

Forest Lodge Library – Town Report - August 2025

New Library Building Update...

Work continues at the New Library Building Site. Jerome Excavating came in during late June/early July and prepared the site. Mid-July J&H Concrete came in to pour the footings and set up wall aprons. Many patrons have commented on how exciting it is to see work being done and have asked about how things are going. Updates with photographs are on the website at: <https://forestlodgelibrary.org/library-expansion-project-blog/>

July activities...

July was an active month for the library!

Thanks to all who were able to attend the programs that were held.

- We participated in Cable's 4th of July parade. We were appreciative to have volunteers help walk with the float and pass out pencils, and flyers. After the parade, we had 12 people stop by our craft table that was set up at the Cable Town Park.
- Our Tech Support from Digital Navigator Eric Faber, a program that is funded by a Bayfield County Grant, continues to be quite successful. Eric gets a good number of visitors on the two alternating Wednesdays each month that he is at the Forest Lodge Library. Patrons often comment about how patient, kind, and helpful he has been. He has often had 'repeat customers' who have had such a pleasant experience they want to come back and know more of how to utilize either their laptop, cell phone, or just general internet safety questions. We appreciate having him come to our library and are hopeful that his program will continue to be supported with grant funding.
- Our children's programming has been going pretty well. There have been consistent visitors to the 'Colorful Chronicles' Story and Craft Time that is held on Thursday mornings at 9 AM at that library. The 'Talking is Teaching' has had less visitors, but I'm happy to report that I did get my first family to come and do the 'Music' themed session with me. They enjoyed the session, but were just visiting the area, so could not make the other, later dates of the month. The 'Painted Pages' preschool story time has not had any visitors, but perhaps there will be some that will attend in August.
- Our Centennial Celebration was held on Sunday, July 20th. We had over 150 people attend and it was a wonderful event. I am extremely thankful to the Centennial Committee (Kristine Lendved, Laurie St.Aubin-Whelihan, Joanne Cleary, and Karen Gran) for their support and help in not only planning and preparing for the event, but with set up and carrying out the day's activities as well. There were many others that helped the day before with set up and the day of – FLL board members – Carl Lippert, Jan Berlin (and her husband, Irv); KFE board members – Wanda Spitzer (and her granddaughter), volunteers – Jeannie McCarver, Diana Devroy, Wendy and her dog Rowan, Evan Gran (who took photos), PJ Westlund, and others that pitched in throughout the day as well. Many thanks to Lakewoods for letting us use their platform for our performers. Ron Gran and Bill Jamerson did a wonderful job! We had many wonderful items to put in prize baskets – donations from: Garmish, Pioneer Bar, Lakewoods, Loon Saloon, Roo's, Redbury, and Rivers Eatery.

Thank you also to our town chairs: Jamie Holly and Robert Rasmussen, for coming and speaking and saying a few words during the celebration.

We have received many positive comments and feedback from the event. We also received a plaque with a Citation of Legislation – sent and signed from Senator Romaine Quinn and Representative Chanz Green, recognizing our 100th year celebration. We also, earlier in July, received a Certificate of Commendation sent and signed by Governor Tony Evers, honoring not only our 100th anniversary year but also our Groundbreaking, which happened in late June. Both of these are on display at the front of the main table in the library, please stop by to see them!

- Cookbook Club did end up getting cancelled for July. Most of our regular participants indicated that they were not available for this month's meeting. No additional people indicated that they wanted to join. We do plan to meet again in August.

FLL Brd Mtg for August: Wednesday, August 13th at 5pm

KFE Brd Mtg for August: Wednesday, August 27th at 5 pm

- Three community members were recommended for appointments to the KFE board at the June meeting. The Forest Lodge Library Board of Trustees will vote to make appointments of these members at the July 9th meeting.

Northern Waters Library Service & Directors' Meeting – Virtual – July 17th

- Discussion and action was taken on 2026 NWLS budget
 - This discussion included topics involving, but not limited to, the increasing need for more funding for our online services, particularly Libby, which provides e-books and e-audiobooks. These have increased in popularity. This is good news, however the cost of these 'e' materials can often be more expensive than the physical counterparts, and it was discussed that at this time libraries receive funding for circulation of physical materials, but not for circulation of 'e' materials. The NWLS Board of Trustees will meet in September and approve their budget, and it is likely that the amounts that the library directors agreed upon at this July 17th meeting, there is still that possibility. We will reconvene if that is the case. If the NWLS Board of Trustees approves the budget with the numbers that we have provided, then no further action will need to be taken.

Staff Changes...

Angelina Castellano has joined our staff as a library aide. She is from Drummond and is excited to be working with the Forest Lodge Library. She is a graduate of Drummond High School. She is active in theater and has also been involved in singing as well.

Angelina will also be taking on the janitorial duties. Ben Westlund will be going on to technical college at the end of August and has also been approached by a company in the Ashland area (where he is attending tech college as well) to start working there also. Given the fact that he will spend the majority of his time in Ashland starting in the early fall, he indicated to me that he was hopeful that I could find

someone else to fill the janitor position. Angelina has accepted and we have worked out a schedule that will meet the library's cleaning needs and work around her library aide time as well.

Old School Greenspace in Cable:

Supervisor Larson has been working hard on the Old School Greenspace and did ask me to fashion a sign for the library to place in one of the 'storywalk' posts. I was able to do so, but have visited it recently and do see, as Supervisor Larson did suggest, that having the sign laminated would help to ensure moisture doesn't get in and damage the sign. I will be getting a laminated sign in the post as soon as I can.

Visits for the Month of June: 1,274 patrons

Upcoming August Happenings...

Thursdays, August 14th (purple theme); August 21st (rainbow theme) - Colorful Chronicles: Story and Craft Time at 9 am at the library

Tuesday, August 19th – Talking is Teaching – Birth to 3-year-old program at 9 am at the library

Tuesday, August 12th – Preschool Storytime at 9 am at the library

Wednesdays, August 13th & 27th – Tech Support with Eric Faber – 10 am to 3 pm at the library

Monday, August 18th – Cookbook Club – Namakagon Town Hall

Tuesday, August 19th – Get A Clue Mystery Book Club – 5pm at the library

Saturday, August 23rd – Summer Reading Program Wrap Up – 10am to 2pm

- We'll have: Reading with Rowan, crafts, games, door prizes, and its the last day to turn in Summer Reading Challenge pages

Respectfully submitted by Director Amanda Westlund

8.8.2025