

Loutit District Library

407 Columbus Ave, Grand Haven MI 49417

616.850.6900

[www.loutitlibrary.org](http://www.loutitlibrary.org)

# 2023

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023  
Fiscal Year

## Report to the COMMUNITY

### Our Mission

Expanding Horizons. Enriching Minds.  
Engaging Community.

## Note from Our Executive and Assistant Director

It is our great pleasure to share Loutit District Library's annual report and to highlight our many accomplishments of the last year. By expanding programming and open hours, providing excellent service, and building strong community partnerships to increase our impact, the library is achieving great things.

Libraries are a vital part of any community, allowing us to explore, read, learn, and engage with others. Books mirror our own experiences or act as a window into the lives of others. Programs offer people a chance to experience new opportunities and our shared spaces bring people together.

Loutit District Library's exemplary staff strives to create a place where everyone feels welcome and leaves satisfied. Our dedicated Board of Trustees, Friends, and wonderful volunteers also contribute to and support the library in too many ways to mention. By partnering with other non-profits and businesses in the area, we all provide greater impact. Thanks, Team!

Enjoy learning more about your library!

*Ellen Peters* *Kate M. Boyer*



### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Burton H. Brooks, President  
Cathy Rusco, Vice President  
Mary Jane Belter, Secretary  
Caryn Lannon, Treasurer  
Nancy Collins  
Penni DeWitt  
Marc Longstreet  
Lisa Menerick

City of Grand Haven  
Grand Haven Township  
Grand Haven Area Public Schools  
Grand Haven Township  
City of Grand Haven  
Robinson Township  
Robinson Township  
City of Ferrysburg

### LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ellen Peters  
Anne Harrison  
Allison Boyer  
Katie Alphenaar  
Kate Tobin  
Chelsea Payton  
Kim Rice  
Jeanette Weiden  
Martin Lidacis  
Kerry FitzGerald

Executive Director  
Assistant Director  
Head of Youth Services  
Head of Reference & Information  
Emerging Technologies Librarian  
Community Engagement & Marketing  
Circulation Manager  
Local History & Genealogy  
Head of Building and Grounds  
Head of Cataloging Services

# Take a look at what we did this past year!



## Robinson Book Drop

Save yourself the drive!  
The Book Drop is in full service for our Robinson Township friends. Located at Robinson Township Hall.

## Over 300 Craft Program Attendance



We had amazing turnout for all our craft programs, totaling over 300 people across 22 programs. Our Quilt Hop programs had 92 participants!

## Themed Escape Rooms



We had 370 people participate in our three escape rooms. Our first event was so popular, we added extra time slots for following events to allow more people to join the fun!

*"The escape room was so fun! I think my friend and I love it at least as much as the kids."*

## 12 StoryWalks®

Our Youth Department organized Storywalks® containing children's books posted on signs along trails in various city and county parks for the community to read together as they hiked!



## 1849.75 Hours Worked By the Friends of LDL!



34 Friends of LDL volunteers worked 1682 hours staffing the Cheapstacks Store, 39 hours managing their Facebook page, 58 hours attending the Friends of LDL board meetings, and 70 hours on the big Summer Reading book sale.

## 703 Hours Worked By Volunteers!



22 Library volunteers helped with shelving, repairing, and pulling materials to get into the hands of patrons, as well as assisting the Local History and Genealogy Department.

## Stay Connected with the Loutit Lowdown

Our digital newsletter goes out twice a month to over 11,000 subscribers! Keep up to date on LDL news, programming, and more!

Subscribe on our website!



## We Have a TikTok now!

Give us a follow for all sorts of library shenanigans at

@loutitdistrictlibrary



# 552,686 Total Items Circulated

This includes books, magazines, music, DVDs, hotspots, Chromebooks, eBooks, audiobooks, and so much more!

Look forward to the addition of vinyl records and an expanded Library of Things in the future.

## New Library Cards



We distributed newly designed cards to 1,594 members of the community! Throughout September, library cardholders received discounts at local businesses.

## PHYSICAL MATERIALS



261,428  
Print Material  
Checkouts



72,909  
Non-Print Material  
Checkouts

= 334,337  
Physical Materials  
Checked Out

## ELECTRONIC CONTENT



126,088  
Electronic  
Material  
Checkouts

+



19,333  
Database  
Usage

---

145,421

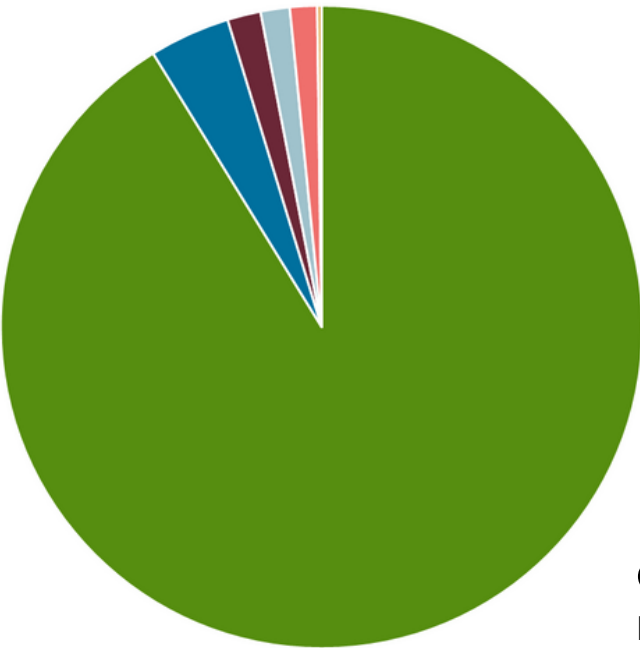
Total Electronic  
Content Use

## CARDHOLDER BY MUNICIPALITY

MUNICIPALITY	2022 - 2023	% TOTAL
Grand Haven Charter Township	2,352	48.74%
City of Grand Haven	1,490	30.87%
Robinson Township	483	10.01%
City of Ferrysburg	382	7.92%
Port Sheldon Township*	119	2.47%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,826</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Reflects portion of the township within GHAPS district

REVENUE



Property Taxes.....	\$2,654,134	90.20%
County Penal Fines.....	\$118,257	4.06%
Investment Earnings.....	\$48,853	1.68%
Donations & Misc.....	\$42,647	1.47%
State Revenues.....	\$39,884	1.37%
Fees & Charges.....	\$6,385	0.22%

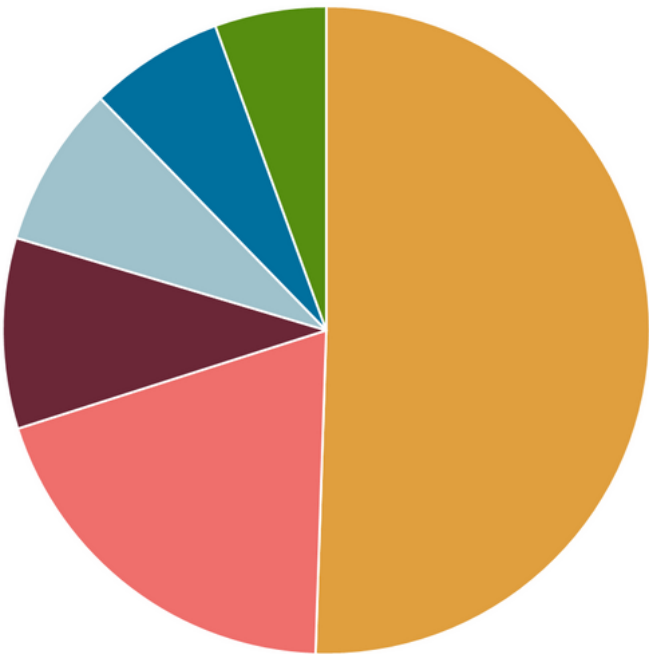
Total \$2,910,160

Other Financing Sources  
Net Change transferred from Fund Balance \$68,681

EXPENDITURES

Employee Benefits & Wages.....	\$1,505,250	50.53%
Bond Debt Payments & Interest.....	\$582,750	19.56%
Building, Utilities, & Equipment.....	\$283,380	9.51%
Books & Periodicals.....	\$241,173	8.10%
Other Expenses.....	\$156,696	6.73%
Professional Services....	\$165,958	5.57%

Total \$2,978,841







## Library Champions

Our Loutit family is growing! We welcomed seven new staff members to the library this year.

We organized 484 programs across all departments.

Last but not least, our Reference and Circulation staff assisted 56,081 patrons!

## WHAT OUR PATRONS HAD TO SAY...

*"Everyone I encountered today has been so amazing that in itself changed my life's course - You ALL are amazing. Thank you!"*



*"Dear Loutit Librarians, I love you. I appreciate you. I'm so thankful for you... Thank you thank you thank you for all those books. Stories changed me."*



*"Thank you for always putting out a supportive display for Pride Month... It's good to know that many in our community are willing to speak 'Truth to Power.' Thank you!"*



## Kindness Month & Adopt-a-Book

The library wouldn't be the same without the help from YOU! Our amazing community sponsored 90 books through our Kindness Month initiative and 83 books through our Adopt-a-Book program. We currently have over 466 books in our collection from Adopt-a-Book alone! We can't thank our community enough for all of your years of support.





## Increased Programming

356 programs were hosted, including 178 programs for kids and 141 for adults! We have been working to increase programming variation to better meet community needs.



## HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR IRENE MILLER



### Author Talk

In May, we had the honor of welcoming Irene Miller to White Pines Intermediate School to share her survival journey and discuss her book, *Into No Man's Land*. The event had 142 people of all ages in attendance.



*"In everyone's life, there will be difficult times. I believe that each of those young people – and probably you too– have more strength than you realize and I want to serve to those young people as an example; you can overcome with determination."*

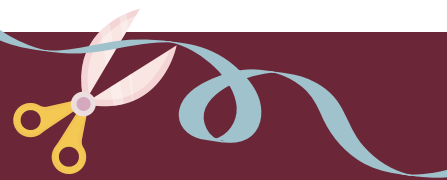
## TRIVIA NIGHTS AT ODD SIDE ALES



ODDSIDE

We partnered with Odd Side Ales to create four unique trivia nights. These events brought together 552 people to answer questions about Twilight, Harry Potter, Star Wars, and Pokémon!







# GRAND ADVENTURE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



We had 2423 people participate in our Grand Adventure Summer Reading Challenge, a 20% increase from the previous year. That was the highest in LDL history! An astounding 2,769,371 minutes of reading were recorded.





# A Special Thanks to Our Amazing Community Partners:



walk the beat™

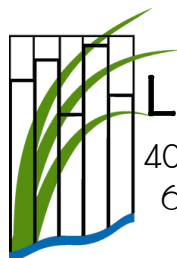


Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission



We could not have accomplished so much without your help!

THANK YOU FOR LETTING US BE  
YOUR FAVORITE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
IN GRAND HAVEN, MI



**Loutit District Library**

407 Columbus Ave, Grand Haven MI 49417  
616.850.6900      [www.loutitlibrary.org](http://www.loutitlibrary.org)