

Forest Lodge Library

Report to Towns

11/17/2020

- Last month we advised that we were scheduled to conduct an inventory of our collection, which we accomplished. The Northern Waters Library Service provides the hardware to do so and we got through our entire collection in one day's time. Now we're working through a long list of anomalies, but, we got 'er done.
- The down side is that, several days after our inventory excursion, one of our staff people called to advise that she was ill. She got tested for COVID-19 that day, and, yes, she was positive. Although we all wore masks and worked on different areas of the collection on inventory day, we also DID stop to eat lunch. Later, staff was in close proximity (albeit masked) while inventorying the portion of our collection that is in storage at the UCC church. These several eventualities resulted in all of us considered to be exposed to COVID and meant we all had to quarantine. (per the Bayfield Cty Health Dept. We didn't decide this for ourselves...) Because there were no unaffected staff, we had to completely close the library for a little over a week. I am happy to report that we are all well. The individual who was ill has recovered. The others of us did not develop symptoms and the several of us who tested received negative results. At the time our quarantine began we had gone back to offering only curbside pickup because of rising COVID cases in the County. We resumed curbside service on 11/11. Our current public statement is that we will continue that through this weekend and reassess, although, given the continuing increase in COVID cases in our region, current Board and Staff thinking is that we should continue with curbside only service at least until several weeks after the Thanksgiving holiday, so, at least 12/10, and then reassess. We are happy that we are able to continue to serve our patrons this way, and work to keep everyone as safe as possible.
- For curbside pickup, people can order, as usual, through our online catalog. We are still receiving delivery from other libraries in our system, so, orders are not restricted to what is in our own collection. For those who just don't know what they might want, we're happy to help. We do continue to staff during regular open hours and would be happy to help you select some titles to suit your needs. If no one should answer the phone, please to leave a message and someone will get back to you. Or, we can be emailed at cablelibrary@cable.wislib.org.
- In our last report we advised that we had scheduled the first meeting of the Executive Committee for the development of our Capital Campaign Plan. We had hoped to have an in-person meet, but, cancelled that, again because of COVID. We are now hoping to convene our first meeting virtually, later this week.

- We will be participating in a Focus on Energy grant program through Bayfield County. Our application to participate came from the Katie Flowers Endowment, a 501 c-3 and the “fundraising arm of the library.” This Focus on Energy program which is intended to get people to take on energy saving habits, could result in 7 Bayfield County non-profits receiving up to \$25,000. (in total, not each.) Each participating non-profit will earn at minimum \$500. Additional will be based on consumer participation. The goal is to get 25% of possible households to complete half of identified energy saving activities. The activities are things like; washing with cold water, turning down the thermostat, turning off unused appliances. We’ll let you know more when we know more, but, whatever money we are able to earn will go towards our Facility Expansion Project.
- We continue to keep informative and engaging content on our website and Facebook pages and encourage you to check them out! Our website address is forestlodgelibrary.org. And, again, please feel welcome to call us at 715-798-3189 if we can help you organize a curbside pickup of library materials!