

Forest Lodge Library – Town Report for Cable and Namakagon - September 2025

New Library Building Update...

At the August Forest Lodge Library Board meeting, there was discussion regarding the renderings/floor plans that are posted in the log cabin library of the new library building. It was determined that it would be clearer to label the spaces as to what they would be used for (study room, etc.) instead of labeling with who has which room/space for the naming opportunity.

Patrons have appreciated being able to see the renderings/plans so they get a visual to what the new building will look like and where different areas, such as entrances, study rooms, etc., will be located.

Work continues to move forward on the new building. Currently the concrete has been poured for the floor, and framing, done by Friermood, should be starting in early September, around the second week.

Please be sure to visit the 'New Library Building Project' tab on the website to see the blog posts for updates and photos of what's happening at the site.

August Patron Visits: 1,084

FLL Brd Mtg for September: Wednesday, September 10th at 5pm

KFE Brd Mtg for August: Wednesday, September 24th at 5 pm

Bayfield County Library Committee Meeting – held on August 21st

The committee discussed the 2026 Bayfield County funding proposal during the August meeting. All Wisconsin counties are required to reimburse circulation costs through Act 150 (applies to residents within the county) and Act 420 (applies to residents in counties adjacent). Bayfield County has, for quite some time, supported its libraries by not only funding that 70 percent, but also putting additional funds that would equal up to 100 percent into a 'Building Stronger Libraries' fund. The Forest Lodge Library is very grateful to Bayfield County for designating, for the past several years, much of these 'BSL' funds for our New Library Building Project.

For the year 2026, due to circulation numbers of patrons going slightly down that are affected by Act 150 and 420, even with the cost per circulation going up somewhat – the amount of reimbursement for 2026 is less than what we received in 2025.

It was discussed and approved to reimburse our Forest Lodge Library at 100% reimbursement for the year 2026. This would reimburse us more closely to our 2025 amount (which has been a goal

of Bayfield County in the past, if attainable) but still allow some funds for BSL for projects that have been requested by other Bayfield County libraries. It was also discussed and agreed that part of these BSL funds will be used to help support our Digital Navigator program. All Bayfield County library directors unanimously supported continuing ways to support this program as it has been successful and well attended at all libraries. Directors felt that this would be easier to maintain at the county level after grant funding has dissolved verses trying to fund it individually for each separate library.

One other item that was discussed, which was a topic that was also discussed during the Northern Waters Directors meeting, was the fact that these circulation numbers come only from the circulation of physical books. These numbers do not include the circulation of e-books or e-audiobooks, which has seen a slight increase in circulation. This is important to note due to the fact that libraries are finding that they need to allocate more funds to these e-resources because they are being used more. At the last Northern Water Library Network Directors meeting the budget for the 2026 year for these e-resources for each library was voted to increase slightly for the 2026 year.

It is wonderful that this resource is being used, however, libraries are not seeing any reimbursement for the circulation of these items to help support funding, as they have with the physical counterparts. An e-material can cost up to two to three times as much as the physical item, and it also may come with regulations like it can only be used for a certain amount of time and then needs to be ‘purchased’ again, and also only one user can use that title at a time, just like the physical item.

Upcoming September Happenings...

September is Library Card Sign Up Month! Sign up online or at the library during the month of September and be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Visa gift card. Already have a library card? That’s great! You can still enter the drawing by telling us why you love the library. Paper forms are at the library to fill out or you can go to the library website and click on the link to enter online.

Digital Navigator- Tech Support: Wednesdays, September 10th and 24th – 10 AM to 3 PM at the library. Support and assistance with devices from our digital navigator, we also have several laptops and I-pads available for checkout. Eric is able to check these out to you when he is at the library, Director Westlund is also able to check these out to you as well. These can be used by anyone – you do not need to have a library card – so, for instance, if a device is needed just temporarily by town staff (does not have to be checked out for the total duration of two weeks) that can be arranged as well.

***NEW Program: Time with Transparent Languages: Every Thursday in September from 4 PM to 5 PM at the library** - use your library card to access this FREE online resource and learn a new language! There are over 120+ languages – even American Sign Language. Bring your own device – laptop, or handheld device or use a library device, you can even check a device (laptop or I-pad) from the library for two weeks at a time. Director Westlund will work with you to get going on the self-guided program. If availability allows, groups can also be formed to practice what you've learned in person as you go. Physical items – such as travel guides, cookbooks, and other interesting resources can be found at the library as well to support your learning and curiosity.

Makerspace and Mocktails – September 16th from 5:30 to 6:30 PM at the library: Craft: Pumpkin Puzzle Framed Art; Mocktail: Pumpkin Mocktail Martini. Cost is free, pre-registration is required. Sign up by emailing Director Westlund or calling the library. Space is limited.

Silent Book Club – September 22nd from 5 – 6 PM at the library: Join us for 15-20 minutes of conversation, then spend the rest of the time sitting quietly (possibly with the fireplace going, weather/temps permitting), sipping tea, cocoa, coffee, or whatever you prefer to bring of your own and read a book of your choice. No registration necessary. No cost.

Forest Lodge Library Fall Fest Used Book Sale – Friday, September 27th from 4 to 6 PM and Saturday, September 28th from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Director Amanda Westlund

8.5.2025