

Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library

Annual Report to the Alpena County Board of Commissioners
September 26, 2023

Presented by:

Debra Greenacre, Library Director

Jessica Luther, Assistant Director

About the Library

Who we are and what we do

Mission: To enrich the community through equitable access to library services and cultural opportunities.

Vision: We imagine an Alpena County where all feel welcome, safe, and seen. We imagine a place where libraries bring people together to experience creativity, joy, and a sense of place through learning.

County Libraries were established in 1917 through Public Act 138

AN ACT to authorize the creation of county libraries; to authorize the contracting by the board of supervisors of any county for library service; to authorize the contracting by the board of supervisors of any county or the board of trustees of any regional library with any other municipality for the furnishing of such service; and to provide for a tax for the purposes of this act.

The Library Board of Trustees

- Five community members appointed by the Board of Commissioners
- Role of the Board of Trustees:
 - Adopt bylaws and rules for the board's governance
 - Maintain control over the building and grounds of the library
 - Control the expenditure of all funds credited to the library
 - Appoint, supervise, evaluate, discipline or remove a director
 - Approve an annual library budget
 - Adopt policies, rules and regulations regarding use of the library
- The Library Board is a “working” board
- The governing board of a library is the legal face of the library.
- The board has a fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the library in all matters, but especially in financial matters. The library establishment statutes provide the board with the authority to manage the funds belonging to the library, and the responsibility to manage them as public funds.

The Board and the Library Director are a team.

- While the board establishes policy and approves major decisions, it does not assume the role of the library manager.
- Directors are professionals trained in the particulars of library service who are expected to fulfill their roles in accordance with the board's vision and policies.
- To ensure the best library service, the director must be allowed to manage the library without inappropriate board interference.
- Board members should never criticize or denigrate the library director or library staff publicly outside of formal evaluations done while in a public meeting.
- Only by acting together as partners can each successfully meet their duties and responsibilities. Only as partners can they operate a successful and flourishing library.

Excellent Trustees are also the Library's Hype Crew

- Have library cards
- Remain objective and leave their personal beliefs and politics at home
- Do their homework to learn and prepare for their many roles and duties
- Attend special events at the library
- Assist with surveys of the community
- Encourage the development of a Friends' group and/or library foundation
- Participate in the public promotion of the library (with library director and other board members)

Trustees' vocal and visible enthusiasm for the library attracts the support of other community members. A trustee who is knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and supportive of the library will serve as the library's best public relations advocate.



More info

The [Library of Michigan](#) provides a Michigan Public Library [Trustee Manual](#) each year published by LOM, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Michigan Department of Education.

They also offer training and workshops throughout the year virtually and in-person.



The Library currently employs 21 people.

Administrative: Director, Assistant Director, and Business Manager

Public Services: Head of Adult Services, Head of Youth Services, Head of Special Collections, Technology Specialist, and 9 Desk Assistants

Library Operations: Facilities Manager and Technical Processing/Cataloguing Coordinator

Literacy Training: 2 READ Coordinators

How does the Library pay for its staff, materials, and all of the cool things it does?

- **Individual millages:** The Library currently has a .75 operating millage and .25 special millage designated to the building renovation bond payment.
- **State Funding:** After the library files the Public Library Annual Report/State Aid Application and it is determined that a library has met the eligibility guidelines, we receive a state aid reimbursement based on a per capita amount using the total population (Legal Service Area and Contracted Areas) served by the library. The current legislation authorizes a maximum level of \$0.50 as the per-capita amount, but actual appropriations may be less than this amount.
- **Penal Fines:** Michigan is the only state that constitutionally mandates the disbursement of penal fines to public libraries.

Unfortunately, these sources aren't enough to provide all of the services we need to.

The generosity of the Friends of the Alpena Library helps to offset the cost of some special projects.

Fundraising:

The library relies on grant funding from local, regional, and state organizations to implement new services.

To present unique programs and initiatives, we have to solicit donations from individuals and businesses.

**So what have we
been up to at the
Library?**

2023 So Far

9,261 Library Cardholders

985 New Library Cardholders

46,503 Items borrowed

3,286 items added to the collection




25,068 computer lab uses

157 Library programs

4,357 program attendees



An Evening with
Angeline Bouley
 Monday, September 25
 6:00pm - 7:00pm
 at the Alpena High School Auditorium

This event is free but registration is required!
<https://alpenalibrary.org>

Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library | 203 N. First Ave., Alpena, MI 49701 | alpenalibrary.org

THE CCC IN Michigan
 January 19th, 2023
 Join us at 8 pm with DNR Historian Hillary Pines
 Hosted in the Judith Stillian Conference Room



All ages welcome!

Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library
Outdoor Storytime
 at Alpena Farmers' Market



Join us at Mich-e-ke-wis Park for read alouds & a craft or activity!

Saturdays
 July 15 & 29 August 5 & 19
 10:00am - 11:00am
 Free. Ages 3 & up.



This program is sponsored by HPC Credit Union!



SPARK!
 PLACES of INNOVATION

Exhibit Kickoff Celebration!
 Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library
 May 20, 2023 10am-3pm

GAMES, ACTIVITIES, STATE HISTORIAN, MAKER FAIR, MAKERLAB AND MORE!

Questions?
 Contact Tina at cstjohn@alpenalibrary.org

"This project is funded in part by Smithsonian, and Michigan Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities."







makerlab
 NOT AN APS EVENT

Join us for Tinker Tuesday on opposite Tuesdays!

Every other Tuesday!
Open MakerLab
 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Makers must be over age 5 to use the MakerLab. All are welcome, but adults must accompany makers ages 15 and under!



Alpena County Library | 213 N. First St., Alpena MI 49701 | (989) 356-6188 ext.25

NOT AN APS EVENT

Evening Storytime
 with Miss Sunrise Side & Miss Sunrise Side Teen

Friday,
 January 20
 at 6:00pm



Join us at Alpena County Library in downtown Alpena for a special evening storytime and craft!

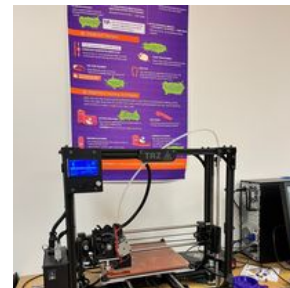
203 N First St, Alpena MI 49701 | (989) 356-6188 | www.alpenalibrary.org



We've had some pretty cool activities!

Services we have you might not know about...

- 24/7 locker pick up
- Ebooks, magazines, and audiobooks to download
- WiFi hotspots
- Kindles
- Library of Things
- Toy Library and Talking Books
- Computer classes and tech help
- Meeting and study spaces
- Genealogical research aids
- Local history walking tours
- GED assistance
- Hygiene resources and period products
- Access to hundreds of digital resources and online collections through the [Michigan eLibrary](#)



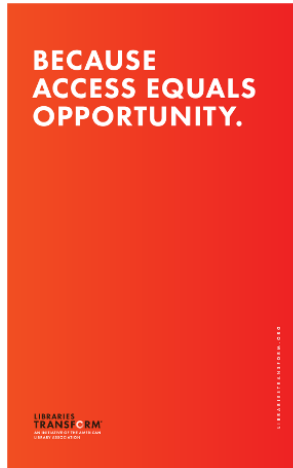
Michigan eLibrary
Supporting Michigan Libraries

Looking ahead

Moving outward. Meeting people where they are at.

- Hosting Library events at different locations throughout the county.
- Monthly computer and technology assistance at the Alpena Senior Citizens Center
- Mobile Library services
- Expansion of homebound library services.
- Provide wifi access at different locations outside of the library.
- School visits to the library and visits to the schools from the library.
- Installing Storywalks and Little Free Libraries

We want to do more to ensure we are serving the entire county.



Questions?

Contact us anytime!

Debra Greenacre, Library Director

dgreenacre@alpenalibrary.org

(989)356-6188 ext 11

Jessica Luther, Assistant Library
Director

jluther@alpenalibrary.org

(989)356-6188 ext 25
