



# WHITE LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

## 2023 Annual Report

### Director's Message

Two memories stand out as I look back on 2023. One is a conversation I had with the contractor who was here pouring the cement pad for our solar hub picnic table. He was amazed to see the number of people coming and going at the library all day long. He had no idea so many people took advantage of what the library offers. It was a pleasure to share that we are indeed alive and well, and our attendance and circulation numbers continue to grow.

The other memory is of walking up and down the long row of tables at our Good Neighbor Day dinner, just listening to dozens and dozens of people chatting, laughing, and getting to know each other over a good meal on a beautiful fall evening in West Michigan. It was so refreshing in these divided times, and such a good feeling knowing that I played even a small part in making it happen.

I look forward to the coming year of working with an outstanding staff, a supportive board, and a community that values its library.

*Virginia DeMumbrum*

### Board Members

Brian Hosticka, Pres.  
Annlyn McKenzie, V.P.  
Bobbie Allred, Sec.  
Norm Kittleson, Treas.  
Charles Ayres  
Ruth Grenell  
Lynnette Johnson  
Ray Veeder

### Director

Virginia DeMumbrum

### Contact Info

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### 2023 Highlights

- We hosted the first annual **Good Neighbor Day dinner** in September, serving more than 75 area residents at one long table. This community-building event was made possible by the generous support of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, with help from the City of Whitehall and the Playhouse at White Lake.
- The new **permanent story trail** was installed on the bike path, thanks to the efforts of the City of Whitehall's DPW team. The trail was created in memory of Maria Poma Herbert, a local educator.
- The **HVAC upgrades** were all completed. In addition to lower energy bills, we also received nearly \$1800 in energy efficiency incentives.

### Financial Information

In 2023, the library received \$621,066 in revenues and incurred \$554,977 in expenses. This increased the library's net position by \$66,089. At year's end, the unassigned fund balance available to cover unexpected emergencies was just over \$160,577, or enough to cover about 4 months of normal library operating costs. An additional \$59,929 in fund balance is designated for specific projects.

The Capital Projects fund - a direct result of the millage passed in 2020 - continues to be a lifesaver for the library. In 2023, we were able to install security cameras and to replace the 25-year-old carpeting. We also learned that there was serious damage to the towers at the front entrance. Water had been seeping through the wall surfaces for many years, gradually destroying some of the wood beneath. To repair the damage and correct the problem will be a costly undertaking. Thankfully, the funds are available so long as we postpone other planned projects by a year.



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## 2023 by the Numbers

**42,294** people came through our doors from January thru December. That's more than **141** visitors per day!



WHITE LAKE  
COMMUNITY LIBRARY



**2,848** people have an active account at our library, including

**432**

new borrowers registered in 2023.

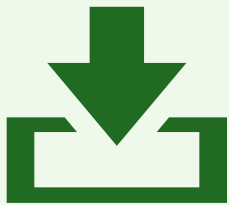
They borrowed

**88,283**

items in 2023.

That's an average of

**1,698** checkouts per week!



**18,228** titles were downloaded by our registered cardholders. That's a whopping **22%** increase over 2022, & **20%** of total borrowing.

You can use your library card to borrow books from libraries all over the state, including college libraries!

We shared our items with other libraries

**7012** times,



and brought in items for our patrons

**5757** times.



The library's Wi-Fi was used

**14,214** times last year.

That's an increase of almost **20%** over last year, & **60%** higher than 2021!

More than **170** adults, teens, and children participated in our Summer

Reading Challenge. All told, they logged more than



**97,192** minutes of reading.



Our website had **46,606** visitors, or nearly **900** each week!

We expect that number to grow even higher when we launch our new website!

There were **47,177** items on our shelves, plus more than **1 MILLION** digital items available to our patrons.

That's more than

**84** titles

for every person

living in our district.



Our Facebook page reach was **52,203**, up nearly **20%**! Our page interactions jumped by a full **75%** in just one year.