

Annual Report Calendar Year 2024

From the Library Director

2024 saw a lot of change at the Library. We welcomed several new staff members while saying goodbye to long time Youth Librarian and Director Peggy Hemerling and long-time Library Assistant Megan Gould.

We installed new windows, an HVAC system, new landscaping and an irrigation system after a very successful capital fundraising campaign in 2023.

We had a great Summer Reading program, Digital Literacy series, and a large increase in programming across children's, teen, and adult programs for the calendar year.

We endured a flood in November which caused quite the commotion, but our staff was resilient, worked through it, and recovered, all with minimal interruption to patrons.

We also had a very successful Holiday season with our re-branded Holiday Market and the annual Cookies with Santa and Face Painting.

It was a year.

With Peggy's retirement at the end of the year, I have become the new Director and look forward to working with everyone in the community as we take the library into the future.

Please see a recap of 2024 in the following pages.

Thank you,

David Edelman
Director
Hastings Public Library

Annual Report Calendar Year 2024

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES - 2024

President: Chloe Kelly
Vice-President: Kelli Newberry
Secretary: Jane Cybulski

Members:

Sam Cale
Carol Dwyer
Rebecca Lectka
Bill Nesbitt / Norm Barlow
Cloe Oliver
Brenda Stacy

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF as of December 2024

Peggy Hemerling - Library Director
David Edelman - Assistant Director
Erin Quada - Youth Services Librarian
Marty Byington - Processing Supervisor
Tess Allerding – Circulation Supervisor
Barbara Haywood – Marketing & Programs Coordinator

Michaela Belcher – Library Assistant
Celeste Dyehouse – Library Assistant
Sharon Elzinga – Library Assistant
Ken Petto – Library Assistant
Christie Pollet – Library Assistant
Lake Seif – Youth Library Assistant
Tammy Wilde – Library Assistant
Reg Howard – Maintenance and Janitorial Services

Annual Report Calendar Year 2024

OPERATIONAL RECAP

Note: all data represents *fiscal* years July 1 – June 30,
not calendar years

POPULATION SERVED:	14,285??	
	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>
REGISTERED BORROWERS:		
City of Hastings:	3,262	3,823
Hastings Charter Township:	923	929
Rutland Charter Township:	1,210	1,305
Paid Non-residents:	<u>104</u>	<u>65</u>
Total:	5,499	6,122
COLLECTION SIZE:		
Total print books:	35,415	37,655
Total audiobooks:	1,954	1,966
Total DVDs:	4,466	4,875
Total Library of Things	111	88
Total e-books	54,055*	701,886
Total e-audiobooks	31,828*	210,224
Total e-video	0*	55,427
Total e-magazines	<u>5,442</u>	<u>3,347</u>
Total Count:	133,271	1,015,468

* The Hoopla digital service was eliminated in July 2023 due to low usage and high cost, reducing electronic media numbers from previous years.

Annual Report Calendar Year 2024

	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>
INTERLIBRARY LOANS:		
To other libraries:	4,931	5,096
From other libraries:	<u>4,774</u>	<u>6,666</u>
Total Count:	9,705	11,762
SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES:		
Number of Programs:	361	425
Program attendance:	7,076	6,351
Patron visits to building:	81,753	58,507
Volunteer hours:	2,177	2,656
Computer use in Hours:	5,749	5,054
Wi-Fi Logins:	10,602	10,604
WEB USAGE:		
HPL Web Page Views:	49,552	48,541
HPL Web User Count:	19,132	17,476
History Portal Page Views:**	37,786	13,385
History Portal User Count:**	2,030	819

** The Barry County History Portal website went live in November 2022.

Annual Report Calendar Year 2024

The Year in Review

Staffing

We welcomed new Youth Librarian Erin Quada in January. She helped revamp children's programming, and with Youth Assistant Lake Seif, launched many new programs for kids of all ages. Two new Library Assistants, Ken Petto and Michaela Belcher, also joined us and made immediate impacts. Michaela helped with marketing graphics and a relaunch of our Instagram account, while Ken took over magazines, supplies ordering and began assisting Reg, our custodian, with occasional library cleaning. At the end of the year we hired Chloe Lewis as the new Circulation Supervisor, starting January 2, 2025.

In December we had a bittersweet retirement celebration for Peggy Hemerling, the previous Director. Several hundred people turned out to wish her well and have a little food. Her departure led to me becoming the new Director at the request of the Board, and I then promoted Tess Allerding from Circulation Supervisor to Assistant Director.



Annual Report Calendar Year 2024

Programming

Summer Reading

ADVENTURE *BEGINS AT YOUR* LIBRARY™

Over 460 people signed up and tracked their reading to earn prizes. We offered 34 Summer Reading specific programs from May to July with over 980 attendees. Many local businesses donated money to support the programs, enabling us to do more with a limited budget. Key donors included Bright Start Pediatrics, Commercial Bank, The Hastings Elks Lodge #1965, Friends of HPL, Kiwanis of Hastings, Southside Pediatrics, Stacey Garrison DDS, and Thornapple Credit Union.

One of the best programs was a hands-on DINOSAUR experience!

Digital Literacy

This series continues to be popular and has been expanding into evening classes to become more accessible to more people. In 2024 we covered a wide range of topics including Microsoft Excel, Cybersecurity, Editing Photos on Mobile Devices, Misinformation and Fake News, and Artificial Intelligence. We also continued Walk-in Tech Help sessions on the last Wednesday of most months to answer whatever technology questions patrons had.



Youth

Aside from Summer Reading, youth programs were abundant in 2024. Most weeks saw two story times, with occasional science story times. Along with the ever-popular monthly LEGO club, many new programs were also introduced, including Rockin Tots (music and dance for little ones), Paws for Reading (read with a therapy dog), a six-week Teen Cuisine series, and the relaunch of the Teen Advisory Board. Teens also saw classes on neon sign making, stress balls, Boba tea, sewing, and more.

Annual Report Calendar Year 2024

Adult & General Interest

Not to be outdone, Barbara Haywood, adult programming coordinator also created many new successful programs. Just a few included the Lift Every Voice Discussion Series and Book Club, Speed Friending, a Puzzle Competition fundraiser with the Friends of HPL, falconry, and several classes around physical and mental well-being. We also continued our partnership with Calvin University and streamed the January Series, along with hosting the Great Decisions foreign policy discussion group in February.

The Holidays

HPL is usually one of the key kickoff locations for the annual Jingle & Mingle celebration. For 2024, we re-branded the December 6 craft sale event as the Holiday Market and saw an estimated 625 people through the door. Another 125+ came to Face painting on Saturday morning December 7 and over 300 came to Cookies with Santa.

Collection Updates

We already had some Spanish language books but expanded the collection last year in both children's and adult, with the intent to grow it continuously. This will help us provide more resources to an underserved portion of our community. We also created a new Tween Graphic section due to the overwhelming popularity of graphic novels. Lastly, we added additional items to the Library of Things Jr. collection that launched near the end of 2023. This collection has been extremely popular with many weeks where more than half of the collection was

Cat in the Hat



Laurie Berkner Band

Toniebox #2 Disney



checked out. Our Tonie boxes are among the most popular items, offering stories, songs, and educational content to children via fun audio devices. Additional included new content from The Cat in the Hat, the Laurie Berkner Band, and others.

Annual Report Calendar Year 2024

One new exciting addition to the collection was our Seed Library. Using seeds donated from retailers, trusted patrons, and some purchased by the Library, we now offer patrons seeds they can plant at home to grow flowers, fruits and vegetables. Lake Seif and Sharon Elzinga spearheaded the initiative which was quite popular through the summer.



Building & Grounds

In January, our new HVAC system was installed, followed in March by completion of the new window installation. In May, a new irrigation system was installed, along with new landscaping. That brought the window replacement project largely to an end, with a few details still being wrapped up.

During the week before Thanksgiving, some intentional vandalism blocked the entire building's waste water outflow, and when the water softener tried to flush the system overnight, there was nowhere for the water to go. The entire backroom area flooded, requiring a remediation company to remove all carpeting and some drywall and insulation. They then disinfected the area due to potential sewage contamination and ensured we were fully dried out.

After all work was completed in January 2025 to recover from the damage, the Library will have spent approximately \$40,000 on repairs, including new drywall, insulation, paint, carpet and furniture installation. Luckily insurance covered all of the expense. The police were engaged regarding the vandalism, but unfortunately, no person or persons could be definitively identified as having caused the blockage which led to the damage. The one bright side is that no materials were damaged and the impact to patrons was minimal, other than a few extra days we were closed before Thanksgiving.



With donated funds, we also installed quilt hangers to display local quilt makers' work and bring some extra color to the main library space. The quilts are changed on a quarterly basis.

Annual Report Calendar Year 2024

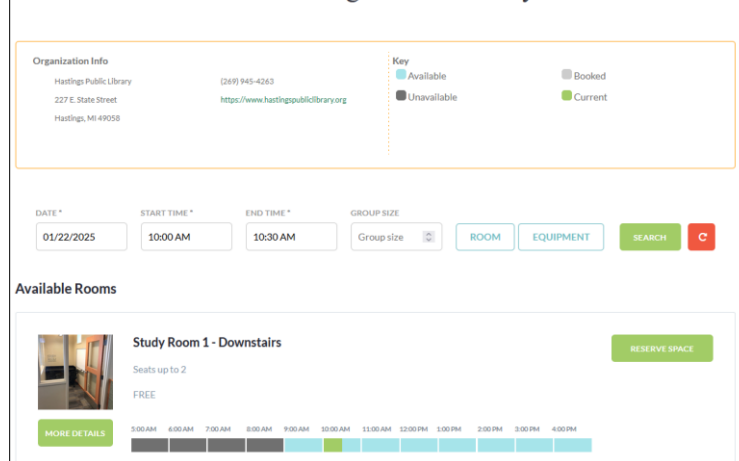
Friends of HPL

The Friends held their twice annual book sale in February and July, raising over \$5,000 combined for the Library. They also continue to re-shelve returned books every weekday, provide assistance at programs, and sell candy throughout the year to raise additional funds. We are indebted to them for all of their support.

Technology

In June 2024, we updated our online calendar and added online room reservations to streamline both processes. The service, provided by Michigan based LocalHop, has proven

Room Reservations for Hastings Public Library

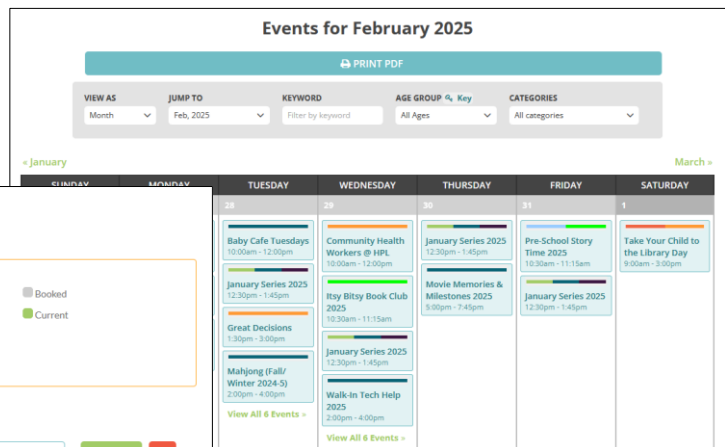


Organization Info
Hastings Public Library
227 E. State Street
Hastings, MI 49058
(249) 945-4263
<https://www.hastingspubliclibrary.org>

Key
Available (Blue square)
Booked (Grey square)
Unavailable (Red square)
Current (Green square)

DATE * 01/22/2025
START TIME * 10:00 AM
END TIME * 10:30 AM
GROUP SIZE Group size (dropdown)
ROOM EQUIPMENT SEARCH

Available Rooms
Study Room 1 - Downstairs
Seats up to 2
FREE
RESERVE SPACE
MORE DETAILS



Events for February 2025

PRINT PDF

VIEW AS Month JUMP TO Feb, 2025 KEYWORD Filter by keyword AGE GROUP All Ages CATEGORIES All categories

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Baby Cafe Tuesdays 10:00am - 12:00pm January Series 2025 12:30pm - 1:45pm Great Decisions 1:30pm - 3:00pm Mahjong (Fall/Winter 2024-5) 2:00pm - 4:00pm View All 6 Events >	Community Health Workers @ HPL 10:00am - 12:00pm Roy Bitts Book Club 2025 10:30am - 11:15am January Series 2025 12:30pm - 1:45pm Walk-In Tech Help 2025 2:00pm - 4:00pm View All 6 Events >	January Series 2025 12:30pm - 1:45pm Movie Memories & Milestones 2025 1:00pm - 2:45pm January Series 2025 12:30pm - 1:45pm	Pre-School Story Time 2025 10:30am - 11:15am January Series 2025 12:30pm - 1:45pm	Take Your Child to the Library Day 9:00am - 3:00pm

very helpful and fully integrates into our existing website. Both our website hosting and LocalHop services are subsidized by or discounted for the Library of Michigan, saving us hundreds of dollars annually.

Partnerships

HPL has built many strong partnerships over the years with other non-profits and government organizations. In 2024, we continued hosting the Baby Café from the Barry-Eaton Health Department and the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program from the United Way. We also continue to be a pickup location for Narcan overdose kits, income tax forms, and for the first time collected toys for the United Way toy drive in December.

A new partnership with the health department brought Community Health Workers to the library every other week for much for the year. They help people navigate through health and other related but non-medical needs. We also regularly host representatives from Congressman John Moolenaar's office to meet with the public.

We have partnered with Pierce Cedar Creek for years and continued that in 2024. They helped with Family Science Night, several science story times, and other events. We were a pickup location for their winter activity kits over the Christmas break when we gave out more than 400 kits to local families to keep the kids busy.