

Forest Lodge Library
Report to Towns
5/12/2020

- Yes, the library has been closed, but, that does not mean that we've been idle! We have been busy! When things first commenced to shut down, the library was able to offer a week of "curbside pick-up" before Gov. Evers issues the Safer At Home order. We were able to resume "curbside pick-up" beginning Monday, April 27th. While what we are able to loan is still limited to items in our own collection, we are happy to be able to offer this service to our patrons once again. We ask that patrons order items via the online catalog or call or email us. Once we've determined that we are able to fill their request we contact them to confirm a pick-up time. While our identified pick up times are M-F 11-1 and 3-5 and 11-1 on Saturdays, we will certainly work with people to determine a time that is mutually convenient.
- Patrons are able to return items at any time by pushing them through the slot on the front door. Once received, all items are quarantined for 72 hours before we handle them, at which point we run them through a sterilization process. No patron would ever be given a library item than had not been quarantined and cleaned. The health and safety of our patrons and our staff are of primary importance to us.
- Everyone wants to know when we'll be open again and the answer is: we don't know. We will first see if the Safer at Home order is lifted after its current May 26th expiration date. We will want to know what the WI Dept. of Public Instruction advises us at which point the Forest Lodge Library Board of Trustees will make a determination on reopening and what that will look like. The Board is currently working on a policy designed to protect the health and safety of staff and patrons, while providing equitable and efficient service to our communities.
- In the meantime, the wifi is always on and we've been trying to keep the Little Free Libraries located at the Cable and Namakagon Community Centers stocked.
- We have offered our patrons and friends access to lots of entertaining and education content via our website and Facebook page and have seen numbers visiting these pages soar. On our website we've been offering an ongoing feature: How to Entertain Yourself During a Pandemic which has provided links to virtual visits to museums and aquariums as well as links to celebs reading children's stories, short movies about dinosaurs and, our current favorite, a Milwaukee entertainer rapping Dr. Seuss! <https://forestlodgelibrary.org/2020/03/20/how-to-entertain-yourself-during-a-pandemic/> April was National Poetry Month and to celebrate we persuaded a few downtown Cable residents and businesses to "put a word in the window." We invited anyone who wished to "collect" words and use them to write a poem. The results can be found here: <https://forestlodgelibrary.org/2020/04/10/may-we-have-a-word/> Ongoing is our Confined by Corona Quiz Contest which anyone can play! We purchased gift certificates from a number of local businesses and eateries and have been awarding them as prizes, which we see as a way to both entertain and support our community. You can read more about that here:

<https://forestlodgelibrary.org/2020/04/08/confined-by-corona-quiz-contest/> It's been fun! Finally, we've been recording videos and posting them on our Facebook page; everything from kid's stories to poetry to knock-knock jokes. We hope you'll take a moment to check it out!

- Also during this time we sent out an initial digital newsletter, something we hope to offer every 4-6 weeks. Initial response was...great! Our "open" rate was just under 50%. (49.9% to be precise)
- We worked with Jim Radford of Baker Street Consultants on developing a Capitol Campaign Plan. We were feeling we needed some assistance moving forward on our Facility Expansion Project and we thank everyone who was able to take the time to speak with Mr. Radford. While, because of COVID-19 this doesn't work out to be the best possible time to try to raise funds, Mr. Radford advised us that he feels the community support is present to accomplish our goal, if not, necessarily right now. He encouraged us to keep working diligently on campaign planning in order to be ready to go when the dust settles and the future begins to look a bit brighter again.
- We are still planning to accomplish a civil engineering study on the proposed building site this spring or early summer. Scheduled by Keller Builds on our behalf it will be conducted by a civil engineering firm from the Fox Valley. The Cable Natural History property will be included in the survey and we hope to get some answers and information about the drainage issues for these properties.
- Director Lendved attends weekly virtual meetings with other Northern Waters Library System directors where we're kept up to date on State and DPI directives and discuss best practices for curbside delivery and consider what reopening may look like. We'll keep you posted.
- And, in the meantime, we hope that you will take the time to visit our website and see all the fun content we've been creating...and visit us on Facebook and grab a few laughs! We feel we could all use a few laughs during these...strange times.