MAIN BRANCH
While 2021 was not a return to normal, it was marked by small steps in developing library services to better meet community needs caused by pandemic disruptions. The addition of wi-fi hotspots and Chromebooks, funded by grant funds from the Emergency Connectivity Fund and CARES Act, played an important role in helping patrons adapt to online school and work requirements. Additional grant funding provided in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library of Michigan facilitated the purchase of the continually popular STEAM On The Go Kits so programming could continue despite pandemic restrictions. The return of some in-person events like the Spooktacular, Color Run, and visit with Santa were highlight events for local families. Not to be missed was the completion of the Facilities Master Plan which has set into motion exciting plans for improvements and renovations in the near future.

EDWARDSBURG BRANCH
Each month since January we have increased our numbers and ended the year with close to double the amount of patrons compared to the beginning of the year. In order to continue to offer quality programming, we shifted how we offered programs by offering on-the-spot programming along with take and make kits. Customers have responded positively to these changes and enjoy having something fresh and new to do whenever they visit the library. We have worked hard to engage with the 25 plus students that visit in the afternoons to make them aware of our services and encourage them to get a library card. We have had great feedback from the community and we will keep working toward expanding our services and help move the organization forward.

HOWARD BRANCH
There have been an abundance of positive comments and feedback including mobile printing capabilities being implemented and hotspot checkout for internet access at home. Patrons have enjoyed using the library for small group meetings, checking out books and movies, and enjoying a mix of both in-person programs and take home craft kits.

Early this year, an adult patron opened up to me about his inability to read. Some resources that normally provide this type of service were shut down due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, however, the Cass District Library staff didn’t give up. By the end of the week, we had found an adult literacy instructor that was available to work with him and began having weekly sessions at the Howard Branch. His progress has been steady this year as he continues to improve his reading skills. I’m so proud of him and I’m proud of the services and help that we provide to our community.

MASON/UNION BRANCH
Baby Story Time was started at the Mason/Union Branch in the fall. I was very excited about developing this program and was pleased to see enthusiastic mothers and babies interacting with one another. The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is rapidly growing amongst our families that attend story times.

This branch is located in a more remote part of the county, and the surrounding area greatly relies on the branch’s computer, fax and photocopy services. We are constantly thanked for being present in the community and offering these services.

LOCAL HISTORY BRANCH
Research highlights for the year include:
- The meteor crater discovered in 1987. It came to Earth about 400 million years ago, and is about 100 to 400 feet below the Earth’s surface, specifically near Calvin Center. Local news channel WBST-TV featured this story.
- Assisted Cass County Sheriff in searching for portraits of all former Cass County Sheriffs. The oldest photograph of a Cass County Sheriff is from 1862 and is of Joseph Harper who served as sheriff from 1855-1856. Harper built the first Cass County Courthouse in 1841, and also built and occupied the house directly south of the Local History Branch Library.
- The branch accepted a donation of tintype and Daguerreotype photos of the Newton family. The donated photos are of the generation that built the famed Newton house in Volinia Township.
- Most significant highlight of 2021 is the building itself, specifically the restored interior.
## Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>$1,173,286</td>
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<tr>
<td>State sources</td>
<td>$42,660</td>
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<tr>
<td>USF grant</td>
<td>$51,802</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penal fines</td>
<td>$123,591</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fees and book fines</td>
<td>$12,769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>$210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local contributions and other</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,419,366</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Expenditures/Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll taxes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employee benefits</td>
<td>$104,997</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$17,141</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library materials/processing</td>
<td>$141,386</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contractual/professional services</td>
<td>$49,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>$18,276</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>$25,094</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities/Internet</td>
<td>$138,852</td>
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<td>Repairs and maintenance</td>
<td>$64,803</td>
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<tr>
<td>Automation</td>
<td>$34,913</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital expenditures/expenses</td>
<td>$198,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditures/expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,369,187</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fund balance/net position-end of year**  
$971,888

Annual audit conducted by Kruggel Lawton CPAs.
BY THE NUMBERS: CIRCULATION

6,027  
COMPUTER SESSIONS

6,168  
WI-FI SESSIONS

10,359  
LIBRARY WEBSITE USERS

56,579  
FACEBOOK USERS REACHED

225     
HOTSPOT CHECKOUTS

9,935     
ANCESTRY.COM SEARCHES

Lovely little library. Staff are more than happy to answer any questions and help you find the content you’re looking for.
- Rachael, Edwardsburg Branch patron
PRINT CIRCULATION BY BRANCH LOCATION

MAIN: 35,828 ITEMS
EDWARDSBURG: 19,066 ITEMS
MASON/UNION: 9,470 ITEMS
HOWARD: 6,728 ITEMS

TOTAL: 71,092 ITEMS
(2020: 57,602 ITEMS)

DIGITAL CIRCULATION

17,930 HOOPLA ITEMS
9,857 OVERDRIVE ITEMS

TOP GENRES

ADULT DVDS: 9,846
CHILDREN’S BOOKS: 8,456
ADULT FICTION: 8,117
ADULT NON-FICTION: 6,388
CHILDREN’S FICTION: 4,462

510 NEW LIBRARY CARDHOLDERS

BRANCH VISITORS 39,544
(2020: 31,498 VISITORS)

SERVICE POPULATION 38,002
BY THE NUMBERS: PROGRAMMING

VIRTUAL STORY TIME
VIDEOS: 6
VIEWERS: 644

REGULAR PROGRAMS

50 TAKE HOME PROGRAMS

ADULTS
PROGRAMS: 66
PARTICIPANTS: 891

TEENS
PROGRAMS: 35
PARTICIPANTS: 591

CHILDREN
PROGRAMS: 106
PARTICIPANTS: 2,950

157 IN-PERSON PROGRAMS
The summer reading program is fun for the whole family and even adults can participate! They put on a super fun color run 5k every year which we look forward to. - Danielle, Mason/Union patron

I take my granddaughter to the library and she absolutely loves it. They always have so much going on and things to do. My granddaughter wants to go all the time. - Debbie, Main Branch patron

2021 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

453 REGISTERED READERS

39 PROGRAMS OFFERED

1,256 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
MISSION

The mission of the Cass District Library is to provide a center for information, education, culture, and recreation for all patrons throughout their life span, through the library’s collections, programs and special services.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nancy Stoner, President
Representing: At Large

Eileen Toney, Vice President
Representing: Howard Township

Andrew Churchill, Treasurer
Representing: LaGrange Township

Joseph Gross
Representing: Calvin, Ontwa, and Porter Townships

Sandra Asmus
Representing: Pokagon, Milton, and Jefferson Townships

Alison Yeo
Representing: Mason Township