
ISHPEMING CARNEGIE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

2024
ANNUAL
REPORT

www.ishpeminglibrary.info / 906-486-4381 /
jshirtz@ishpeminglibrary.info



Who's who at the library?

Library Staff

Jessica Shirtz,
Library Director

Nicole Johnson,
Librarian

Heather Lander,
Children's Librarian

Heidi Silverstone,
Library Assistant

Teagan Sturmer,
Library Clerk (left April)

Lorissa Laitinen,
Library Clerk (hired April)

Arwen Luttenton-Hamel,
Temporary Library Clerk (Aug-Nov)

Library Board

Paul Olson, President

Elyse Bertucci, Vice President

Brooke Routhier, Secretary

Darren Boldt, Trustee

Kaylee Reno, Trustee

Dizz Firby, City Council Liaison to the
Library Board





**Association of Friends of
the Ishpeming Carnegie
Public Library**
501(c)3 non-profit

Kay Tupala, President
Amy Robare, Secretary
Ann Kananen DeVowe,
Treasurer
Jodi Firby, Assistant
Treasurer

The Friends sponsored our Fall lineup of programs for adults! Two used book sales were held in July and December to great success.

New hoodies and crewneck sweatshirts were added to sales. The group also sponsored a tree for Christmas in the Park organized by the Great Ishpeming Kiwanis Club.

ishpeminglibrary.info/friends.



FROM THE FRONT DESK

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Shirtz, Library Director

2024 was marked with exceptional highs and lows. We began the year with a full-time Children's Librarian, Heather Lander, for the first time in over two decades! The difference made is clear in increases to circulation, programs offered, and attendance at those programs. 58% of the library's circulation was comprised of children's materials. We offered 32 more children's programs throughout the year and saw 6,332 children participate.

Our adults shouldn't feel left out. Librarian Nicole Johnson nearly doubled the amount of programs for the demographic and saw the attendance more than double.

The building, unfortunately, experienced significant water damage to our roof and office, resulting in unexpected, costly repairs. The roof was re-sealed, which should prevent the issue from reoccurring.



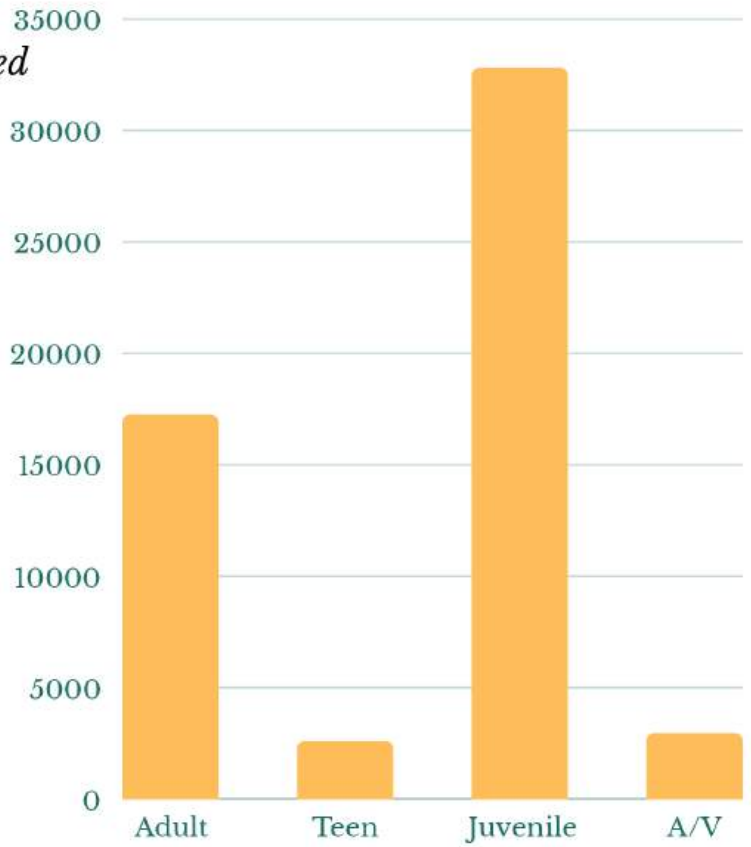
We are beginning 2025 with the design of a replacement of our steam and hot water heat boiler system with a new hot water system. The boilers, piping, and radiators have suffered numerous issues over the last decade and we look forward to a better, more efficient system. Other renovation projects (Children's Room, Teen Loft) will commence following the heating system replacement. The library remains committed to providing materials and programming on a wide range of subjects for all of the residents of our service area.

BY THE NUMBERS



CIRCULATION

The number and character of items checked out during this year.



58%

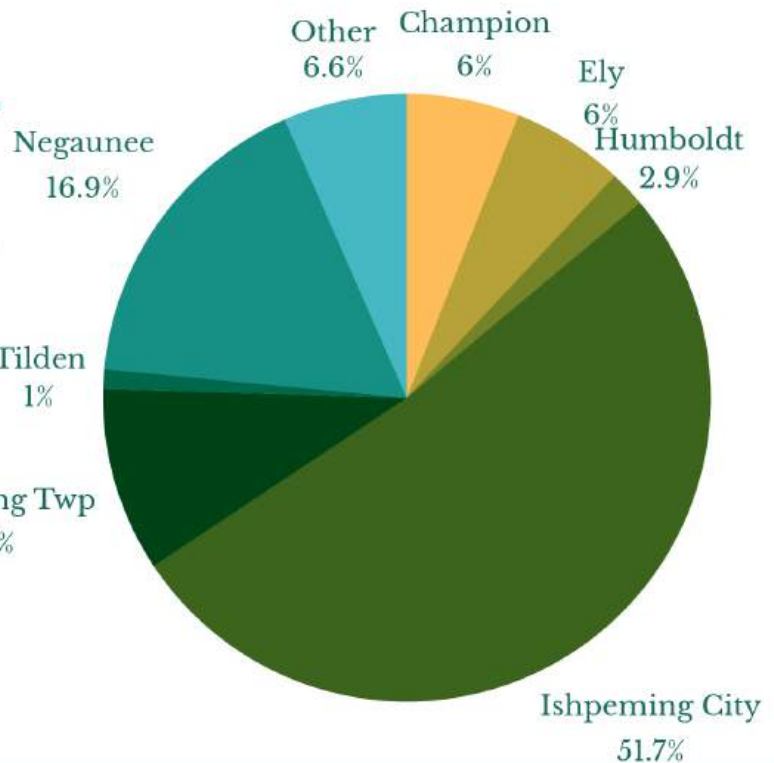
OF ITEMS CIRC'D ARE FOR KIDS

Juvenile items continue to be the most checked out at the library.

55K

TOTAL CHECKOUTS

Library users checked out 55,704 physical items this year. With an estimated individual cost of \$25, the value of all checked out items for 2024 was \$1,392,600.





Ray Leverton
Son of Ishpeming

Ray Leverton loved his community of Ishpeming. Ray was a hardworking and committed volunteer, devoting much of his time toward many local projects and service organizations, including:


- 34 years at the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum.
- 55 years as a member of the Ishpeming City band.
- Active member of Kiwanis and the Ishpeming Elks.
- Member of the Ishpeming Area Historical Society.
- Ray raised at least six hundred thousand dollars for Ishpeming's Carnegie Public Library, helping to fund remodeling projects, air conditioning, handicap-accessible ramps, the new elevator, and the Ray Leverton Community Room.

Leverton was born September 9, 1929 in Ishpeming to Albert Richard Leverton and Alice Hazel Beebe Leverton. Ray's father was a salesman for the Hostess Company, and his mother worked at Corneliuson's Bakery. His dad's nickname was "Fat Leverton", though he was just the opposite.

Ray graduated from Ishpeming High School in 1947 and later served his country with the U.S. Army during the Korean War in 1951-1952. Soon after his return to Ishpeming, Ray married "the best girl he ever met," Betty Jean Lundstrom on August 21, 1954.

Ray's working years were spent in the field of accounting. Ray worked with CCI, Anderson Dairy, Northern Dairy, Jones and Laughlin's Tracy Mine, and until his retirement, Lake Superior and Ishpeming Railroad.

Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library Director, Jesse Shirtz was quoted concerning Ray "I loved his absolute positivity all of the time. It was a joy and it was very enjoyable to work with him."




PROGRAMS

Regular, in-person programs are increasingly popular! The totals by age do not include Summer Reading programs.

140

Adult Programs

1,515 attended our programs for adults, including several book clubs, crochet club, needle felting, and Tai Chi (plus many more)!

Teen Programs

183 participated in our programs for teens, including craft programs, book clubs, and geocaching.

11

129

Children's Programs

5,084 took part in our programs for kids, including Tot Tuesday Storytime, Homeschool Hangout, afternoon movies, author visits, and book clubs.

All Ages All Year Long Programs

We had 9,080 attendees at programs throughout 2024. This shows a 44% increase in number of programs offered and a 30% increase in participation.

341



Children and caregivers read 1,000 books together before starting Kindergarten!

2024 Statistics:

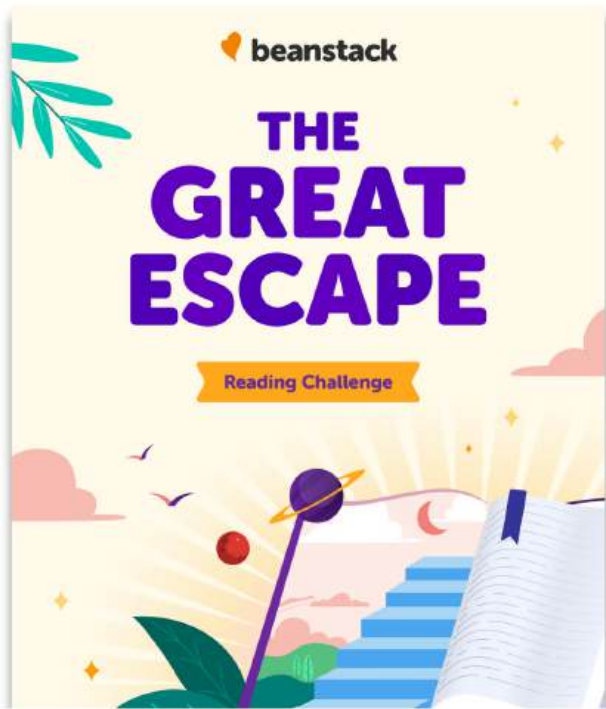
Children Registered: 93

Completed the challenge: 7

Books read by all registrants: 11,365

Sponsored by
the Friends of the Library!





The library offered monthly, seasonal, and yearly reading challenges in 2024.

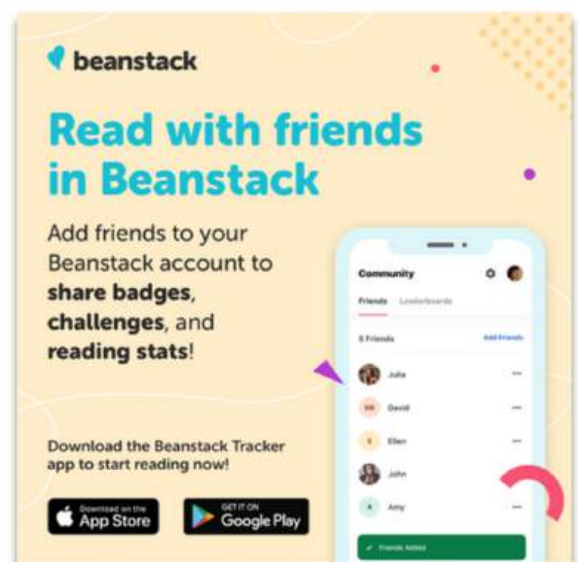
New Accounts: 185

Total Readers: 598

Challenges: 23

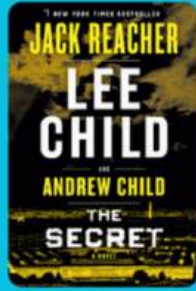
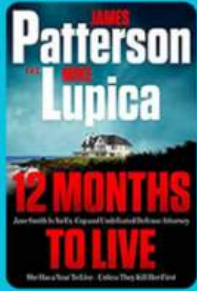
Logged Books: 17,936

Logged Minutes: 721,951



ishpeminglibrary.beanstack.org

TOP 5 ADULT BOOKS 2024



TOP 5 TEEN BOOKS 2024



ICMPL
ISHPEMING CARNEGIE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

TOP 5 KIDS BOOKS 2024



ICMPL
ISHPEMING CARNEGIE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library now has access to ten shared collections across the state of Michigan, resulting in a much expanded digital collection available for checkout!.

2633 eBooks

2,633 eBooks were checked out from the Great Lakes Digital Library site or the Libby app. 2,481 magazines circ'd.



eAudiobooks

eAudiobooks continue to be popular checkouts; some months overtaking eBook circulation.

3512

7923**Shared Collection checkouts**

7,923 digital items were checked out from the ten additional shared collections by our patrons.

Average Monthly Unique Patrons

The number of Libby users each month varied from 145 to 175. There were also 147 patrons who began using Libby or the GLDL last year!

159



ADVENTURE

BEGINS AT

YOUR LIBRARY

Summer Reading © 2014 CSLP

KIDS & TEENS

2024 SUMMER READING RECAP

466	96
PARTICIPANTS	MORE REGISTRANTS THAN 2023
34	1238
PROGRAMS	ATTENDEES



SUMMER READING SPONSORS!

ADULT

2024 SUMMER READING RECAP

100	548
PARTICIPANTS	BOOK REVIEWS
26	560
PROGRAMS	ATTENDEES



Strawberry Hill Seed Library 2024

The Strawberry Hill Seed Library at the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library opened in April 2023 with the help of Partridge Creek Farm and numerous volunteers.

During 2024, we had 47 people fill out forms to “check out” seeds. These 47 people checked out a total of 309 seed packets! This is 9 more users than 2023 and 32 more packets taken!

If you would like to donate seeds, please contact the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library at 906-486-4381 or send an email to Heidi Silverstone at hsilverstone@ishpeminglibrary.info



Statistics

Vegetables:

195 packets checked out

Most popular:

- Peas: 19 packets
- Squash: 19 packets
- Peppers: 16 packers
- Cucumbers: 16 packets
- Tomato: 15 packets
- Carrots: 13 packets
- Beans: 13 packets

Fruits:

6 packets checked out

Most Popular:

- Watermelon: 4 packets

Herbs:

41 packets checked out

Most Popular:

- Dill: 9 packets
- Cilantro: 6 packets
- Basil: 4 packets

Flowers:

67 packets checked out

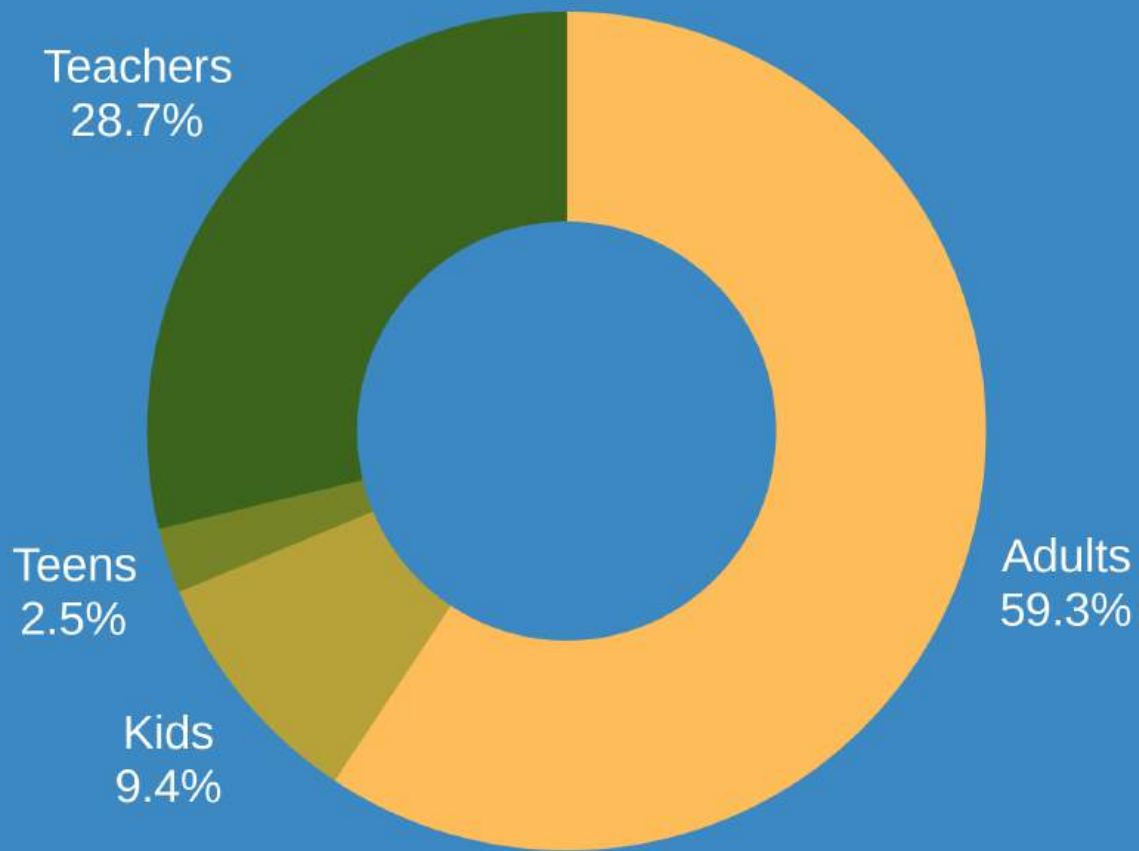
Most Popular:

- Sunflower: 4 packets
- Cosmos: 4 packets
- Marigold: 4 packets





Who uses the library?



*Percentage of items checked out on cards belonging to the listed demographics.

2024

Checkouts	28,887
Cardholders	4,299
State Aid	\$6,226
Penal Fines	\$17,416

70%

of Ishpeming City residents
have an active library card.

Ishpeming
City



2024

Checkouts	3,312
Cardholders	208
Contract Fee	\$383
State Aid	\$255
Penal Fines	\$709

83%

of Champion Township residents have an active library card.

Champion
Township



2024

Checkouts	3,344
Cardholders	347
Contract Fee	\$2,577
State Aid	\$1,939
Penal Fines	\$5,389

18%

of Ely Township residents
have an active library card.

Ely
Township



2024

Checkouts	1,076
Cardholders	62
Contract Fee	\$456
State Aid	\$334
Penal Fines	\$930

18%

of Humboldt Township residents have an active library card.

Humboldt
Township



2024

Checkouts	5,464
Cardholders	699
Contract Fee	\$4,515
State Aid	\$3,461
Penal Fines	\$9,621

20%

of Ishpeming Township residents have an active library card.

Ishpeming
Township



2024

Checkouts	585
Cardholders	188
Contract Fee	\$1,286
State Aid	\$1,066
Penal Fines	\$2,964

17%

of Tilden Township residents
have an active library card.

Tilden
Township



2024 BUDGET

