

# Loutit District Library

407 Columbus Ave, Grand Haven MI 49417

616.850.6900 [www.loutitlibrary.org](http://www.loutitlibrary.org)

# 2025

## Report to the COMMUNITY

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025  
Fiscal Year



## Our Mission

Expanding Horizons. Enriching Minds.  
Engaging Community.



## Note from Our Executive and Assistant Director

We are delighted to share Loutit District Library's annual report and to highlight your library's many achievements of the last year. Because of the community's generosity in passing the millage, we were able to expand the library's open hours, as well as Local History and Genealogy hours and programming, and create new Outreach and Homebound Mailing services. Our commitment to provide excellent service, offer exciting programs, and build and maintain strong community partnerships, continues.

As we enter the next phase, we plan to expand service both programmatically and geographically for the community. Within the next two years, the library will be installing drop-off/pickup holds lockers for two-way service in the City of Ferrysburg and the townships of Grand Haven and Robinson. We are also in the process of creating a new Makerspace and Art Studio, thanks to generous donors, expected to be open by Summer 2026. These new spaces will offer stellar new programs, ranging from technology to traditional art. So, stay tuned!

It's always important to thank those who make the library a warm, welcoming, and vibrant community hub, from the amazing staff, to our dedicated Board of Trustees and Friends of the Library, as well as our wonderful volunteers who contribute so much of their time and energy, and all of our community partners. We couldn't do this without them, or you, our cherished community.

Enjoy learning more about your library!

*Ellen Peters* *[Signature]*



### Board of Trustees - 2025-2026

Caryn Lannon, President	Grand Haven Township
Nancy Collins, Vice President	City of Grand Haven
Marc Longstreet, Treasurer	Robinson Township
Cathy Rusco, Secretary	Grand Haven Township
Burton H. Brooks	City of Grand Haven
Penni DeWitt	Robinson Township
Andrea Morano	City of Ferrysburg
Carol Sanchez	GHAPS

### Leadership Team

Ellen Peters	Executive Director
Anne Harrison	Assistant Director
Katie Alphenaar	Head of Adult Services
Allison Boyer	Head of Youth Services
Kerry FitzGerald	Head of Cataloging Services
Martin Lidacis	Head of Building and Grounds
Chelsea Payton	Community Engagement & Marketing
Kim Rice	Head of Circulation Services
Kate Tobin	Emerging Technologies Librarian
Jeanette Weiden	Head of Local History & Genealogy

### Welcome New Board Members

**Carol Sanchez**

GHAPS

**Andrea Morano**

City of Ferrysburg

Our Board of Trustees has worked hard this year, making our library such a wonderful place. They spent an incredible **1,512** minutes in discussions and passed **52** motions across **12** board meetings.



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

## Increased Outreach



We held **31** programs at assisted living facilities in the area providing literature and fun, educational programming to over **300** resident attendees.



## Lulu's Lost Library Card

Available from December to April, **284** people took on this unique library escape room challenge. The backpacks were checked out **71** times!

*"It was fun. We liked the length of time and adventure inside the library!"*



## 6 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!



## 554 Hours Worked By Volunteers!



**7** 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.

## 2,253 Hours Worked By the Friends of LDL!



**CHEAPSTACKS**  
USED BOOKSTORE

**40** Friends of LDL volunteers worked **1,995** hours staffing the Cheapstacks Store, **100** hours managing their Facebook, **58** hours attending board meetings, and **96** hours on the Summer Reading book sale!

## Stay Connected with the Loutit Lowdown

Our digital newsletter goes out twice a month to over **13,000** subscribers! Keep up to date on LDL news, programming, and more!

Subscribe on our website!



## Beyond the Book

Mini podcast started with 92.1 WGHN where you can learn about library fun facts, upcoming events, and "behind the scenes" at the LDL!





# 537,003 Total Items Circulated

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

## Physical Materials



270,455  
Print  
Material  
Checkouts



76,053  
Non-Print  
Material  
Checkouts

= 346,508  
Physical Materials  
Checked Out

## Electronic Content



160,765  
Electronic  
Material  
Checkouts

+



29,730  
Database  
Usage

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190,495

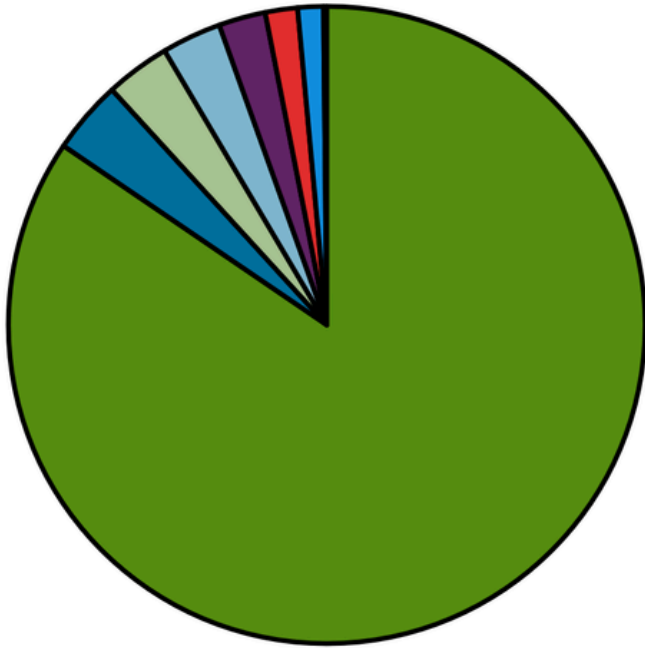
Total Electronic Content Use

## Cardholders By Municipality

MUNICIPALITY	2024 - 2025	% TOTAL
Grand Haven Charter Township	2,426	47.28%
City of Grand Haven	1,616	31.49%
Robinson Township	536	10.45%
City of Ferrysburg	419	8.17%
Port Sheldon Township*	134	2.61%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5,131</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Reflects portion of the township within Grand Haven Area Public Schools district

## Revenues



Property Taxes.....	\$2,574,700	84.51%
Donations & Grants.....	\$113,000	3.71%
County Penal Fines.....	\$100,000	3.28%
Transfers in Maintenance Fund.....	\$92,000	3.02%
Appropriated Property Sale.....	\$72,490	2.38%
Other Revenue.....	\$50,000	1.64%
State Aid.....	\$39,604	1.30%
Library Fines & Fees.....	\$5,000	0.16%

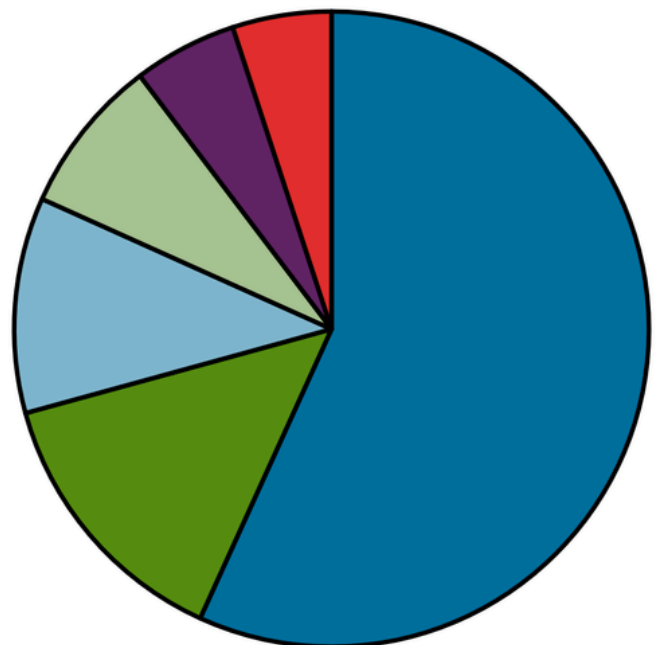
**Total \$3,046,794**

### Other Financing Sources

Net Change transferred from General Fund \$244,349

## Expenditures

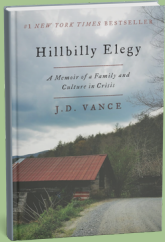
Employee Wages & Benefits.....	\$1,869,100	56.79%
Transfers Out.....	\$458,990	13.95%
Library Collections & Programs.....	\$361,403	10.98%
Building/Grounds & Equipment Expenses.....	\$262,150	7.97%
Other Expenses.....	\$173,700	5.28%
Professional/Contractual, Services, Fees.....	\$165,800	5.04%



**Total \$3,291,143**

## Most Popular Materials

Adult  
Non-Fiction



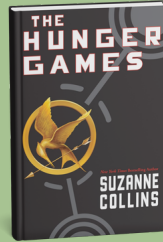
*Hillbilly Elegy*  
J.D. Vance

Adult  
Fiction



*The Women*  
Kristin Hannah

Young Adult  
Teen



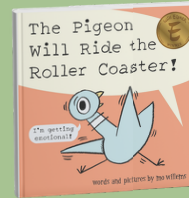
*The Hunger Games*  
Suzanne Collins

Juvenile  
Fiction



*Dog Man #7*  
Dav Pilkey

Youth  
Picture



*The Pigeon Will Ride the Roller Coaster!*  
Mo Willems

Vinyl  
Record



*Sound & Color*  
Alabama Shakes

## Library of Things

The library is more than just books! We have been expanding our Library of Things, bringing the joy of new hobbies right to your home. You can now check out vinyl record players, CD and DVD players, mobile hotspots, birding kits, Chromebooks, and even ukuleles!

1,552  
Item  
Checkouts



## The Haven Heist

The Haven Heist was our big escape room on the go! Patrons checked out a backpack of clues and locked compartments to take on the family-friendly treasure hunt throughout downtown Grand Haven. Using virtual puzzles and real-world clues, they tracked the infamous art thief, Haven Grandiego!

We had an astounding **435** people take on the challenge!





## Kindness Month

Throughout the month of February, the Loutit District Library encouraged everyone to celebrate an entire month of kindness and community connection.

Our amazing community sponsored **206** books, craft supplies, toys, and library technology through our Kindness Month initiative and contributed to our Essentials Micro-Pantry. Leftover Micro-Pantry goods were donated to St. John's Episcopal's Food Pantry.



## Adopt-a-Book

Every holiday season, we partner with The Bookman for a season of giving to help our collection grow. Generous donors sponsored **173** books through our Adopt-a-Book program. We currently have over **600** books in our collection from Adopt-a-Book alone! We can't thank our community enough for all of your years of support.



# ANNUAL SURVEY

## What Our Patrons Had To Say...

*I believe our library services are a privilege to have. I hope they can continue for our community and our country.*

*Love Loutit Library and all it offers. Thank you for creating such an inviting, helpful, and instructive environment.*

*Everyone is so helpful and friendly. I appreciate how hard everyone works to make the library a great place to be. Extra shout out to Elizabeth who just ROCKS Baby and Toddler Storytimes.*

*Thank you so much for all that you do!! Our library and it's librarians enrich our lives and the positive, forward moving trajectory of our family more than you know. We are so very grateful.*

# 589 Library Programs

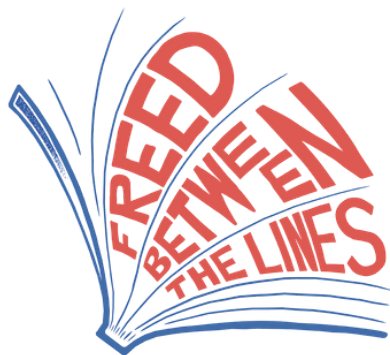


**589** diverse programs were hosted, including **273** programs for kids, **265** for adults, and **52** for all ages!

We hosted **17** passive programs, including reading challenges, self-guided tours, and Storywalks®. An estimated **4,071** people enjoyed our passive programs!



## Right to Read



The American Library Association celebrates the right to read every year with Banned Books Week (September 22–28, 2024). We extended this by celebrating all October long! Patrons learned about new perspectives and celebrated the freedom to read through our educational display, programming, and reading challenge! **103** readers logged **58,955** minutes and earned **690** activity badges!





## Quilt Hop

March is National Quilting Month– a celebration of quilts, quilters, and quilting! All month long, the Library’s upper-level Atrium featured quilts from the Lighthouse Quilt Guild. Along with **5** quilting-themed programs, participants enjoyed “hopping” to other participating libraries and collecting fun prizes!



## Show Your Library Card

In September, we partnered with the Spring Lake District Library and **33** local businesses to offer deals, discounts, and free gifts to promote the benefits of owning a library card. During this program, coinciding with National Library Card Sign-Up Month, we saw an increase of **149** new library cardholders!

Thank you to all the businesses who participated!

## Trivia Nights at Odd Side Ales



We partnered with Odd Side Ales to create **6** unique trivia nights. These events brought together **437** people to answer questions about Banned Books, Scary Movies, Sitcoms, Hunger Games, Cozy Classic Movies, and Lord of the Rings.



# Grand Adventure Summer Reading Challenge Memorial Day to July 31

2,333  
Registered

76% Reading  
Participation



3,080,338  
Minutes Logged



66% Completion      2,092 Rewards Redeemed



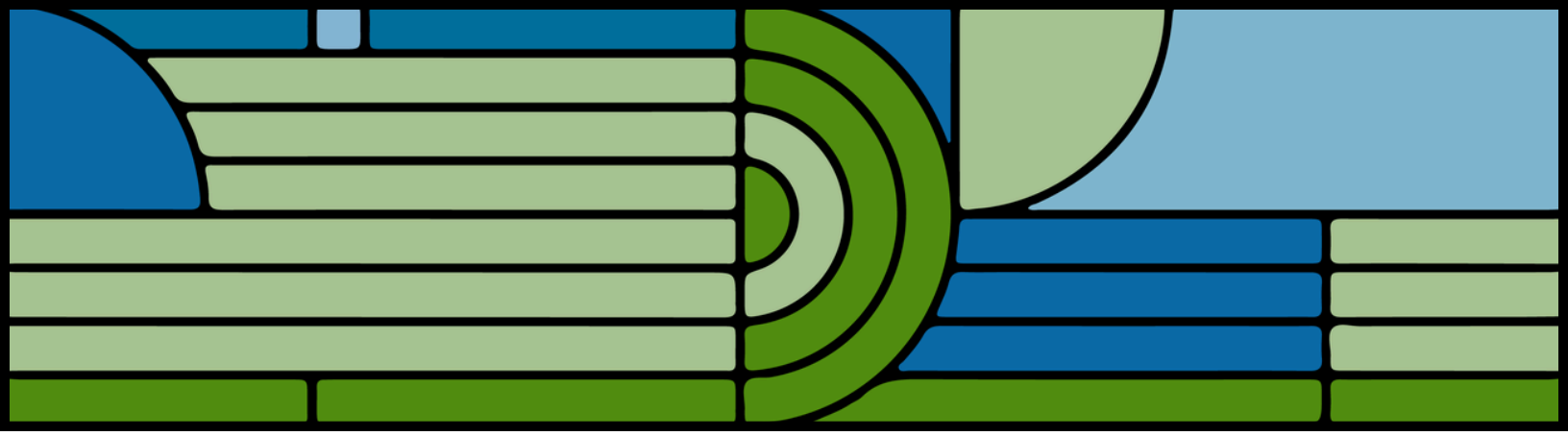
1,000+ Attendance for Kick-Off Party      36 Kids + 5 Teens from the GHAP Summer Migrant Program

*"This was so fun! Thank you to everyone who has helped make this summer's Grand Adventure possible. Our entire household has immensely enjoyed our cozy reading, shire-like peace, and all the Adventures- the memories will certainly last a lifetime!"*

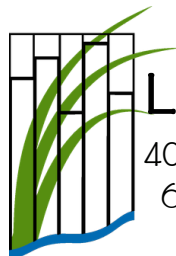
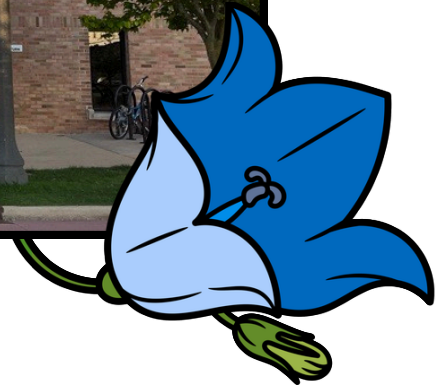
# A Special Thanks to Our Amazing Community Partners:



We could not have accomplished so much without your support!



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



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