

## ***Forest Lodge Library***

### ***Report to Towns of Cable and Namakagon***

***November 2024***

#### **Library Expansion Updates:**

The library board held a special board meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss possible changes to the schematic design before they wanted Westlund Consultancy to move forward with the state approval process. The library board voted to increase the size of the building to 45,000 and 46,000 square feet, giving some leeway for the architect as he reworks the space and rooms that were discussed. An upgraded HVAC system, to include in-floor heating, as well as upgrading the windows were also voted upon and approved during this special board meeting. Library Board President, Carl Lippert met with the architect the next day to discuss the board's necessary changes and move forward with plans.

Carl Lippert has also been in contact with the Cable Natural History Museum to secure a new lease on the log cabin building. Our current lease expires December 31, 2024. There has been discussion of a possible longer lease (current lease agreements are for one year at a time), but that has not been agreed upon at this time. The museum has indicated that they would like to make use of the log cabin building in the future, which creates concern about how that will affect the library services and space needs. The library board and the museum board will need to have further discussion as we move forward in the building process.

#### **Flexible Facilities Grant**

Carl Lippert, FLL board president; Mary Jean Fenske, Katie Flowers Endowment Board president; and Melissa Rabska, KFE board member and grant writer, were able to meet with the Cable town clerk and board members to discuss grant specifics and setting up of bank account to handle grant funds. The Forest Lodge Library is planning on discussing the use of a financial manager to help with managing various funds, including the grant, throughout the remainder of the building process.

#### **Digital Connectivity Grant**

Mark Abeles-Allison has been in touch about moving forward with the Digital Connectivity Grant. The Forest Lodge Library will be receiving several laptops, and iPad, along with docking stations, that will be available for checkout. We will also be having the services of a digital navigator to assist with these devices and to assist patrons with various technological needs. This person has been hired through Bayfield County and is not an employee of the Forest Lodge Library. This person will be rotating around to all of the libraries that are participating in this grant on a weekly basis. I will be letting the community know when we will have these resources available as soon as possible.

## **Staffing**

We will have a new face at the library on occasion from now until about early April. Ron Skogland has been added to our aide staff as a substitute. He has previous library experience working for the Drummond Public Library, where he substitutes and fills in where needed there currently as well. We appreciate having Ron help us during times when staff may need to be absent.

## **Wisconsin Library Association Conference in Green Bay**

I was able to attend the WLA conference in Green Bay at the beginning of November. It was a wonderful opportunity for learning, growth and networking. Much discussion was had regarding topics that included generative AI, collection development, building needs and collaboration with fellow directors that are going through the same process, and current library issues.

## **Website Updates**

I am continuing to make necessary changes and updates to our Forest Lodge Library website. Currently you can check out new 'staff recommendations'! There are also events that are added to our calendar as time goes on. Please be sure to check us out at: [www.forestlodgelibrary.org](http://www.forestlodgelibrary.org)

## **November Library Events**

**Tuesday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> AND Tuesday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> – 9am- 10am:** Coffee & Craft Time – come and enjoy coffee, tea, hot cocoa and conversation and let your creativity flow!

**Wednesday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> – 5pm:** Forest Lodge Library Board of Trustees Meeting at the library

**Thursday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> – 6pm:** Adult Makerspace: Button Trees at the library

**Monday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – 5pm:** Katie Flowers Board of Endowment Meeting

**Wednesday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> – 3pm - Closing Early** – Staff Training

**Tuesday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> – 6pm:** Cookbook Club – first meeting! Come and enjoy snacks and refreshments provided by the library as we discuss our future meeting topics and cookbook plans. The plan moving forward is that this group will meet in the future at the Cable Community Center (where there is more space and a kitchen available) and bring a dish to pass that was prepared based on what cookbook or theme was agreed upon. There is no fee, there is no pre-registration and no obligation. If you attend

future meetings and want to join in sharing food, you do need to bring something to share as well, however. Contact Director Westlund for more information or with questions.

Respectfully submitted by Library Director Amanda Westlund