

Annual Report 2023



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GlenLakeLibrary.net



A Legacy of Service

Our library has served the Glen Lake area since 1977, when it opened in a small, rented retail space just down the street from our current facility. Over the years, it has grown along with the community through a series of renovations and expansions, in 1983, 1997 and most recently 2020. With our new 6000 square foot facility, the GLCL is now poised to function as a vital community space for years to come. Beyond the traditional collections of books and media, the library now also offers a growing Library of Things – games, puzzles, STEM learning kits, mobile hotspots, a birding backpack, and more. In 2023, we also saw a dramatic increase in the use of our study, work and meeting spaces, with over 400 individuals and community groups reserving spaces. A robust calendar of educational and enrichment programs brought learners of all ages to the library. With the adoption of a new Strategic Plan in November, we continue to chart a path forward, expanding our collaboration with the residents of Empire, Glen Arbor and Kasson Townships. While 2023 was a banner year for the GLCL, the future is even brighter.

David Diller, library director
Janette Berkshire, assistant librarian

David Ulrich, public services
Maryellen Paull, program coordinator

By the Numbers

In 2023, the GLCL reached new heights, setting usage records for circulation and visits. All of the key measures noted below are well above average for Michigan Class 1 libraries (*serving up to 4000 people*).

Total materials borrowed



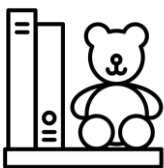
41,602

People visiting the library



20,136

Kids' materials borrowed



11,858

Program attendance



1530

Public computer & WiFi users



3613

Active patron accounts

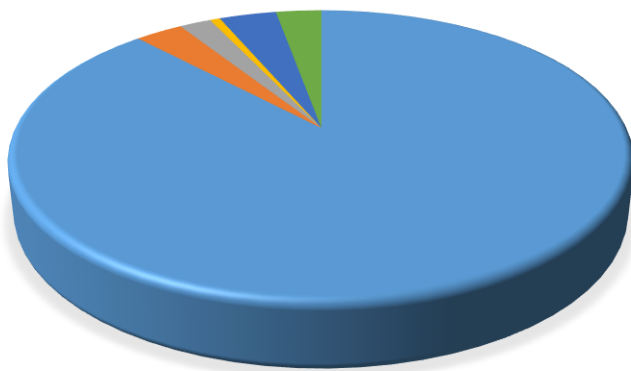


1263

Finances

The growth of the GLCL has been made possible by steady local financial support. A dedicated property tax millage provides the bulk of our operating income. In 2023, this rate was .2962 mills, less than half of the average rate for Michigan Class 1 libraries. This millage was most recently approved in 2020, and will be considered for renewal in 2025. Other sources of local income were also vital, including very generous support from the Friends of the Glen Lake Library and numerous private donations.

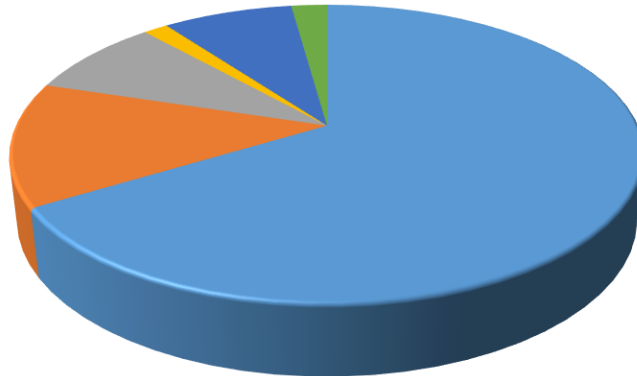
INCOME = \$300,017



- Millage - 88 %
- Friends of the Library - 3 %
- Government & grants - 2 %
- User fees - 1 %
- Donations - 4 %
- Other - 2 %

EXPENSE = \$257,082

- Personnel - 66 %
- Collections - 13 %
- Facility - 8 %
- Technology - 2 %
- Operations - 8 %
- Programs - 3 %



Board of Trustees

The library enjoys steady oversight by a committed group of community residents representing all three townships in our service district. The Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm. Their meetings are open to the public.

Empire Township

Chris Nelson (*retired*)
Roy Pentilla, Treasurer
Nan O'Connor, Secretary

Glen Arbor Township

Cynthia Taggart, President
Angela Dewitt
Doug Lake

Kasson Township

Kathy Drabik, Vice President
Brooke Hazael-Massieux
Greg Julian

Friends of the Glen Lake Library

Julie Hopple, President Linda Young

January

The Lakeshore Readers, our resident book club, began their year with a discussion of local author Jacob Wheeler's *Angel of the Garbage Dump*.

February

The Empire Area Community Center held their monthly meeting in our Program Room, planning activities and services to enhance the community.

March

Young learners had fun practicing their reading with Skye the Corgi, a friendly service dog.

April

Library staff gave a Digital Library Demo at the Kasson Township Hall, highlighting the library's various online resources.

May

Sean Gaskell shared the beautiful music of the Kora, a traditional West African stringed instrument.

June

Our Summer Reading program included a great Yoga for Kids workshop led by Hollie Anderson of Parenting Communities.

July

Michael Brennan shared *River Sacred*, a thoughtful collection of essays and photos celebrating the Crystal River.

August

We hosted our second Versiti community blood drive of the year, helping to collect valuable supplies for our local health care system.

September

Local author and educator Dr. Gordon Henry led a series of poetry workshops for aspiring writers.

October

Wayne Pope presented *Birds of Michigan: Notable Species*, sharing photographs and anecdotes from a lifetime of bird watching.

November

The GLCL Board of Trustees and staff held a productive strategic planning session, outlining institutional goals for the coming years.

December

Great Lakes Untamed, a 3-part documentary film series, featured stunning scenery and vital information about our unique regional ecosystem.