

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

New Library Building Update...

At the September Forest Lodge Library Board meeting, the board approved moving forward with the Interior Design Firm – FEH Designs. The Interior Design Committee – Director Amanda Westlund, board members: Janet Zeigler & Julia Campbell – will meet with the FEH Design representative as we move forward with this part of the building process and bring recommendations to the FLL Board of Trustees for final approval. It was commented by other library system directors (ours included – Katherine Elchert) that it is important to move forward with this at this time. There will be expected wait times for items such as furniture, that will need time to be approved, ordered and once ordered, then manufactured and delivered. The expected possible wait time at this point is at least 3 to 4 months out. Working with FEH Design, who has much experience with library building interior and comes recommended by many other directors from across the state, will enable us to relay the community's and board's vision of keeping our atmosphere in sync with the 'Northwoods' feel and making informed decisions on items of high quality that will last us a long time and still stay within our interior design budget.

The Interior Design Committee will also be working on making interior selections for recommendations that have already been secured with contracts. This would include things such as carpet and flooring choices.

A 'New Building Sign Lighting' Committee was also formed – members include: FLL board members: Elizabeth Hewitt, Tara VonThoma, and JoAnne Schultz. This committee will bring new building signage recommendations for FLL board approval at a future meeting.

Work continues to move forward on the new building. Currently the exterior frame and some interior frames have been put in place, and trusses have arrived and are starting to go up. Almost every patron that comes into the library comments on the new building, stating that it is very exciting to see it taking shape.

It is also almost always followed up with the question of what will happen with the log cabin building. Library staff have been informed that we answer clearly, respectfully and state the facts. We will resume meetings in the fall to discuss the future use of the log cabin with the log cabin's owners – the Cable Natural History Museum. We assure people that, while the plan has changed from what it originally was, there is still a possibility that we can continue to use the log cabin as part of the library, this is yet to be determined. We have an October meeting planned with the museum – details below.

Future Log Cabin Use meetings with the Cable Natural History Museum

At the August FLL board meeting, board member JoAnne Schultz volunteered and was designated to contact the CNHM to set a date for a September meeting between our library committee and the CNHM.

JoAnne reported that the museum, at the time that she spoke with them in late August, was quite busy with other things at the moment (big congrats to Molly on her award that she received in California!) and that they would have to get back to us at a later date as to when they may be available.

I received an email from the CNHM director on September 17, inquiring as to when our committee could meet at the end of the month. The committee met on September 22nd to discuss availability. I responded to the CNHM director on September 22nd, after the meeting, to inform him of our availability and with an agenda and asked for any changes or additions they would like us to consider.

A meeting date and time HAS been set – the ‘Log Cabin Future Use’ Library Committee – comprised of Elizabeth Hewitt (chair), JoAnn Schultz, Janet Ziegler, and Amanda Westlund will meet with the Cable Natural History Museum on Friday, October 3rd, at 2 PM at the Cable Community Centre, attendance can be in person or via zoom. Visit our website to view the agenda and/or for the zoom link.

WISCAT News...

On Tuesday, September 23rd I was able to attend an online meeting with other library directors and WI DPI to discuss current happenings and issues with WISCAT. The most important to note is that on the federal level and the state level, funding has continued to be supported so that all Wisconsin libraries, including ours, will continue to receive WISCAT services in 2026 at no cost to us. This is a very important service, as it allows us to search for and share library materials beyond our Northern Waters Library System. It is important that we continue to let our elected officials know that this is a valuable service to our patrons and that we appreciate continued funding.

Cable Fall Fest Used Book Sale...

We received many wonderful donations of used books for our used book sale. Volunteers Wanda, Sue F., Sue R., Jackie, Diana, and Kathy (as well as a couple others that stopped by to help while we were setting up) did an amazing job on Friday and Saturday. We raised \$425.

We still have some used books left from this sale, which will be located in the front vestibule for sale. At this time, we do not have any more space for used books, so we will have to pause on accepting any more donations of books at this time.

Also to note...usually the week of July 4th has our highest patronage. The Saturday of Cable Fall Fest did beat our Saturday of July 4th patronage number – we had 126 visitors on Saturday, Sept. 27th verses 119 on Saturday, July 5th.

September Patron Visits: 800

FLL Brd Mtg for October: Wednesday, October 8th at 5pm

KFE Brd Mtg for October: Wednesday, October 22nd at 5 pm

October Library Programs...

October is Cyber Security Awareness Month!

Check out our website for resources to help you with cyber security awareness and digital inclusion (Oct. 6-10 is Digital Inclusion Week).

Digital Navigator- Tech Support: Wednesdays, October 1st and 22nd - 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.

Makerspace and Mocktails – October 2nd from 5:30 to 6:30 PM at the library

Craft: Bookpage Apple

Mocktail: Ginger Apple Spritzer

Cost is free, pre-registration is required – space is limited.

Sign up by emailing Director Westlund or calling the library.

Silent Book Club – October 28th 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.

Get A Clue Mystery Book club – October 14th at 5 PM at the library

Book discussion: The Searcher by Tana French

This is an open book club. Books are available for checkout at the library. Refreshments and light snacks will be available; you are welcome to bring your own as well.

Cookbook Club – October 20th at 6 PM at the Namakagon Town Hall

Cookbook focus: Heartland: The Cookbook by Julie Fertig

Participants check out the cookbook, choose a recipe that they will prepare and bring to the meeting. We share what we've all brought at the meeting and discuss the cookbook and the recipe we chose. Participants can bring a guest with to the meeting.

Halloween – October 31st

Staff will be on hand to pass out goodies to trick or treaters that visit the library.

Respectfully submitted by Director Amanda Westlund 10.1.2025