



January 7, 2026

LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING NOTICE

The Village of Forsyth Library Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting for Wednesday, January 14, at 1:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held in the Program Room at the Forsyth Public Library. The agenda for the meeting is attached.

If you have any questions, please call the Library at 217-877-8174.

**Melanie Weigel
Library Director**

CC:

Mary Jane Linton
Becky Wayne
Mary Jo Rowley
Laura Reimer
Ken Kirschner
Lisa Peck
Chris Kopeika
Trustee Jim Ashby
Trustee Dave Wendt
Trustee Chelsie Kidd
Trustee Jeremy Shaw
Trustee Jeff London
Trustee Lauren Young
Mayor Jim Peck
Village Administrator Jill Applebee
Village Clerk Cheryl Marty
Village Administrative Assistant Kim Taylor



**Forsyth Public Library
Library Commission Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026
1:00 p.m.
Forsyth Public Library Program Room**

The regular monthly meeting of the Forsyth Public Library Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the library's Program Room.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Minutes: Minutes from November 12, 2025

Public Comment: Anyone wishing to address the Library Commission may do so now. Please state your name and address, and limit comments to three minutes or less. Relevant printed material and handouts that support your concerns or topic are welcome.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Building Tour

Librarian's Report:

- Comments and Discussion
- Circulation, Attendance, and Library Stats

Adjournment

Library Commission Meeting Minutes

Village of Forsyth Public Library

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Call to Order

Call to order at 1:01 p.m. by Mary Jane Linton

Roll Call

Chris Kopeika

Laura Reimer

Becky Wayne

Mary Jo Rowley

Ken Kirchner

Mary Jane Linton

Absent

Lisa Peck

Also Present

Melanie Weigel, Library Director

Minutes

Motion made by Ken Kirchner to accept the meeting minutes for the September 10, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Chris Kopeika. Motion carried on voice vote; all members present voting yea.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

- Chapters 6 – 13 of Serving Our Public 4.0 was discussed. Melanie went over the check list of each chapter. FPL is meeting or working on all standards for IL Public Libraries.

New Business

None

Librarian's Report

- Thanks to a generous community member, we now have a food pantry at the library. It is called Feed the Need Food Pantry. We have received multiple donations and the pantry has been very well used.

- Melanie presented an online professional development session November 12 for NCompass Live, a weekly webinar of the Nebraska State Library.
- FPL partnered with the Secretary of State's Office to host a Mobile DMV event. A second event will be hosted by Representative Deering and the library in December.
- FPL has partnered with MRI for special events at the library. FPL staff has attended the MRI Speak Up and Speak Out Summit.
- The library will be closed November 27-29 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- Adult Team Pictionary will begin November 20 to complement our regular Team Trivia events.
- FPL Tree Decorating Celebration will be December 2 from 4-6 PM. Family pictures will be taken with Santa in addition to treats and a holiday kid's craft.
- Several holiday events will be offered in December.
- FPL Youth Services Librarian Vanessa will present a Story Time and craft kits at Rudolph's Village Market. Jana has prepared 150 + kits for this event.
- A toy swap is planned at the library in January.
- Patron Card registration as of September 30 includes 1,318 adults and 175 juveniles. The September 2025 patron count is 3,389 which is 436 more than September 2024. Circulation for September 2025 is 3,492 which is 671 less than September 2024. Materials checked out by Non-Forsyth Patrons is 1,243. Materials checked out by Forsyth Patrons at other libraries is 196.
- Patron Card registration as of October 31 includes 1,317 adults and 176 juveniles. The October 2025 patron count is 3,661 which is 388 more than October 2024. Circulation for October 2025 is 3,482 which is 600 less than October 2024. Material checked out by Non-Forsyth Patrons is 1,331. Materials checked out by Forsyth Patrons at other libraries is 183.

Adjournment

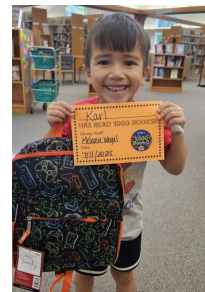
The next library commission meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2026. Laura Reimer moved to adjourn. Mary Jo Rowley seconded. The motion carried on voice vote; all members present voting yea.

Meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Wayne

2025 IN REVIEW: *There's Always Something Happening at FPL*

- We continue to focus on providing community members a reason to visit the library every single day. In 2025, we had 41,405 total visitors, an 8% increase over 2024.
- FPL Patrons Saved \$334,576 by using their library cards to borrow materials
- Chair Yoga continues to be our most highly attended program with over 2,117 attendees in 2025
- Over 6,000 cups of coffee were served in 2025 at FPL
- Over 2.5 MILLION ebooks and audiobooks are available to FPL patrons using their library card to access Hoopla, Libby or CloudLibrary
- Come browse everything that's new at FPL. We added over 1900 new physical items to our collection in 2025.
- 90 kids and families have participated in our new Evening Story Time with Miss Vanessa.
- Summer Reading was a hit! Over 550 kids, teens and adults "Leveled Up at the Library" by participating in our Summer Reading Program
- Over 4,400 adults participated in programs or events at FPL this past year including Bingo at the Library, Coffee Talk, Book Clubs, Craft Classes and More!
- Kids loved exploring the library as part of our scavenger hunt fun. 465 scavenger hunts were completed this year.
- Did you know that FPL subscribes to 32 different magazines and 8 different newspapers?
- Put a stamp on it! FPL notary publics notarized hundreds of pages of documents as a free service to our community
- FPL is proud to build a strong partnership with Macon Resources and hosted our friends from MRI for 6 different events in 2025
- We love building connections with our local schools. FPL hosted over 500 community members for the Maroa-Forsyth Grade School's 5th Grade Biography Day in March
- I presented at the Association of Small and Rural Libraries Conference, the Illinois Library Association Conference and a professional development session for the Nebraska State Library's NCompass Live program.
- With the completion of our exterior remodel project, the library has never looked better! The updates included siding and gutters, a new exterior staff entrance with sidewalk and more to help ensure the longevity of the building.
- Library Commission members approved the 2026-2030 Long-Term Strategic Plan in 2025, giving us a clear path for future growth.



Melanie Weigel, Director