



LEIGHTON  
TOWNSHIP  
LIBRARY

# LEIGHTON TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

4451 12TH ST, MOLINE, MI 49335 • 616-877-4143 • [WWW.LEIGHTONLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.LEIGHTONLIBRARY.ORG)

## ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2021 - MARCH 31, 2022

**Education  
Information  
Recreation**



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 67,500 items including over 26,800 print materials; 14,826 e-books; 13,016 e-audio books; 3,347 e-periodicals; 1,437 music CDs; 2106 audio books; 262 Wii games, Switch games, board games, Launch Pads, and kits; and 5,685 DVDs which are available for check-out. In total, over 77,630 items were checked out of the library during the fiscal year 2021-2022! 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

**Chris Stegink**  
Youth Services

**Erin Peeple**  
Library Clerk

**MaKenna VanderKam**  
Library Page



# DIRECTOR REPORT

I am here to serve you! Please let me know how I can do that!

The Fiscal Year 2021-22 seemed to be ever changing, and an immense amount of work was accomplished! The library returned to full hours of operation after operating under limited hours the prior year due to the Covid-19 pandemic! Our staff continued curbside pick-up. In-person programs began, and staff returned working at the library instead of at home. Take and Make kits were still very popular, but we were able to do crafts at the library again! All of this seemed to bring a renewed sense of returning to what we had known and loved about serving our community as a public library.

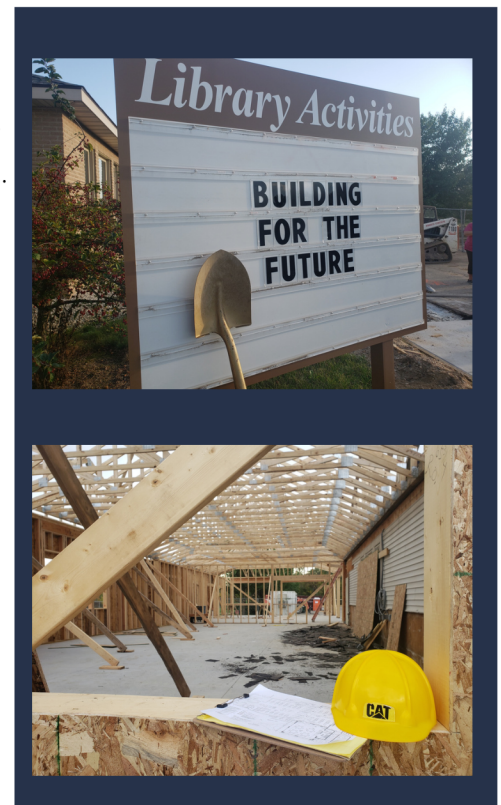
Summer Reading began with the encouragement to read and plenty of crafts to do. It was still difficult to get performers in, but the Air Zoo came in June. The numbers of participants and visits to the library was down from pre-pandemic levels, but it was a positive increase from the prior year. June saw an exciting process of contractors bidding on the building addition. The plans from The Architectural Group of Grandville had been approved and we were moving forward with completing a new lease agreement with the Township, and securing a loan from United Bank to fund around fifty percent of the 2,850 square foot addition to the south end of the library. As soon as that was completed, FCC, Inc. was ready to begin.

And so the story of the construction project began and was documented by *Construction Carol*! FCC's construction trailer was moved onsite prior to Labor Day. Construction Fencing arrived and the sidewalks were cut to begin underground work. It was exciting to see the roof trusses set on October 20! Although it was a rainy autumn, the shingled roof was completed on November 9, and the glass walls soon followed! There were rain water issues inside with wet ceiling tiles and carpet, but we knew the end goal would be worth the struggles, so we mopped up and hoped for dry weather. Due to supply chain delays, we had to wait longer than expected for our exterior windows, some of the siding, and the shelving units. Planning began how to move every single piece of furniture, all shelving units and the entire library collection while continuing to provide services to the community. It seemed an insurmountable task, but I have an amazing staff, and day by day we figured it out.

The library was closed from January 10-30, 2022. With the help of staff and community members, we cleaned, moved furniture, and prepared to reopen the building. The doors were opened to the public on January 31, 2022, and the occupancy permit was obtained on a snowy February 2.

A celebration was planned for March 22 and 26. There was much to celebrate! I am so thankful to my team on the Library Board and my staff that could plan and execute this expansion which will serve Leighton Township for many years to come! The two main goals had been accomplished: to expand the collection space and have a dedicated space for programming that has storage and is easy to clean. Two quiet study areas were a bonus. Welcome back to the new improved Leighton Township Library!

**Karen  
McKinnon**  
LIBRARY DIRECTOR



# BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

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On behalf of the Library Board, it is my honor to write to you for this 2022 Annual Report. The Leighton Township Library (LTL) has one of the best circulating library collections inside the cooperative. This year the library expansion was completed adding more room for books, DVDs and other materials. The room that the staff and board are most excited about is the Makerspace Room. Its windows bring in plenty of natural light making it a great space for a variety of programs. The Makerspace and back room offer the library more flexibility in programing and can even run two programs at the same time when needed. There are now two study rooms offering privacy for studying and tutoring. If you have not done so already, please come check out the new space and see all that is new at LTL.

If you would like to become a library benefactor and donate to help pay for some new furnishings, please talk to the staff. Donations made are honored on our donor wall in the café area with the name of the person, family or business that makes a donation.



I encourage you and your family to join our reading programs throughout the year and do not forget about the 1000 books before Kindergarten program. This is an awesome early literacy program. Please check with staff for more information.



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 programing and is one of the many sources the library uses to inform you about unexpected closures.

US Census data indicated that Leighton Township was one of the fastest growing townships in Michigan and the library is here to serve everyone in the community. I might be bit biased, but LTL has one of the best and most friendly staffs in Michigan, so come out and meet them. They will gladly assist you.



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

**Michael  
Mulligan, MLIS**  
LTL BOARD PRESIDENT

