



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

Inspire. Include. Innovate. Ishpeming

Library Board Meeting *Amended Agenda*

Thursday, October 22, 2026

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

Ray Leverton Community Room

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2026 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. Library Millage (November 2026)
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Sustainability Committee Report
7. Communications
8. Unfinished Business
9. New Business
10. Public Participation (*limited to 5 minutes*)
11. Date of next meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2026 at 7:00 pm in the Ray Leverton Community Room
12. Adjournment*
*Requires a vote

Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library

Board Minutes September 17, 2026

Present: Elyse Bertucci, Darren Boldt, Paul Olson, and Kaylee Reno with Brooke Routhier attending via Zoom as a non-quorum attendee. Jesse Shirtz, Library Director was present.

Absent: none. Public: none.

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM.

Motion by Elyse Bertucci supported by Darren Boldt to approve the August 20, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed with Brooke Routhier not voting.

Public Participation: None.

Presentations: Zosia Eppensteiner, Community Foundation of Marquette County regarding the Tousignant Endowment. Zosia explained the Community Foundation is an entity to manage donation funds for agencies in Marquette County. Last year they provided roughly \$2 million in grants and scholarships for the Marquette area.

The Tousignants wanted to support the Ishpeming Carnegie library with the endowment they have funded. The endowment is expected to provide funds starting in 2027 which is a year earlier than the original forecast. The value of the 2027 funding will be shared with the library at the end of this year and 2028 funding should be similar. The funds are intended to support programing, development, enhancement and enrichment of the Ishpeming Carnegie Library. There is some specific language included as to what “programming” means. It does also include support of significant capital projects. There was discussion on some feasible considerations to help guide us in selecting requests. For example, the endowment is not intended to purchase new chairs, but ball chairs for children that help them engage in programming would likely be acceptable.

The endowment can accept funds from other donors and would be covered under the Tousignant guidelines. Other funding sources could be placed in a separate endowment that would have sepearge guidelines.

Librarian’s Report:

Jesse Shirtz, Library Director, presented information, monthly progress report, statistical report and library report for August. There were 27 programs with 568 attendees. School resuming has increased the number of book requests especially for home school families. Unique Management continues to provide significant value and returns many items to the library. Youth and adult outreach programs and other

efforts continued and are increasing library resource access. Bean stack information was provided and showed a continuing increasing reading trend.

- Circulation: Attendance in August was in line with previous months. Roughly 11% of the total library material was in circulation. A total of 51 new library cards were issued. The teen program attendance has grown and more programming is being requested by the group.
- Calendar of events: The draft calendar of events for October was provided.
- Budget report: Budget information was provided from the City and is in line for the year.
- 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) met on September 10 and held a successful book sale September 11 and 12. The next meeting will be in October. The FOL is providing a one time emergency donation of \$3,500 for book purchases and \$450 for programming as the City has placed a spending freeze for each for the remainder of the year. Other entities provided additional donations and the library will be able to purchase all books slated for this year.
- Millage update – the Ishpeming library millage is the only millage on the November ballot.

Committee Reports:

- Future committee was suggested for the Tousignant Endowment that could include library staff, board, FOL, and library patrons.
- The Sustainability committee met to discuss paths after the millage election.

Communications: None

Unfinished Business:

- Discussed Library Board Secretary's new work schedule and conflict with some in person board meetings. Current guidance suggests that Zoom attendance would be acceptable but may not allow voting or consideration towards the board quorum. No update this month.
- Policy manual review, revision and updating is ongoing. Waiting on city attorney input on several.
- Tousignant donation: See additional information under Presentation. A list of potential projects (enhance and enrich: table lights, e readers, more computers for patrons, picture rail, chairs with chargers, reading pod) (new potential items include ball chairs for children, programming space enhancement such as microphone headsets and mounted speakers and better camera system for the Ray Leverton room) is still being developed and should be prioritized in 2026. Annual distributions are now expected in 2027.

- The Children's room redesign (FOL 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. Front steps/pillar deterioration repair
 2. Children's room redesign and renovation. The heating work will allow this to proceed.
 3. Computer replacement – budget annual capital replacement at 3 per year.
 4. Glass floor repairs.
 5. Tile floor repairs and carpeting replacement.
 6. 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:

- Proposed budget for 2027 was presented. The proposed budget was based on the millage passing. Discussed how to manage the capital portion of the budget for larger capital projects given the funds would need to be larger than the annual amount, can they roll over, Motion was made by Elyse Bertucci and supported by Darren Boldt to approve the proposed budget as amended to include capital repairs and operating to full millage amount. Motion passed with Brooke Routhier not voting.

Public Participation: none.

Next meeting is October 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM in person at the Library.

A motion was made by Darren Boldt and seconded by Kaylee Reno at 8:49 PM to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed with Brooke Routhier not voting.

Respectfully submitted by Brooke Routhier and Elyse Bertucci.

SEPTEMBER 2026



Monthly Progress Report

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

Programming

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

9	526
# Kids Programs	Attendance at Kids Programs
2	15
# Teen Programs	Attendance at Teen Programs
18	86
# Adult Programs	Attendance at Adult Programs
29	627
Total # Programs	Total Attendance

Highest Circulating Collections

Patrons checked out this percentage of the section this month



80%

New Vox Books



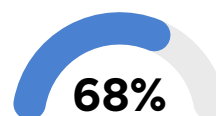
80%

New Adult Fiction



75%

New Picture Books

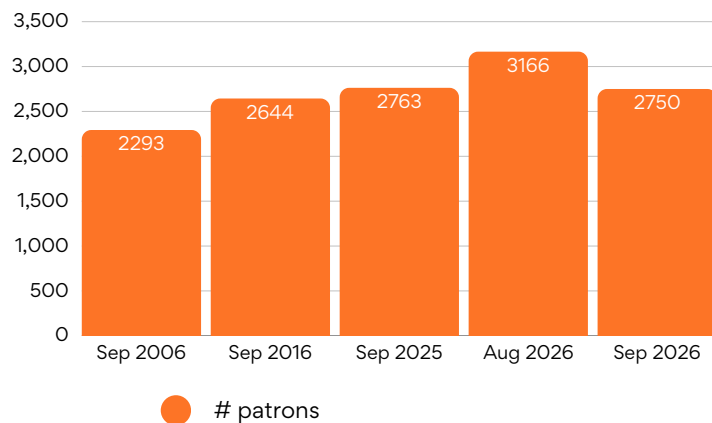


68%

New Kids Graphic Novels

Visits to the Library

Visits to the library compared to last month and previous years



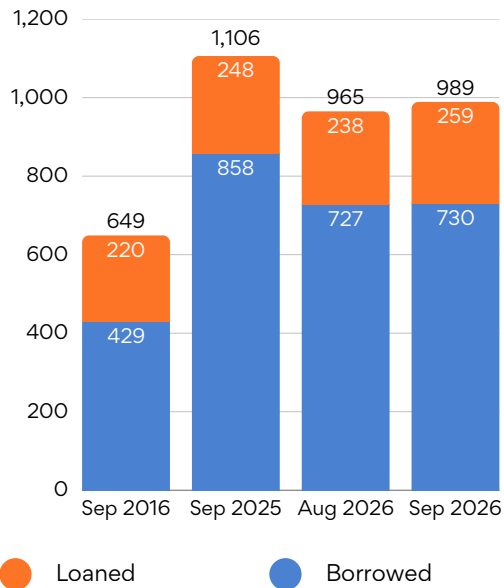
Most Popular Books

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



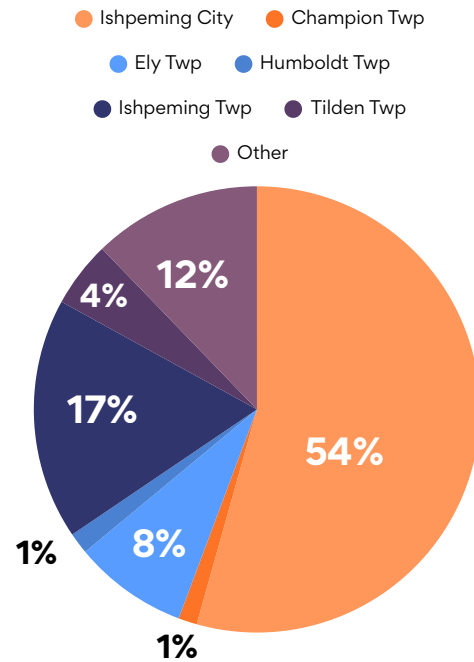
Inter-Library Loan

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

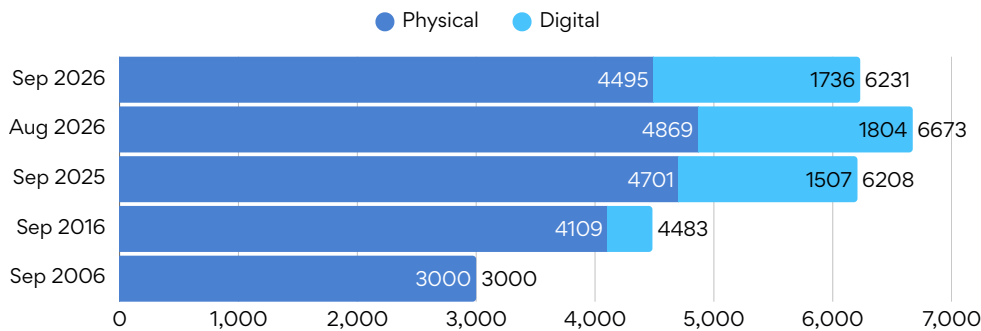


Library Cardholders

Percentage of cardholders by service area



Items Checked Out



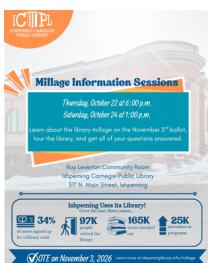
The number of physical and digital items checked out by our patrons

Percentage of total physical collection circulated:

9.71%

Upcoming Programs

OCTOBER
22 & 25



OCTOBER
30

POOH'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

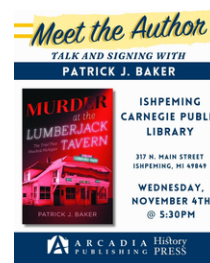
TO CELEBRATE WINNIE THE POOH ANNIVERSARY OF PUBLICATION, WE SHOWING THE MOVIE "THE MANY WINNIE THE POOH", FEATURING P ACTIVITIES AND SNACKS!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 AT 1PM

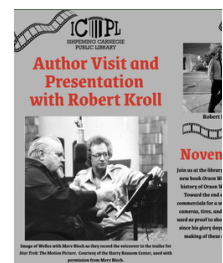
NOVEMBER
3

ELECTION DAY

NOVEMBER
4



NOVEMBER
11



September 2026 Statistical Report

September Circulation Stats

We circulated 6,231 items (4,495 physical items; 1,736 ebooks and eaudiobooks) in the month of September! (23 more items than September 2025).

- We had 59 new people register for library cards in the month of September!
- 730 items were borrowed on interlibrary loan (the most of any month so far this year).
- Collections that have the highest percentage of circulation:
 - NEWJAUDIO (new Vox books) - 80%
 - NEWFIC (new adult fiction) - 80%
 - NEWJEASY (new picture books) - 75%
 - NEWJGRAPH (new graphic novels) - 68%

September Programming Stats

29 programs were offered throughout the month of September with 627 attendees.

- 9 programs for kids with 526 attendees
 - Tot Tuesday is back! 71 people attended Tot Tuesday Storytime on September 22nd.
- 18 programs for adults with 86 attendees
 - 13 adults attended Bingo on September 9th
- 2 programs for teens with 15 attendees (Graphic Novel Book Club)

Nicole Johnson

Librarian

Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library

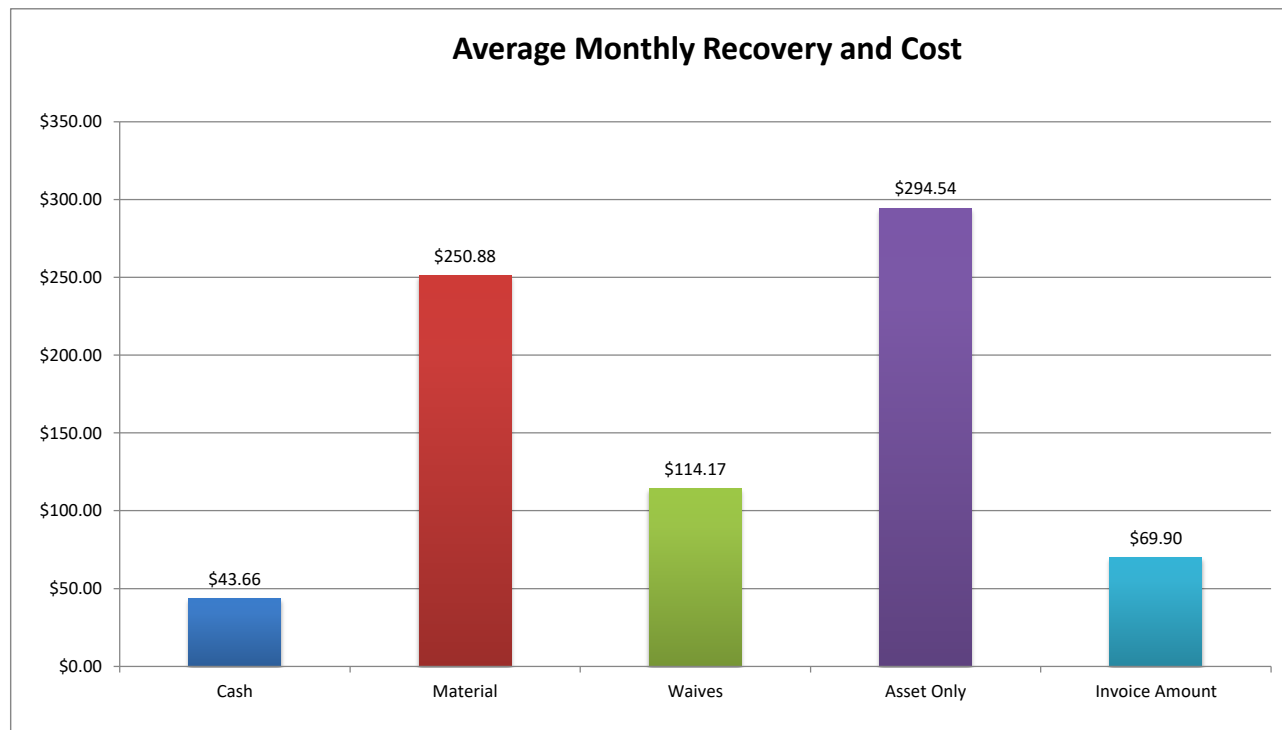
906-486-4381



Monthly Recovery Statistics: Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library

10/2025 Through 9/2026

Month	Cash	Material	Waives	Total	Assets Only	Invoice Amount
September-26	\$129.10	\$58.00	\$64.50	\$251.60	\$187.10	\$58.25
August-26	\$0.00	\$124.00	\$0.00	\$124.00	\$124.00	\$69.90
July-26	\$73.90	\$160.00	\$10.30	\$244.20	\$233.90	\$93.20
June-26	\$75.80	\$189.00	\$79.99	\$344.79	\$264.80	\$34.95
May-26	\$58.49	\$42.00	\$0.00	\$100.49	\$100.49	\$81.55
April-26	\$7.40	\$689.77	\$340.83	\$1,038.00	\$697.17	\$81.55
March-26	\$5.00	\$187.95	\$60.00	\$252.95	\$192.95	\$11.65
February-26	\$145.20	\$405.99	\$519.76	\$1,070.95	\$551.19	\$81.55
January-26	\$0.00	\$297.89	\$23.30	\$321.19	\$297.89	\$69.90
December-25	\$19.00	\$210.94	\$54.60	\$284.54	\$229.94	\$81.55
November-25	\$10.00	\$334.99	\$100.40	\$445.39	\$344.99	\$58.25
October-25	\$0.00	\$310.00	\$116.31	\$426.31	\$310.00	\$116.50
Total	\$523.89	\$3,010.53	\$1,369.99	\$4,904.41	\$3,534.42	\$838.80
Average	\$43.66	\$250.88	\$114.17	\$408.70	\$294.54	\$69.90
						Total ROI: \$6:1



Beanstack - October 2026						
	Beanstack Monthly Registration & Participation Totals					
Month	New Accounts	New Readers	Completed Activities	Completed Activity Badges	Logged Books	Logged Minutes
September 2026	3	3	30	22	873	30,886
August 2026	38	38	1,138	1,312	1,402	60,104
July 2026	5	5	49	41	1,716	251,100
June 2026	32	32	77	74	1,909	71,950
May 2026	3	3	26	12	1,643	28,833
April 2026	1	1	22	16	1,222	32,158
March 2026	1	1	13	10	1,503	34,570
February 2026	6	6	45	39	1,545	52,636
January 2026	16	16	36	31	1,527	60,677
December 2025	4	4	2	1	1,127	31,606
November 2025	3	3	42	28	1,095	32,268
October 2025	0	0	50	47	1,325	36,956
September 2025	13	13	26	19	1,066	31,847
TOTAL:	125	125	1,566	1,652	17,953	755,591
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	53	7		6,634	24,827	0
Champion Township	3	0		212	578	0
Ely Township	14	1		597	4,776	0
Humboldt Township	0	0		0	0	0
Ishpeming Township	20	4		1,796	8,604	0
Tilden Township	8	1		182	1,077	0
Negaunee	21	3		1,326	5,423	0
Other	11	0		159	691	0
No Local Area						
TOTAL:	130	16		10,906	45,976	0
*This challenge only counts books read, not minutes.						
2026 (year-long): Read It Your Way						
Local Area	Total Readers Enrolled (Challenge)	Total Completions		Total Earned Badges	Logged Books	Logged Minutes
City of Ishpeming	47	0		11,238	8,057	193,621
Champion Township	1	0		0	0	0
Ely Township	8	0		1,359	133	63,619
Humboldt Township	1	0		0	11	0
Ishpeming Township	11	0		774	122	29,609
Tilden Township	1	0		0	28	0
Negaunee	10	0		999	650	34,973
Other	5	0		843	100	15,013
No Local Area						
TOTAL:	84	0		15,213	9,101	336,835
Back to School (September 2026)						
Local Area	Total Readers Enrolled (Challenge)	Total Completions		Total Earned Badges	Logged Books*	Logged Minutes
City of Ishpeming	12	8		9,955	0	15,188
Champion Township	0	0		0	0	0
Ely Township	2	2		866	0	8,110
Humboldt Township	0	0		0	0	0
Ishpeming Township	2	0		136	0	0
Tilden Township	0	0		0	0	0
Negaunee	2	2		274	0	1,923
Other	1	1		726	0	1,584
No Local Area						
TOTAL:	19	13		11,957	0	26,805
*This challenge only counted minutes read, not books.						

Book Club at the Ishpeming Senior Center

Thursday, October 1 at 1pm

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 "A Deadly Endeavor" by Jenny Adams. Copies are available for checkout at the library. Newcomers are always welcome to attend.

Drop-In & Draw Club

Thursday, October 1 at 3pm

Join us for a time to gather together and draw with others. This is a casual group where you will bring your own supplies and project to work on. During certain club days, there will be special instructors--stay tuned for more info on that. For teens and adults.

Located in the Ray Leverton Community Room

Baby Play Day

Friday, October 2 at 10am

Friday, October 16 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.

These Walls Can Talk:

Researching Your House History

Saturday, October 3 at 1pm

Emily Cummings from the Dickinson County Library will be giving a presentation on how to research the history of your house with key documents to look for!

Tot Tuesday Preschool Storytime

Tuesday, October 6 at 11am

Tuesday, October 13 at 11am

Tuesday, October 20 at 11am - featuring

Author Kelsey Gross

Tuesday, October 27 at 11am - Halloween Storytime at the Ishpeming Senior Center

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



Wolf-Moose Study on Isle Royale:

A Presentation with Jeffrey Holden

Wednesday, October 7 at 5:30pm

Jeffrey Holden has spent a quarter century leading groups on Isle Royale in support of the world's longest running predator-prey study. This presentation will include a discussion of Isle Royale, the history of the Wolf-Moose study and a look at moose and wolf bones.

Jeffrey Holden is the author of the Michigan Notable Book, *Dead Moose on Isle Royale: Off Trail with the Citizen Scientists of the Wolf-Moose Project*.

Graphic Novel Book Club (Grades 4-7)

Thursday, October 8 at 4pm - read an *I Survived* graphic novel of your choice

Thursday, October 22 at 4pm - discussing *Cabin Head and Tree Head* by Scott Campbell

Join us for discussion and snacks. Copies of the book will be available to checkout at the library ahead of time.

Newcomers are always welcome to attend.

Chair Yoga with Kristen Carlson

Thursday, October 8 at 5:30pm

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.

Friends of the Library Meeting

Thursday, October 8 at 7pm

Join the Friends of the Library, a group dedicated to raising funds to support library programs!

Homeschool Hangout

Friday, October 9 10am-12pm - Partridge Creek Farms

Friday, October 23 10am-12pm - Beginning Genealogy

Special guest presentations begin at 10:30am

Homeschooling families are invited to visit the library and hangout with both old and new homeschooling friends.

Paranormal Poetry and Fiction with U.P.

Poet Laureate Emerita Beverly Matherne

Wednesday, October 14 at 5:30pm

Beverly Matherne will be at the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library to read a selection of paranormal poetry and fiction!

OCTOBER 2026 EVENTS

Check out our lineup of programs at the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library!

All events are free and open to the public!

TUES - 9AM - 5PM
WEDS - 9AM - 7PM
THURS - 9AM - 7PM
FRI - 9AM - 5PM
SAT - 10AM - 4PM
SUN & MON - CLOSED

Crochet Club

Thursday, October 15 at 2pm

Thursday, October 29 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.

LEGO CLUB

Thursday, October 15 at 4:30pm

Build with friends and attempt to complete Lego challenges.

Library Board Meeting

Thursday, October 15 at 7:00pm

The Library Board meets the third Thursday of every month (except December) at 7:00PM. These meetings are open to the public and have a portion for public comment. <https://ishpeminglibrary.info/library-board/>

Adult Book Club

Tuesday, October 20 at 2pm

Wednesday, October 21 at 6pm

Join us for adult book club! Copies of the *Nosy Neighbors* by Freya Sampson are available for check out. Meetings are held at the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library.

Italian Lessons: Casual Conversation

Wednesday, October 21 at 4pm

Wednesday, October 28 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.

Tot Tuesday: Halloween Storytime

Tuesday, October 27 at 11am
at the Ishpeming Senior Center

Join us for a special Halloween storytime which takes place off-site at the Ishpeming Senior Center! Storytime is followed by a costume parade and trick or treating through the center.



Adult Horror Book Club

Wednesday, October 28 at 6pm

Join us for adult horror book club! Copies of *The Exorcist* by William Peter Blatty are available for check out. Meetings are held at the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library.

Winnie the Pooh Celebration

Friday, October 30th at 1pm

In celebration of the Winnie the Pooh's 100th Anniversary, we will be showing the movie "The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh". Featuring Pooh-themed activities and snacks!

October Reading Challenge:

Hallow-Read 2026

Spooky season is upon us! Halloween is a time brimming with excitement, magic, and mischief! Get ready to satisfy your sweet tooth, indulge in some festive fun, and curl up with a hair-raising tale.

Log your reading on: **beanstack**



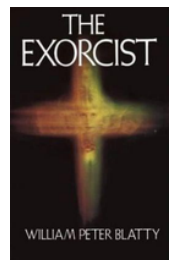
October Book Club Selections



Senior Center
Book Club



Adult
Book Club



Adult Horror
Book Club

Library Millage Proposal on the November 3 ballot!

For the first time ever the city of Ishpeming is requesting a 6-year millage at 2.5 mills to dedicate funding for the library. If the proposal is funded library operations will continue at the current level and the funds will be reserved for the library. If the proposal is not funded library operations will see significant cuts to open hours, staffing, programming, collections, and our ability to plan for the future. Please visit <https://ishpeminglibrary.info/millage> for more information.



Written Report for the October 22, 2026 Meeting

Jesse Shirtz, Library Director

Library Millage

- City Council voted to place a 2.5 mill proposal on the November 2026 ballot for library operations & capital expenditures. Ballot language is:

For continuing to provide current Library services, shall the City of Ishpeming, Marquette County, Michigan be authorized to levy up to an additional 2.1 mills (\$2.10 per \$1,000.00 taxable value) for Library operations and, concurrently, up to .4 mills (\$.40 per \$1,000 taxable value) for Library capital expenditures on all property assessed for taxes within the City of Ishpeming for a period of six (6) years (2026 – 2031, inclusive)? The combined new 2.5 mills will raise approximately \$399,527.30 in the first year.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Township Library Service

- Township statistical reports were recalculated with corrected patron residences. All letters, reports, etc. have been amended by the City Attorney and are awaiting final checks from the Library of Michigan and city staff so that they may be sent to Township Supervisors as soon as possible.

Outreach

- Senior Center Book Club continues to meet at the Ishpeming Multi-Purpose Senior Center once per month. Silent Book Club has resumed its meetings at Velodrome once a month on a Saturday.

Spending Freeze Fall 2026

- We have been directed to cease all spending unless it is necessary for the operation of the library, including all circulating material purchases. We are very grateful that a combination of donations from our Friends of the Library, an anonymous donation from a patron, and several others have made it possible for us to continue purchasing books through 2026. Without donations that would not be possible.