit us outside of regular open ours. We will also continue to offer curbside pick-up outside of our regular open hours. We have one-way traffic through the building, provide masks, gloves and hand-sanitizer, quarantine returned items for 72 hours, offer self-checkout to minimize the need to pass library materials from staff to patron hand (or vice versa) and wear masks, ourselves. Here's a link to our website, listing our schedule and our protocols: <https://forestlodgelibrary.org/2020/06/15/new-library-hours-starting-monday-july-6/> I will also attach a pamphlet we've prepared for patrons to take with them that lists hours, protocols and other information.
- We did clean out the front foyer area where we usually offer books for sale and the Book House will remain closed. The Katie Flowers Endowment, who operates the Book House, will possibly consider offering a “pop-up” sale at some point this summer/all. Although, with Fall Fest now cancelled, that possibility diminishes, as well.
- The Library Board has not yet determined whether or not we will endeavor to celebrate the library’s 95th Anniversary in August. That determination will be made at the July Board meeting.
- While only lightly attended, the Forest Lodge Library offered a Virtual Community Conversation on Weds., June 17th. Buffy Riley, a Hayward nurse who spent three weeks in an ICU unit in NYC shared the harrowing, heart-wrenching story of what that was like. Riley also contracted COVID-19 during that period of service. She has recovered, but, that, too, was sobering to hear about!
- Director Lendved continues to participate in a weekly virtual meeting for Northern Waters Library Service system directors which provides an ongoing update on recommendations from the CDC the WI DPI and other state and national agencies for dealing with the pandemic. It also provides an opportunity to share local information and strategies. While most Northern Waters libraries are now offering some open hours, others have yet to make a determination on how to accomplish that. Interlibrary loan between Northern Waters libraries has been reinstated. Interlibrary loan with other state systems, however, has not, although there has been an effort to return all loaned materials to their owning libraries. Given the increase in COVID cases, particularly in the southern part of the state, reinstatement of state-wide interlibrary loan still seems a ways off.