



LEIGHTON
TOWNSHIP
LIBRARY

LEIGHTON TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

4451 12TH ST, MOLINE, MI 49335 • 616-877-4143 • WWW.LEIGHTONLIBRARY.ORG

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2020 - MARCH 31, 2021

Education
Information
Recreation

2020-2021

IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LEIGHTON TOWNSHIP LIBRARY TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN THE COMMUNITY, BY MAKING AVAILABLE RECREATIONAL, EDUCATIONAL, INFORMATIONAL AND CULTURAL MATERIALS.

WHO WE ARE

The Leighton Township Library is located on the western edge of the township in Moline, Michigan. The library provides services to residents living within the entire Leighton Township boundaries. The library system comprises of over 61,600 items including over 26,300 print materials; 9,300 e-books; 12,300 e-audio books; 3,347 e-periodicals; 2,100 audio CDs; 200 Wii games, Switch games, board games, Launch Pads, and kits; and 6,100 DVDs which are available for check-out. In total, over 56,000 items were checked out of the library during the fiscal year 2020-2021! In addition to these items, we have over 2,300 patrons with library cards, and thousands of people entered the library to utilize copying and printing services, faxing of documents, to gain access to the internet through use of the desktop computers or the Wi-Fi signal. The library provides many excellent programs to promote early literacy for young children, the love of creating and hands-on activities, community connections, as well as a gathering place for all ages!

LTL Board of Directors

Michael Mulligan - President

Faith Miedema - Vice-Chair

Susan Cotts - Treasurer

Kaylyn VanHarn - Secretary

Steve Martin - Trustee

Renee Baareman - Trustee

Library Staff

Karen McKinnon
Director

Amy Schultz
Library Assistant

Linda Bouterse
Circulation

Justine Wiegers
Youth Services

Rhonda Burns
Circulation

Brenda Hess
Youth Services

Erin Peeple
Library Clerk

Faith Reurink
Library Page

DIRECTOR REPORT

"Give up the thought that you have control. You don't. The best you can do is adapt, anticipate, be flexible, sense the environment and respond."
-Frances Arnold

April 2020 began with the State of Michigan in a Stay at Home order due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. As the administrator, many hours were given to understanding the restrictions and operating under them. During Fiscal Year 2020-2021, the Leighton Township Library staff, Library Board, and the community faced multiple challenges and limitations. This was true for everything that we worked to accomplish and we realized that flexibility is a true talent!

The building was closed to the public from April 1 to June 24, but that did not deter us from providing programs and resources for our community with virtual Story Times, YouTube programs, and curbside pick-up. We discovered that our community still enjoys crafting, and we turned the term "Make & Take" to "Take & Make" to get craft supplies and instructions out to households. Although many processes changed, our mission stayed the same-...**"to provide service to individuals and groups in the community, by making available recreational, educational, and cultural materials."**

Summer Reading plans had to be cancelled, and we moved forward to encourage reading and activities as much as possible given the restrictions of gathering and masking. At that time, limitations on the public coming into the building were in place. We missed all our patrons! We learned that browsing of books and making selections far outweighs ordering books.

Zoom Meetings and staff working from home was standard practice throughout the year of 2020 as well as extra cleaning and limited hours. The Learn and Play Room for children was closed for the entire year, as well as in person Story Time.

There were plans in the wings for a library building expansion waiting to take shape. Moving forward seemed to go at a very slow pace; however, the existing library building received a new shingled roof by the end of June 2020. The preparations were being made for the Special Use permit for the addition to the Library Building which was granted in February of 2021. The community has grown and the library will grow and be refreshed as well! Exciting changes are ahead, as you will notice the building progress when you visit the library. Ask questions and make suggestions. Tell us your needs. We want to hear them. **We are here to serve you!**

**Karen
McKinnon**
LIBRARY DIRECTOR



QUOTES FROM OUR PATRONS

The months without the library felt lonely!

We missed checking out new books and feel so grateful to have the opportunity to regularly come and check out books!

Thank you for being open!

-- The Wells Family

We love this library! Great selection and friendly staff!

--Kristen Smith

Great library and service from employees.

--Thomas Harrison

BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

On behalf of the Library Board it is my honor to write to you for this 2021 Annual Report. The Leighton Township Library (LTL) has one of the best circulating library collections inside the cooperative. Although part of this year saw the Library operating with COVID restrictions, the staff was always working hard to ensure the community had access to library materials in some capacity from ordering books for curbside pickup to online programming. The community should be proud of their dedicated staff, and if you get a chance, thank them for all their hard work and dedication.

If you are not already subscribed to the Leighton Township Library social media pages on Facebook and Instagram, please do so. It is a great source information about upcoming events and programming and even a good source to keep track of the library expansion project.

The LTL Library Board began planning for expansion several years ago to provide expanded space to better serve the community. The project finally has gotten underway and is scheduled to be completed February/March 2022. When the project is completed, the library will have increased the space for collections and programming. This will mean more books and DVDs to borrow. The increased space will also include two study cubicles that can be used for private tutoring and testing. The Library currently does not have this capability. The expansion will also include something that staff and board are very excited about - a maker's space. A maker's space will be a room that will allow the library to offer more arts and crafts programming. This space will be larger in size than the meeting room that is currently used, which means more

members of the community can participate, and frees up the backroom for other programming possibilities.

The LTL Board fiscal plan for paying for this expansion is to pay off the loan at an accelerated rate to lessen the burden on our stakeholders. Current plan is to pay the loan off in five years. This plan is based on community growth that has seen Leighton Township become one of the fastest growing townships in the State of Michigan based on the latest US Census data.

It is my privilege to serve this community as Library Board member and as the President of the Board.

QUOTES FROM OUR PATRONS

This is a great library in a great location. The staff are always friendly, and the selection of books both new and old are large. I always enjoy coming here.

--Kendall Mead

Great staff, and wonderful selection of books.

--Heather Fitzgerald

The staff is always so helpful!!

--Rachel Richard

**Michael
Mulligan, MLIS**

LTL BOARD PRESIDENT

