



February 4, 2026

LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING NOTICE

The Village of Forsyth Library Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting for Wednesday, February 11, 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, February 11, 2026
1:00 p.m.
Forsyth Public Library Program Room**

The regular monthly meeting of the Forsyth Public Library Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the library's Program Room.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Minutes: Minutes from January 14, 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:

- Trustee Training Manual

Librarian's Report:

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

Adjournment

Library Commission Meeting Minutes

Village of Forsyth Public Library

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Call to Order

Call to order at 12:58 p.m. by Mary Jane Linton

Roll Call

Chris Kopeika

Lisa Peck

Becky Wayne

Mary Jo Rowley

Mary Jane Linton

Absent

Laura Reimer

Ken Kirchner

Also Present

Melanie Weigel, Library Director

Forsyth Mayor Jim Peck

Minutes

Motion made by Mary Jo Rowley to accept the meeting minutes for the November 12, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Lisa Peck. Motion carried on voice vote; all members present voting yea.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

None

New Business

- Melanie took Mayor Peck and the Commission members on a tour of the building. She discussed the long and short term needs.

Librarian's Report

- FPL is focused on providing the community a reason to visit the library every day. In 2025, 41,405 people visited the library. This is an 8% increase over 2024.

- FPL patrons saved \$334,576 by using their library cards in 2025.
- Chair Yoga is the most highly attended program.
- Over 6000 cups of coffee were served in 2025.
- Over 2.5 million ebooks and audiobooks are available with a library card to access Hoopla, Libby or CloudLibrary.
- Over 1900 new physical items have been added in 2025.
- The new Evening Story Time has 90 kids and families participating.
- Over 550 patrons participated in the Summer Reading Program. Summer Reading Program sponsors are a possibility this summer.
- FPL had over 4400 adults participating in programs or events in 2025.
- 465 scavenger hunts were completed in 2025.
- FPL subscribes to 32 magazines and 8 newspapers.
- FPL notary publics notarized hundreds of documents as a free service.
- Macon Resources attended 6 different events in 2025.
- FPL hosted Maroa-Forsyth Grade School's 5th Grade Biography Day in March. Over 500 community members attended this event.
- Melanie presented at the Association of Small and Rural Libraries Conference, the Illinois Library Association Conference and the Nebraska State Library's NCompass Live program.
- The exterior remodel project of the library has been completed.
- The 2026-2030 Long Term Strategic Plan was approved by the Library Commission in 2025.
- Patron Card registration as of November 30 includes 1,319 adults and 176 juveniles. The November 2025 patron count is 2,657 which is 893 less than November 2024. Circulation for November 2025 is 3,171 which is 720 less than November 2024. Materials checked out by Non-Forsyth Patrons is 1,258. Materials checked out by Forsyth Patrons at other libraries is 198.
- Patron Card registration as of December 31 includes 1,336 adults and 170 juveniles. The December 2025 patron count is 3,138 which is 636 more than December 2024. Circulation for December 2025 is 3,456 which is 126 less than December 2024. Material checked out by Non-Forsyth Patrons is 1,365. Materials checked out by Forsyth Patrons at other libraries is 232.

Adjournment

The next library commission meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2026. Chris Kopeika moved to adjourn. Mary Jo Rowley seconded. The motion carried on voice vote; all members present voting yea.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Wayne

LIBRARY UPDATES:

- Four classes of 5th grade students from MFGS recently visited the library as part of their Living Museum project. Students took a tour of the library, checked out books on their biography subjects and took time to examine the Honoring the Legacy: Black History in Illinois display. Library staff will continue to work with students on using online resources like our databases to search for additional information as they prepare for their Museum Day in early March.
- Due to inclement weather, the Toy Swap was rescheduled for Saturday, January 31. Over 15 families chose to participate in the swap and we're excited to offer this opportunity in the future.
- We continue to partner with the Maroa Public Library to host a Winter Reading Challenge for students at MFGS and MFMS. This challenge continues into mid-February. Students will read to complete the bingo board activities and then turn in their form to earn a chance at a prize basket. We are thankful for the willingness of school staff to support this project.
- The Feed the Need Food Pantry shelf continues to be used regularly. We will hold a canned food drive in March to help support its continued use.
- The Library's annual Used Book Sale took place January 26-31. Proceeds help fund future library programs and events.
- Looking ahead to February, Community Watch returns on February 3 while the U of I will be hosting a Floriography program on February 5. Other adult activities include a "What's in My Food?" watch party and Bingo at the Library on February 10, Food for Thought Book Club on February 12 and the continuation of Chair Yoga with Annette via Zoom every Monday and Wednesday.
- FPL is hosting its annual Valentine's for Vets program, where community members can make Valentine's cards for our veterans. FPL will distribute them to the Danville VA to be shared with the veterans they serve. Other Valentine's Day activities include a "Make Your Valentine's Box" drop-in on February 5.
- Kids are invited to watch the live action Lilo and Stitch while enjoying popcorn and drinks at our Kids' Movie event on February 13.
- Upcoming Saturday drop-ins include a Create Your Own Photo Tile drop-in on February 14 and Board Games at the Library on February 21.

*Melanie Weigel,
Director*

HONORING THE LEGACY



*Feedback from a Forsyth Community
Member on the Display*

"This exhibit is superb. Some panels are deeply painful; some are genuinely inspiring; some taught me pieces of Illinois history I hadn't known. The African American class at Mt. Zion HS and its supporters did a brilliant job of this."