

Annual Report

2024



10115 W. Front Street
Empire, MI 49630
(231) 326-5361
GlenLakeLibrary.net



A Community of Learning

Over the past year, it's become increasingly apparent that the library represents many different things to our varied clients. Traditional services are still valued, such as robust collections, and are freely available to all. Similarly, public internet access and related technologies remain important. Internet hotspots, available for short-term loan, have become a logical extension of that service. Educational learning kits, puzzles, and games have further expanded our Library of Things. Perhaps more significantly, the library space itself has matured into a valuable commodity. We offer a full calendar of activities for learners young and old. Just as important is the daily engagement by individuals and groups, making this shared space their own for work, study, play, discussion, creating, and yes, even laughter. With unfettered access to diverse information and the free expression of ideas, this public forum is what truly defines the GLCL. As we head into another year of service, we look forward to continued growth along with our community.

David Diller, library director
Janette Berkshire, assistant librarian

David Ulrich, public services
Maryellen Paull, program coordinator

By the Numbers

In 2024, our community profile continued to expand. Demand for electronic books and other digital collections increased, making up 25% of our total circulation. Study and meeting spaces were also in high demand, with 525 room reservations over the course of the year.

Total materials borrowed



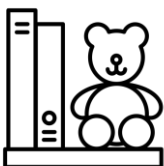
41,644

People visiting the library



20,064

Kids' materials borrowed



13,796

Program attendance



2,562

Public computer & WiFi users



4,682

Active patrons



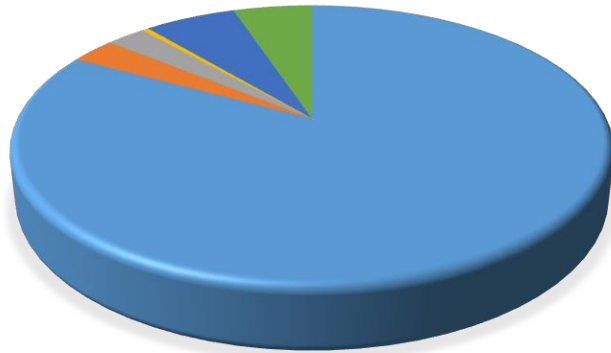
2,064

Finances

The library benefits from very stable local funding. A property tax of .2911 mills generated 88 % of our operating income. Donations increased in 2024, while the Friends of the GLCL also contributed vital support. User fees, primarily for copies and printouts, made up only 1% of total income. With this stable funding, the library was able to support a professional staff of four employees, invest over \$30,000 in new collection materials, and manage operational, maintenance and program expenses. Careful management of expenses resulted in savings for future contingencies.

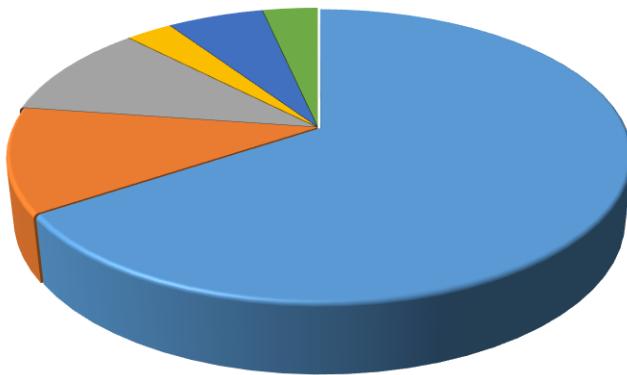
INCOME = \$344,654

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



EXPENSE = \$271,542

- Staffing - 66 %
- Collections - 12 %
- Facility - 9 %
- Technology - 3 %
- Operations - 7 %
- Programs - 3 %



Board of Trustees

The library enjoys strong oversight from an appointed Board, with members from each of the three townships in our service district. Representatives from the Friends of the GLCL offer additional expertise and perspectives. The Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm.

Empire Township

Bill Lustig
Maggie Sprattmoran
Nan O'Connor, *Secretary*

Glen Arbor Township

Cynthia Taggart, *President*
Angela Dewitt
Dan Semple, *Treasurer*

Kasson Township

Brooke Hazael-Massieux, *VP*
Kathy Hy
Greg Julian

Friends of the Glen Lake Library

Annabel Moore, *President* Linda Young

Friends of the Glen Lake Community Library

Our ongoing development is due in no small part to the efforts of our long-time partners, the Friends of the GLCL. In 2024, the Friends continued to support the library through various avenues. Their transformation of the used book sale into a year-round enterprise generated thousands of dollars and brought hundreds of visitors into the library. Their funding of our two printed newsletters, in the spring and fall, also elicited generous donations, while helping publicize programs and services. The Friends coordination of our shelving volunteers provides essential support for daily operations. At the same time, they're exploring potential new roles for volunteers, looking for ways to better utilize the many talents of area residents. Finally, the annual Holiday Children's Book Drive once again brought the gift of reading to hundreds of young learners in our area. For more information about the Friends, visit their new website: <https://glenlakelibrary.net/friends-of-the-library>.

A Library for all Seasons: highlights

January

Our resident MahJong group enjoyed spirited Monday afternoon sessions in our Program Room.

February

Bill Clark of the Bay Area Transportation Authority shared information about our regional public transit system.

March

Local filmmaker James Schaberg presented his documentary *Eye of the Wind*, showcasing his amazing aerial photography.

April

Photographer Chris Lamb wowed an overflow audience with his unique works of landscape astrophotography.

May

The public libraries of Leelanau County hosted best-selling author William Kent Krueger, with over 300 people attending.

June

The Leelanau County Housing Collaborative led an informative discussion about the need for affordable housing options.

July

Acclaimed historian David Roll discussed his new book *Ascent to Power*, an illuminating biography of President Harry Truman.

August

Peace activist David Cortright outlined non-violent strategies for combatting extremism and resolving conflict.

September

Stories & More, our weekly gatherings for preschool kids and their caregivers, kicked off for another school year.

October

Author Christine Byron explored the history of the *Green Book*, a travel guide for Black Americans during the age of segregation.

November

Artist and educator Penny Krebiehl led her monthly Nature Journaling & Sketching field trip, hitting the trails around SB Dunes.

December

A special matinee screening of *The Man Who Invented Christmas* imagined the story behind Charles Dickens' beloved holiday classic.