



Enriching our community through access to information and opportunities in a welcoming and inspiring environment.

Inspire. Include. Innovate. Ishpeming

Library Board Meeting

Thursday, November 20, 2025

7:00pm-8:00pm (ET)

Margaret Dundon Reading Room

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Approval of Minutes from October 16, 2025 meeting*
 4. Public Participation *(limited to 5 minutes)*
 5. Librarian's Report
 - a. Circulation
 - b. Calendar of events
 - c. Budget Report
 - d. Book Bills
 - e. Friends of the Library
 - f. Sustainable Shelves
 - g. Beanstack
 6. Committee Reports
 - a. Sustainability Committee
 7. Communications
 8. Unfinished Business
 9. New Business
 - a. Approve 2026 meeting dates*
 - b. Carnegie Corporation \$10,000 gift discussion
 - c. Letter of support for Pizza Hut Foundation Slice of Literacy Grant application
 10. Public Participation *(limited to 5 minutes)*
 11. Date of next meeting: Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 7:00 pm in the Margaret Dundon Reading Room
 - a. There is no Library Board meeting in December 2025
 12. Adjournment*
- *Requires a vote

Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library

Board Minutes October 16, 2025

Present: Paul Olson, Kaylee Reno and Brooke Routhier. Jesse Shirtz, Library Director was present. Absent, Elyse Bertucci, Darren Boldt; Public: none.

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM.

Motion by Brooke Routhier supported by Kaylee Reno to approve the September 18, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Public Participation: none.

Librarian's Report:

Jesse Shirtz, Library Director, presented information, monthly progress report, statistical report and library report for September. In September participation was slightly over the previous September and continues the year over year increase trend. The calendar of event outline for October was presented. Unique Management continues to provide significant value and returns many items to the library. Covid test distribution program will be discontinued as supplies run out due to cessation of funding. Youth and adult outreach programs and other efforts continued and are increasing library resource access. The interlibrary loan program is funded through 2026. The primary book vendor has gone out of business. The loss of the primary book vendor has delayed book orders. New vendors are being very actively pursued to provide patrons with the planned material for the year.

- Circulation: Attendance in September was just over 2,700 and exceeded the previous September. Roughly 10% of the total library material was in circulation.
- Calendar of events: outline for October was provided.
- Budget report: The budget report was presented. The September 30, 2025 budget report indicates the expenditures are on track for the year. A request was made by the City for all departments to eliminate non-critical general fund expenditure. The cleaning resources have been reduced in response to the request. The expenses from the general fund are primary salaries with books funded from the public improvement fund. The budget was presented to City Council at the October council meeting.
- Book bills: Book invoices were reviewed and signed by the library board.
- Friends of the Library: Association of Friends of the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library (FOL) has not met since the last meeting. The meeting schedule for FOL has been moved to quarterly meetings.
- Sustainable Shelves: This service was part of the primary book vendor company and is expected to no longer be available.
- Beanstack: Information on accounts and activities was provided by age group.

Presentations: None.

Committee Reports:

- The Sustainability Committee met once since the September meeting but does not have an update this month.

Communications:

- None

Unfinished Business:

- Policy manual review, revision and updating is ongoing. No update this month.
- Discussion of Ethics Statement/Policy addition to Library board by laws.
 - City staff is providing input. No update this month.
- Ray Leverton Community Room policy is in progress. The policy will be reviewed by City staff for comparison to other rental agreements. No update this month.
- Tousignant donation: The librarian met with the Tousignant for input on the types of projects the endowment is intended for. The building upkeep is viewed as a City responsibility and is not part of the endowment intent. A list of potential projects is still being developed and should be prioritized in 2026. Annual distributions no later than 2028.
- The Children's room redesign (Friends will cover up to \$15,000 for the renovation plan). No update this month.
- Capital Improvement items submitted for consideration to the City: No update this month
 1. Heating system replacement – full replacement bid to allow Children's room renovations to proceed. (One bid with two options received: Keep as steam heat but replace pipes and radiators for approximately \$200,000 or switch to a hot water heat radiator system for \$500,000.
 2. Front steps/pillar deterioration repair
 3. Children's room redesign and renovation.
 4. Computer replacement – budget annual capital replacement at 3 per year.
 5. Glass floor repairs.
 6. Tile floor repairs and carpeting replacement.
 7. Roof replacement fund allocation in preparation for full replacement in 2034 to 2039. The repairs completed in 2024 should provide 10-15 more years of service.
- New Business:

Public Participation: none.

Next meeting is November 20, 2025 7:00 PM in person at the Library.

A motion was made by Kaylee Reno and seconded by Brooke Routhier at 8:08 PM to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brooke Routhier

OCTOBER 2025



Monthly Progress Report

VISIT [HTTPS://ISHPEINGLIBRARY.INFO](https://ishpeinglibrary.info) FOR PAST ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS & UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Programming

Number of, and attendance at, programs for adults & youth

17	689
# Kids Programs	Attendance at Kids Programs
2	13
# Teen Programs	Attendance at Teen Programs
26	168
# Adult Programs	Attendance at Adult Programs
45	870
Total # Programs	Total Attendance

Highest Circulating Collections

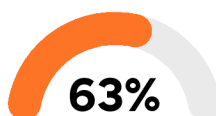
Patrons checked out this percentage of the section this month



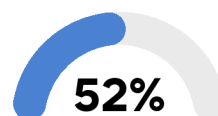
New Adult Fiction



New Vox Books



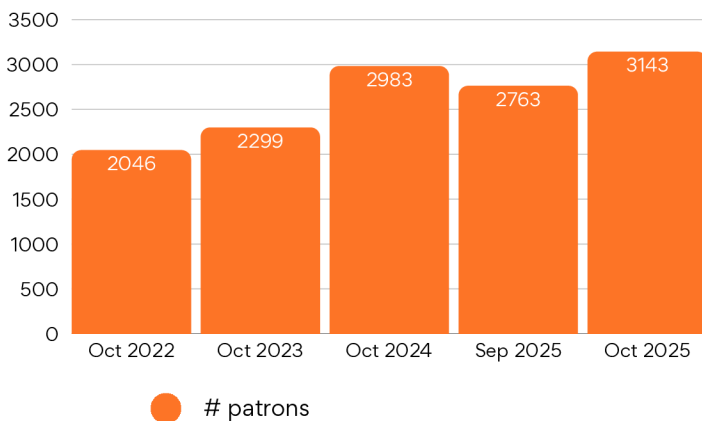
New Kids' Graphic Novels



New Easy Readers

Visits to the Library

Visits to the library compared to last month and previous years



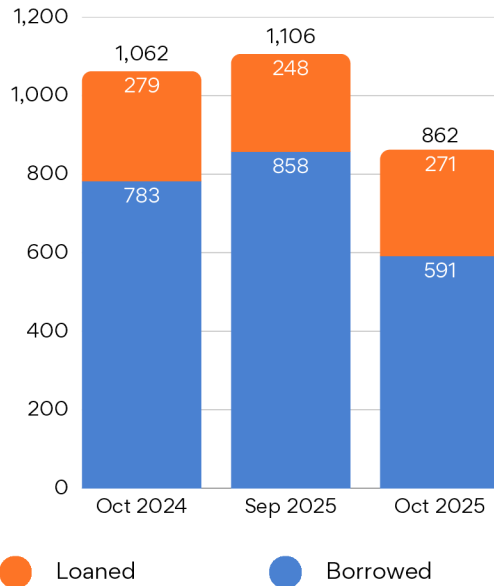
Most Popular Books

The most checked-out books for Adult Fiction & Non-Fiction, YA, and Kids



Inter-Library Loan

The number of physical items loaned to and borrowed from other libraries

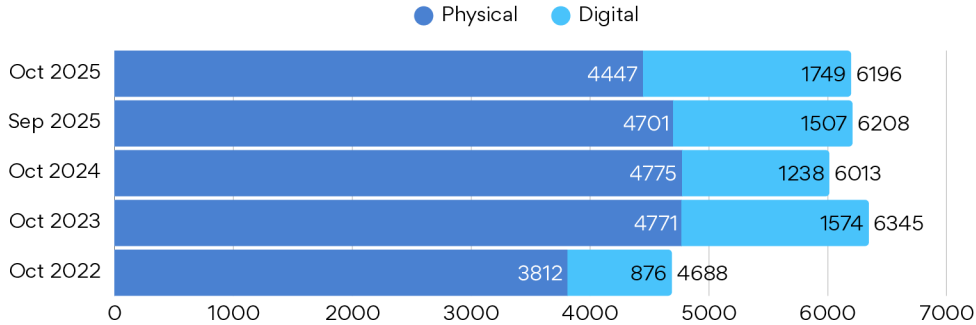


Library Cardholders

Percentage of cardholders by service area



Items Checked Out



The number of physical and digital items checked out by our patrons

Percentage of total physical collection circulated:

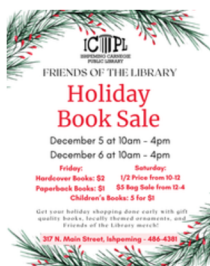
9.82%

Upcoming Programs

DECEMBER
3



DECEMBER
5&6



DECEMBER
10



DECEMBER
11



DECEMBER
19



October 2025 Statistical Report

Hi everyone,

Here are the October 2025 statistics for both circulation and programming!

October Circulation Stats

We circulated 6,196 items (4,447 physical items; 1,749 ebooks and eaudiobooks) in the month of October!

- We had 47 new people register for library cards in the month of October.
- 591 items were borrowed on interlibrary loan.
- Collections that have the highest percentage of circulation:
 - NEWFIC (new adult fiction) - 92%
 - NEWJAUDIO (Vox books) - 77%
 - NEWJGRAPH (new children's graphic novels) - 63%

October Programming Stats

45 programs were offered throughout the month of October with 870 attendees.

- 17 programs for kids with 689 attendees
 - 74 people attended the Tot Tuesday Halloween Party at the Senior Center.
 - 29 kids attended our cookie decorating with Doozers program (Doozers kindly donated all supplies!)
- 26 programs for adults with 168 attendees
 - 18 adults attended Bingo this month.
 - Our Senior Center Book Club is still going strong with 12-15 members each month.
- 2 programs for teens with 13 attendees
 - Graphic novel book club is still going strong as well!

Can't believe how quickly the year is winding down!

Nicole Johnson

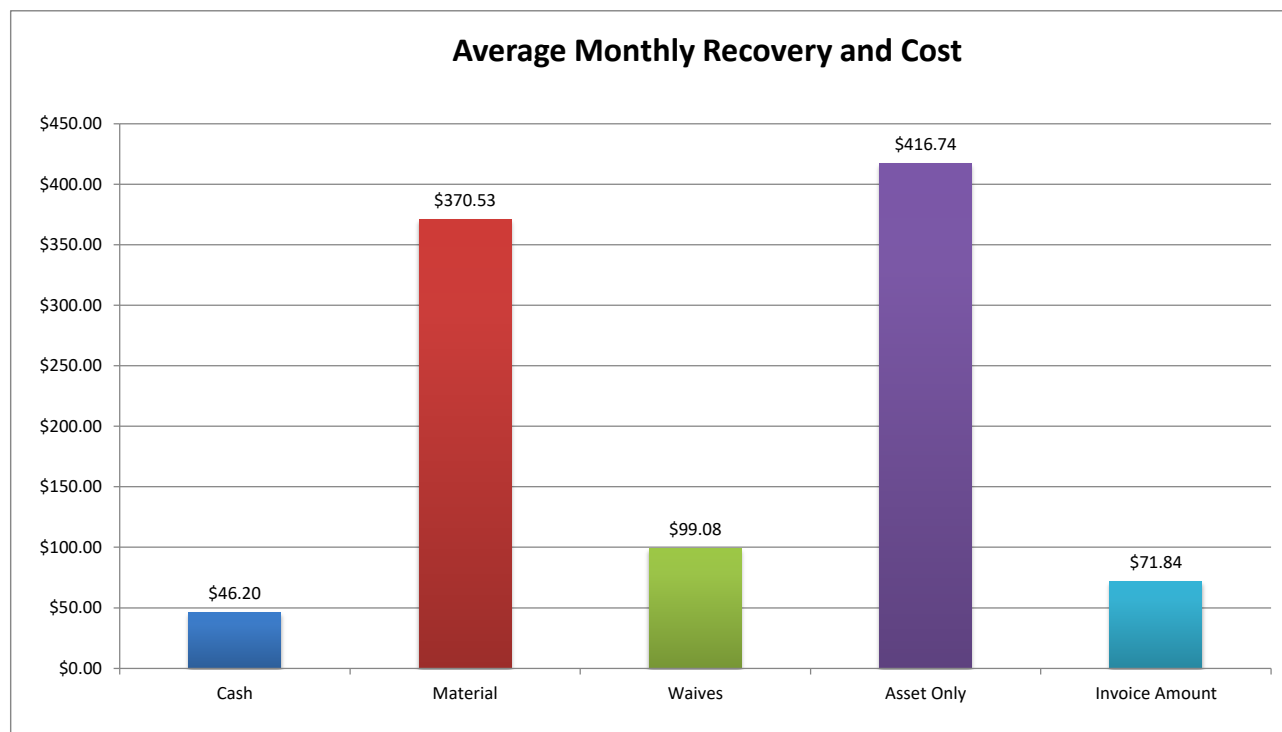
Librarian



Monthly Recovery Statistics: Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library

11/2024 Through 10/2025

Month	Cash	Material	Waives	Total	Assets Only	Invoice Amount
October-25	\$0.00	\$310.00	\$116.31	\$426.31	\$310.00	\$116.50
September-25	\$15.00	\$375.85	\$39.70	\$430.55	\$390.85	\$23.30
August-25	\$0.00	\$228.00	\$110.90	\$338.90	\$228.00	\$58.25
July-25	\$59.00	\$140.00	\$40.20	\$239.20	\$199.00	\$93.20
June-25	\$2.00	\$562.94	\$162.70	\$727.64	\$564.94	\$58.25
May-25	\$0.00	\$178.98	\$52.00	\$230.98	\$178.98	\$46.60
April-25	\$121.99	\$406.96	\$144.40	\$673.35	\$528.95	\$46.60
March-25	\$10.00	\$1,016.83	\$110.90	\$1,137.73	\$1,026.83	\$46.60
February-25	\$56.70	\$337.91	\$148.79	\$543.40	\$394.61	\$93.20
January-25	\$136.53	\$420.96	\$253.01	\$810.50	\$557.49	\$116.50
December-24	\$67.00	\$262.99	\$0.00	\$329.99	\$329.99	\$58.25
November-24	\$86.20	\$204.99	\$10.00	\$301.19	\$291.19	\$104.85
Total	\$554.42	\$4,446.41	\$1,188.91	\$6,189.74	\$5,000.83	\$862.10
Average	\$46.20	\$370.53	\$99.08	\$515.81	\$416.74	\$71.84
						Total ROI: \$7:1



Tot Tuesday Preschool Storytime

Tuesday, December 2 at 11am

Tuesday, December 9 at 11am

Tuesday, December 16 at 11am

Storytime on the 16th will feature a visit from Santa

Join us for stories, songs, and movement activities followed by an optional craft and playtime. Perfect for toddlers and preschoolers.

Refugee Rights: The Life on the Unknown

Wednesday, December 3 at 10am

Join Arwen at the Ishpeming Library as she directs a virtual discussion panel over zoom. Arwen is volunteering with the organization, Refugee Outreach Collective where she has organized a special event. She is joined by Dr. Maple, senior lecturer in Refugee Studies at the Refugee Law Initiative in London and Nadija Packauskas, a co Founder of Yoopers for Ukraine, Michigan State team leader & American Coalition for Ukraine. This discussion will highlight the importance of refugee rights in world where so much is unknown.

Italian Lessons: Casual Conversation

Wednesday, December 3 at 4pm

Wednesday, December 17 at 4pm

Marilena Corradino will be at the library to teach Italian in a casual conversation format. This class is perfect for beginners or those who want to practice speaking Italian with others.

La Dolce Vita: Two Weeks Across Italy Presentation

Wednesday, December 3 at 5:30pm

Join us for a fun and educational night hosted by our Library Clerk, Arwen, and cohosted by her mother. Arwen and her mom spent two weeks road tripping around Italy. A mother-daughter dream come true. They are excited to share what they learned and their tips and highlights of their trip.

Great Start's West End Playgroup

Thursday, December 4 at 10:30am

Thursday, December 11 at 10:30am

Thursday, December 18 at 10:30am

Join us for open-ended free play and a snack.

Book Club at the Ishpeming Senior Center

Thursday, December 4 at 11am

at the Ishpeming Senior Center

The Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library is hosting a monthly book club at the Ishpeming Senior Center (121 Greenwood St., Ishpeming)! This month's selection is *The Deal of a Lifetime* by Fredrik Backman. Copies are available for checkout at the library. Newcomers are always welcome to attend.

Graphic Novel Book Club (Grades 4-7)

Thursday, December 4 at 4pm - *Anti/Hero* by Kate

Karyus Quinn & Demetria Lunetta

Join us to discuss the book and have snacks. Copies of the book will be available to checkout at the library.

Newcomers are always welcome to attend.

Tiny Book Ornaments

Thursday, December 4 at 5pm-6:30pm

Tween and teen crafters are invited to create tiny books to fill an ornament. This project involves sticker paper, scissors, and patience. Ages 10+. Tweens and teens may provide up to 5 book covers they would like staff to print ahead of time when they register.

Registration is required; please call the library at 906-486-4381 to do so.

Friends of the Library Used Book Sale

Friday, December 5 at 10am-4pm

Saturday, December 6 at 10am-4pm

Shop our winter Friends of the Library Used Book Sale! Used gift-quality books available at great prices just in time for the holidays.

Silent Book Club at Velodrome Coffee in Ishpeming

Saturday, December 6 at Noon

Velodrome Coffee, 105 S. Main St. Ishpeming

Join us for silent book club at Velodrome Coffee in Ishpeming hosted by the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library! Bring your own book of choice to read silently for 1 hour with fellow bookworms, followed by time to socialize and talk about books!

Adult Book Club

Tuesday, December 9 at 2pm

Wednesday, December 10 at 6pm

Join us for adult book club! Copies of *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan are available for check out. Meetings are held at the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library.

Chair Yoga with Kristen Carlson

Wednesday, December 10 at 5pm

Certified yoga instructor, Kristen Carlson will be at the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library to lead a session of Chair Yoga! Accessible to both beginners and those more experienced with yoga. Event is free.

Crochet Club

Thursday, December 11 at 2pm

Gather together with fellow crafters to socialize while you work on a project of your choice. Beginning supplies and instruction will be provided if you'd like to learn how to crochet! This event is for kids, teens, and adults.

Graham Cracker Gingerbread Houses and Cookie Decorating

Thursday, December 11 at 3pm-5pm

Drop in to make Graham Cracker Gingerbread House or to decorate a cookie! Bring along a bag of candy to share (optional) to help keep the supplies stocked! Brought to you by the Marquette County Great Start Family Coalition.

Homeschool Hangout

Friday, December 12 from 10am-12pm - Rad Reactions with the Michigan Science Center*

Special guest speakers/events will begin at 10:30am*
Homeschooling families are invited to visit the library and hangout with both old and new homeschooling friends.

Adult Horror Book Club

Wednesday, December 17th at 6pm

Join us for adult horror book club! Copies of *Nestlings* by Nat Cassidy are available for check out. Meetings are held at the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library.

Genealogy Club

Thursday, December 18 at 2pm-4pm

Work on your family history research, use our resources, or ask for assistance with a brick wall. For internet-based research you may bring your own device. For adults and interested youth aged 10+.

Baby Play Day

Friday, December 19 at 10am

A special day for babies to play! Intended for littles under 2, this program will include a brief storytime with lots of cuddles, bounces and songs; then stay for a chance to play with infant-friendly toys and socialize with other babies and caregivers.

LEGO Club

Tuesday, December 23 at 1pm

Tuesday, December 30 at 1pm

Marilena Corradino will be at the library to teach Italian in a casual conversation format. This class is perfect for beginners or those who want to practice speaking Italian with others.



Get ready to celebrate all of the amazing reading you've done this year! Let's finish strong by logging your reading to earn festive badges throughout the challenge.

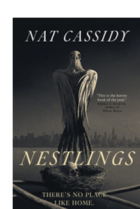
December Book Club Selections



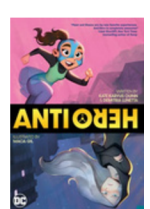
Senior Center
Book Club



Adult
Book Club



Adult Horror
Book Club



Graphic Novel
Book Club
(Grades 4-7)

Beanstack - October 2025						
Beanstack Monthly Registration & Participation Totals						
Month	New Accounts	New Readers	Completed Activities	Completed Activity Badges	Logged Books	Logged Minutes
October 2025	0	0	50	47	1,310	35,829
September 2025	13	13	26	19	1,058	30,873
August 2025	46	46	967	663	1,018	221,746
July 2025	2	2	66	40	1,261	125,549
June 2025	46	46	82	44	1,113	67,000
May 2025	2	2	6	2	583	22,717
April 2025	7	7	13	11	921	28,600
March 2025	1	1	0	0	691	27,047
February 2025	4	4	29	16	860	37,338
January 2025	6	6	51	19	1,000	67,084
December 2024	10	10	15	7	1,098	22,713
November 2024	5	5	1	1	1,028	16,831
October 2024	22	22	5	5	1,171	21,307
TOTAL:	164	164	1,311	874	13,112	724,634
1000 Books Before Kindergarten: Local Area Participation Totals (since January 2023)						
Local Area	Total Readers Enrolled (Challenge)	Total Completions		Total Earned Badges	Logged Books	Logged Minutes*
City of Ishpeming	49	7		5,721	19,770	0
Champion Township	2	0		155	526	0
Ely Township	14	1		421	3,882	0
Humboldt Township	0	0		0	0	0
Ishpeming Township	19	2		1,498	6,423	0
Tilden Township	6	1		138	1,011	0
Negaunee	20	2		969	4,359	0
Other	6	0		69	151	0
No Local Area	0	0		0	0	0
TOTAL:	116	13		8,971	36,122	0
*This challenge only counts books read, not minutes.						
2025 (year-long): Your Next Chapter						
Local Area	Total Readers Enrolled (Challenge)	Total Completions		Total Earned Badges	Logged Books*	Logged Minutes
City of Ishpeming	18	7		8,532	0	178,463
Champion Township	0	0		0	0	0
Ely Township	6	3		1,632	0	60,488
Humboldt Township	0	0		0	0	0
Ishpeming Township	3	2		371	0	31,366
Tilden Township	0	0		0	0	0

Negaunee	12	2	992	0	58,511
Other	3	1	577	0	27,450
No Local Area	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	42	15	12,104	0	356,278

*This challenge only counts minutes read, not books.

October 2025: Hallow-Read					
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Local Area	Total Readers Enrolled (Challenge)	Total Completions	Total Earned Badges	Logged Books*	Logged Minutes
City of Ishpeming	12	10	7,799	0	15,398
Champion Township	0	0	0	0	0
Ely Township	0	0	0	0	0
Humboldt Township	0	0	0	0	0
Ishpeming Township	4	2	112	0	1,223
Tilden Township	0	0	0	0	0
Negaunee	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	1	484	0	1,859
No Local Area	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	17	13	8,395	0	18,480

*This challenge only counted minutes read, not books.



Written Report for the November 20, 2025 Meeting

Jesse Shirtz, Library Director

Carnegie Corporation \$10,000 gift

We will receive a \$10,000 gift in January 2026 from [Carnegie Corporation of New York](#), the foundation established by Andrew Carnegie. The award is part of [Carnegie Libraries 250](#), a special initiative celebrating the upcoming 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and honoring the roughly 1,280 Carnegie Libraries still serving their communities across the United States.

Outreach

- Senior Center Book Club continues to meet at the Ishpeming Multi-Purpose Senior Center once per month, with the Connected At Home phone-based book club also meeting once per month for the same book.
- Silent Book Club meets once per month at Velodrome in Ishpeming for a relaxed reading and socializing hour.
- I attended the Community Open House held at the Senior Center where the city launched their new branding and hosted a strategic planning work session.

Policy Manual

- Meeting Room Policy: with the City Attorney; waiting for feedback on the need for an indemnification clause.
- Unattended Child Policy: will likely be on January's agenda
- Board of Trustee Bylaws: waiting for feedback from city on existence of an "ethics statement" or something comparable within the city already

Library Repairs

~~The city is considering (1) repairing current system for \$250,000 or (2) replacing current system for \$500,000.~~ City Council provided staff with direction on 11/19 to go out for an RFP to replace the heating system (as opposed to repairing the existing system). Funds were not included in the 2026 budget to begin the replacement.

Tousignant Endowment

I met with the Community Foundation of Marquette County to open discussions on the endowment with them. If the Library Board would like a presentation or presence at a future meeting from the Community Foundation that can be arranged.

ICPL Board Meeting Dates

The Library Board will meet every third Thursday of the month, unless noted with an asterisk (*), and excepting July and December during which the Board does not meet.

All meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Margaret Dundon Reading Room of the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library, 317 N. Main Street, Ishpeming, MI 49849.

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Thursday, April 9, 2026*

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Thursday, June 18, 2026

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Thursday, September 17, 2026

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Thursday, November 19, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library to Receive \$10,000 Gift from Carnegie Corporation of New York

Ishpeming, MI - 30 October 2025 — Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library will receive a \$10,000 gift from [Carnegie Corporation of New York](#), the foundation established by Andrew Carnegie. The award is part of [Carnegie Libraries 250](#), a special initiative celebrating the upcoming 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and honoring the roughly 1,280 Carnegie Libraries still serving their communities across the United States.

Scottish immigrant Andrew Carnegie funded the construction of 1,681 free public libraries nationwide between 1886 and 1917. Approximately 750 of them continue to use their original buildings, while others have moved to new locations. Opened in 1904, our library is one of 61 Carnegie Libraries in Michigan built through this historic program.

“Andrew Carnegie’s initial gift of a free public library allowed for every person in a community to have equal access to ‘knowledge and opportunity’. Our library continues to provide that access over a century later by ensuring we offer well-rounded collections, internet access, a wide variety of programming for all ages, and educated staff to accomplish these goals,” said Library Director Jesse Shirtz.

“Our founder, Andrew Carnegie, who championed the free public library movement of the late 19th century, described libraries as ‘cradles of democracy’ that ‘strengthen the democratic idea, the equality of the citizen, and the royalty of man,’” said [Dame Louise Richardson](#), president of Carnegie and former head of the University of Oxford. “We still believe this and are delighted to celebrate our connection to the libraries he founded.”

Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library will receive the gift in January 2026, and we may use the funds however we wish to celebrate the 250th anniversary, further our mission, and benefit our community.

Patrons are invited to share their Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library photos, stories, and community celebrations at carnegielibraries.org.

For media inquiries:

Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library

Jesse Shirtz, Library Director | jshirtz@ishpeminglibrary.info | 906-486-4381

Carnegie Corporation of New York

Angely Montilla | AEM@carnegie.org | 347-360-7803

Carnegie's news release:

<https://www.carnegie.org/news/articles/hundreds-of-carnegie-libraries-to-receive-10000-gifts-in-celebration-of-united-states-250th-anniversary/>

Attached: Photo of Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library under construction in “winter 1904”. The library opened to the public in March of the same year. Photographer unknown; in the library’s collection.

###

Hello,

I recently stumbled across the "Slice of Literacy" Community Grant Program from the Pizza Hut Foundation (deadline of December 1st) and have been working on an application for our 2026 Summer Reading Program. This grant requires a letter of support from a "partner, stakeholder, or beneficiary". I'm wondering if you would be willing to write a letter on behalf of the Library Board in support of the Summer Reading Program and our grant application.

Here is a link to the grant (it's very vague): <https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/program/SliceofLiteracy26>

Here is some information about our grant application:

Project Overview: Our annual Summer Reading Program (SRP) has over 500 participants under the age of 17. By providing fun and engaging events that encourage reading and visiting the library, we can hope to facilitate the joy of books and lifelong learning and uphold the mission of our library. Families, children, and teens log their reading throughout the summer, while working towards a reading goal. The program is incentivized which helps motivate readers and prevent the "summer slide" that can occur while school is out of session.

In the past, we have seen an increase in registrants for the program, but completion rates remain around 30%. Our goal is to encourage more active participation, and therefore program/goal completions, by offering small prizes throughout the program for meeting smaller reading milestones along the way.

The theme for SRP 2025 is "Unearth a Story" and features a Paleontology/Archaeology theme. Our project would give out prizes of rocks and crystals at check-ins throughout the summer for children and teens and small plush dinosaurs for children under age 5. We anticipate that the frequent check-ins will keep families and children/teens excited about the program and will result in a higher completion rate.

Project Target Population: Our target population for this program are children; specifically, new readers, reluctant readers, and below grade level readers.

Budget: \$1,200.00 in Program Supplies

These supplies include polished stones, natural crystals, sliced agates, pendants, and plastic gems. In addition, the supplies would also be used for small burlap bags for storing rocks, adjustable necklaces for holding the stones, small dinosaur stuffed animals for the younger children, and National Geographic Rock Collection Kits for grand prizes. Finally, 2 wooden chests would be purchased for storing the rocks/gems (one to be located at each staffed desk at the library for prize pickup).

Long-Term Impact: The ultimate goal of our Summer Reading Program is to encourage interest and to find joy in reading which will help to increase literacy skills and reading success. We also hope to create a welcoming, educational environment that encourages repeat visits to public libraries.

Please let me know if you'd like any additional information.

Thank you,

Heather Lander, MLIS

Children's Librarian

Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library