



LEIGHTON
TOWNSHIP
LIBRARY

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

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2023 - MARCH 31, 2024

Education
Information
Recreation

2023-2024

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. As of the 2020 census, we serve a population of 7,001.

The library comprises many thousands of items including over 29,350 print materials; 59,330 e-books; 15,348 e-audio books; 5,171 e-periodicals; 1,054 music CDs; 1,878 audio books; 258 Wii games, Switch games, board games, Launch Pads, and kits; and 5,786 DVDs which are available for check-out. In total, 98,382 items were checked out of the library during the fiscal year 2023-2024! There are also thousands of e-books available on Libby through Lakeland Library Cooperative and our partnering cooperative library systems! All tax payers can be issued a library card. 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, and to gain access to the internet through use of the desktop computers or the Wi-Fi signal.

The library also 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

Faith Miedema - President

Steve Martin - Vice-Chair

Susan Cotts - Treasurer

Kaylyn VanHarn - Secretary

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

Katie Sankey
Library Clerk

Erica Fennema
Library Page

DIRECTOR REPORT

If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you!
- Gossett Daley

I like to reflect on the past year, and I also like to include a quote with my report (see above). The quote by Gossett Daley makes me imagine that he was thinking about a library as a place to learn. You can learn from books and reading. You can learn from doing, such as painting or crafts. You can learn a foreign language. You can play with your child, who is learning to function in the world. You can try something new like a musical instrument, or help in the garden and learn to cook. Instruments are found in our "Library of Things," along with other items to discover your talent, or just relax by going fishing!

As we continue to refresh and renew some furniture, and convert to LED lighting, one new thing leads to another, and the public restrooms were updated with new flooring, new paint, new countertops, and new partitions. Thank you to Tony Berens for doing the painting, DeHaan Tile and Flooring for the work on the flooring and countertops, and SA Morman for the partitions. The Township was able to install a generator that can power the library and township offices when power is interrupted. It was tested on December 18. Thank you to Windemueller Electric for working out the path to getting both sides of the building to be serviced. This can be a community resource when there is a long term outage in the area. Also, new shelving was added to the Makerspace room in the new area of the library. Thank you to Dave Ezinga for doing such great work!

And we now have a garden area! Our staff member, Justine, wrote the grant for food literacy to incorporate a seed library and a garden on library grounds. The funding request was awarded in October of 2023. This was applied through the Library of Michigan which distributes the funds through the Institute of Library Science. Justine began ordering the raised beds and the equipment to begin a garden area on the library grounds. Programming was planned to allow all ages to learn about gardening, try new foods, learn to cook, learn to plant, compost, preserve the harvest, and just visit the garden and observe!

A second grant was received in February of 2024 - The Allegan County Community Foundation TAG grant for Neurodiversity. This money will help with purchasing items that can help the library staff be more aware of extra sensitive patrons with extra needs. If it is too noisy, we have noise cancelling headphones. If it is too overwhelming, we have some sensory toys to help with calming down. Chris wrote that grant and was awarded \$3,550. We are able to increase our collection of Read Along Wonder Books for third grade readers, some of which are large print, and more launchpad learning tablets.

As we work together as a staff of individuality, our talents are used to benefit our community. Please let your ideas, needs and wants be known so we can provide resources if possible. I hope to see you soon at the library!

**Karen
McKinnon**
LIBRARY DIRECTOR



"Thank you for providing a terrific space for our student to test today in. She took both the MSTEP and SAT. Your library is not only welcoming but also is clean, quiet and very beautiful. You are an amazing asset to your community and I appreciate being able to utilize your space. Also the Seed Library is impressive as are your displays for community engagement and education opportunities when you walk in.

I really appreciate your space and service you provide your community members."

- Emily

LIBRARY BOARD

Michael Mulligan Served On Library Board For Almost 15 Years

The Library Board and Director said good bye and good luck to Michael Mulligan who was serving as Board President on his final Board Meeting August 21, 2023. Michael began by volunteering for the library years ago, and was soon seated on the Board. He served in various positions of Trustee, Vice President, and lastly as President.

Director, Karen McKinnon, wrote this tribute and presented Michael with some items with the library logo and three books dedicated to his service, which were added to the library collection in his honor:

“I can’t thank you enough for being my ally and supporter in discussing difficult issues and working to come to a resolution, or solution. The defense of the First Amendment, and any and all book challenges has been one of your strongholds, and so helpful in this position. I certainly have valued your knowledge and extensive expertise in facility maintenance, policy writing, history, graphic novels, popular culture, and all things Disney! I, along with the entire Board and staff, wish you the very best!”

Faith Miedema Becomes New Board President

Faith Miedema has been an integral part of Leighton Township Library since its move to the current location. She played a key role in obtaining millage approval, building of the current library, and the transfer and organization from the previous site. At that time, she was appointed to the Library Board and has been serving ever since - 29 years!



Faith began her service as the Library Board's first President and has held several other roles over the years, including Secretary, Trustee, and Vice Chair. All of these roles are volunteer positions, and Faith has generously dedicated a significant amount of her time to the library. She is often found at the library, continuing to support its growth and community outreach. She was also actively involved in the planning and development of our building expansions. In the fall of 2023, Faith once again became Board President after the previous president, Michael Mulligan, relocated out of state.

