



December 30, 2024

LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING NOTICE

**The Village of Forsyth Library Commission has scheduled a meeting for
Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 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
Rebecca Wayne
Mary Jo Rowley
Laura Reimer
Ken Kirschner
Lisa Peck
Chris Kopeika
Trustee Bob Gruenewald
Trustee Dave Wendt
Trustee Marilyn Johnson
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 8, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Forsyth Public Library Program Room**

The regular monthly meeting of the Forsyth Public Library Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the library's Program Room.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Minutes: Minutes from November 13, 2024

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:

- Community Survey - Discuss Results

New Business:

- None

Librarian's Report:

- 2025 Director Goals
- Comments and Discussion
- Circulation, Attendance, and Library Stats

Adjournment

2024 DIRECTOR GOALS - STATUS UPDATE:

- ✓ **Goal #1 - Build a Greater Connection with Local Schools + Enhance Youth Offerings**
Created 3 new monthly kids' club offerings, expanded Summer Reading programming, increased kid-friendly drop-in activities, hosted Bluey Bash and Dino Party, and collaborated with Maroa Public Library to create a Winter Reading Challenge for students at Maroa-Forsyth Grade School.
- ✓ **Goal #2 - Update the Library's Emergency Plan to Reflect Current Needs**
Fully revised and updated Emergency Plan was adopted by the Library Commission in August 2024.
- ✓ **Goal #3 - Begin Studying Library Usage + Patron Needs in Anticipation of Long-Range Plan Update in FY25**
Created a new survey to gain insight into library usage by community members; results will be used to determine best practices moving forward as we develop a long-range strategic plan for the library with the intent to adopt it in Summer 2025.

2025 DIRECTOR GOALS:

Goal #1 - Develop and Adopt a Long-Range Strategic Plan in 2025 to Enhance the Library's Role in the Community and Improve our Services.

- Review Community Survey results with Library Commission - January/February 2025
- Connect with other libraries of similar size and budget to seek examples of successful long-range plans - Spring 2025
- Collaborate with Library Commission members to create long-range plan draft - Spring 2025
- Seek feedback on draft from community members and Village of Forsyth staff and officials - Spring 2025
- Revise and adopt long-range plan - Summer 2025

Goal #2 - Utilize data to make informed purchasing decisions regarding FPL's physical vs digital collection development and spending.

- Evaluate circulation numbers and overall usage of Libby, Hoopla and CloudLibrary
- Compare usage in different collections (ie - Large Print vs Adult Fiction vs Adult Nonfiction) to determine best ordering strategies moving forward
- Create a plan to determine digital spending moving forward to address patron demands

Goal #3 - Increased Focus on Professional Development

- Seek out diverse professional development opportunities to gain knowledge and new insights
- Serve as a mentor and develop a stronger working relationship with the new director of the Maroa Public Library District
- Encourage staff to attend 1 professional meeting, workshop or conference in 2025

Library Commission Meeting Minutes

Village of Forsyth Public Library

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Call to Order

Call to order at 1:02 p.m. by Mary Jane Linton

Roll Call

Mary Jane Linton

Mary Jo Rowley

Becky Wayne

Chris Kopeika

Lisa Peck

Laura Reimer

Absent

Ken Kirchner

Also Present

Melanie Weigel, Library Director

Minutes

Motion made by Lisa Peck to accept the meeting minutes for the October 23, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Mary Jo Rowley. Motion carried on voice vote; all members present voting yea.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

The FPL Community Survey was discussed. Commission members were given a paper copy of the survey to look over for final approval. Melanie is hoping many people will complete the survey online or the paper copy. Paper copies will be available at FPL and the Village Hall. The online survey is available on the FPL website. The information will be used for the Long Term Strategic Plan.

New Business

None

Librarian's Report

- The library celebrated the third annual Nightmare on Elwood Street.
- Library patrons created Veteran's Day cards for the veterans in their lives. Veterans were celebrated at Coffee Talk on November 7.
- Bingo at the Library took place November 12. Rise Broadband sponsored lunch from McAllister's.

- FPL hosted Team Trivia November 7. Teams enjoyed pizza and won prizes.
- November is officially Dino-Vember. Story Times and activities will be available all month.
- FPL is hosting Family Reading Night on November 19 from 5-6 PM to help promote literacy.
- FPL will be closed November 28 – December 1 for Thanksgiving holiday.
- Community Watch will be December 3 at 4 PM.
- FPL Tree Decorating Celebration will be December 3 from 4 – 6 PM. Staff will be taking free family photos.
- Patron card registration as of October 31 includes 1,362 adults and 140 juveniles. The October 2024 patron count is 3,273 which is 678 more than October 2023. Circulation for October 2024 is 4,082 which is 23 less than October 2023. Materials checked out by Non-Forsyth Patrons is 1,496. Materials checked out by Forsyth Patrons at other libraries is 207.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Laura Reimer to cancel the December Library Commission meeting. Mary Jo Rowley seconded. The motion carried on voice vote; all members present voting yea.

The next library commission meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2025. Mary Jo Rowley moved to adjourn. Laura Reimer seconded. The motion carried on voice vote; all members present voting yea.

Meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Wayne



FORSYTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

year
in
Review

★ **38,643** ★
TOTAL VISITORS



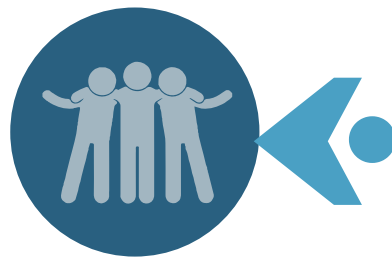
**+18% INCREASE
OVER 2023**

\$429,000+

DOLLARS SAVED

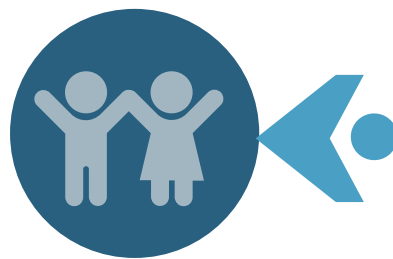
BY FORSYTH PATRONS USING
THEIR LIBRARY CARDS DURING
2024 VS BUYING THE SAME ITEMS

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO AT FPL!
WE DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF PROGRAMS
HELD AT THE LIBRARY IN 2024.



NEW OPTIONS + RETURNING FAVORITES

New offerings in 2024 included Bingo at the Library, weekly Coffee Talk, and monthly Trivia Nights while we also brought back favorites from the past including Tech Club and Community Watch.



EXPANDED KIDS' PROGRAMS

Created 3 new monthly kids' club offerings, increased kid-friendly drop-in activities, hosted Bluey Bash and a Dino Party, and collaborated with Maroa Public Library to create a Winter Reading Challenge for students at Maroa-Forsyth Grade School.

NEW OFFERINGS

- Hoopla ebooks, audiobooks and more
- Roku Streaming Sticks with 6 different streaming service subscriptions
- Databases for elementary students through adults, courtesy of the Illinois State Library
- Two Notary Publics now on staff



**MOST
popular
EVENT**



**Bluey Bash
800+ VISITORS**

EXPANDED SUMMER READING PROGRAMS BRING BIG NUMBERS

With a renewed focus on providing a wide range of summer reading programs and learning opportunities, we also increased the number of patrons completing the program by 6%.



**192 ADULTS + 349
KIDS SIGNED UP
FOR THIS YEAR'S
SUMMER READING
PROGRAM.**



**MOST POPULAR WEEKLY
PROGRAM**

CHAIR YOGA

**1,576 ATTENDED THIS
MON + WED PROGRAM**

**CHECK OUT OUR COMPLETELY REDESIGNED WEBSITE - LAUNCHED IN NOVEMBER
WWW.FORSYTHLIBRARY.COM**