



PETER WHITE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

2025

Community Report

LIBRARY HISTORY

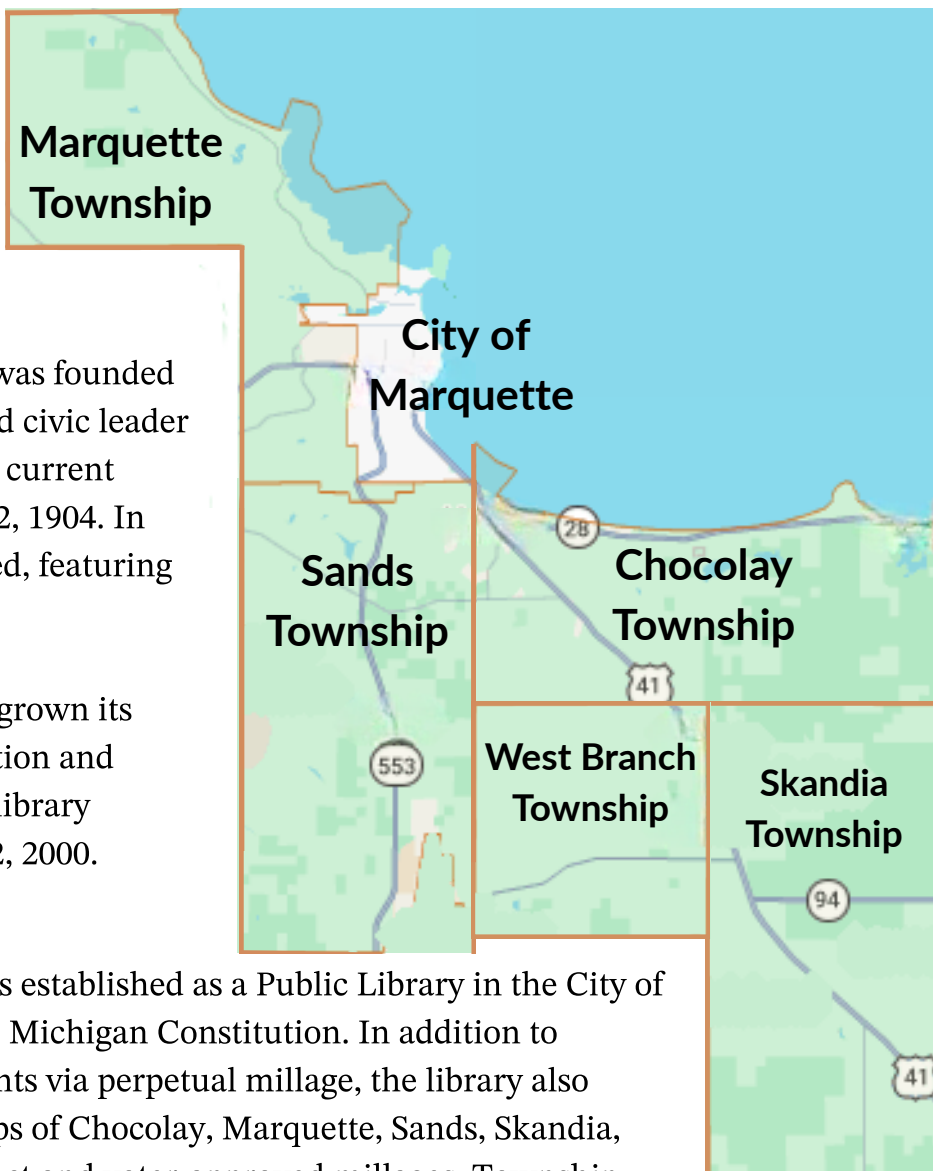


The Peter White Public Library was founded in 1871 by local businessman and civic leader Peter White. The building at our current location opened on September 22, 1904. In 1958, an addition was constructed, featuring an entrance off Ridge Street.

By the 1990's the library had outgrown its space and began a major renovation and expansion project. The updated library opened for service on October 22, 2000.

The Peter White Public Library is established as a Public Library in the City of Marquette Charter as well as the Michigan Constitution. In addition to serving City of Marquette residents via perpetual millage, the library also provides services to the townships of Chocolay, Marquette, Sands, Skandia, and West Branch through contract and voter-approved millages. Township services were established between 1992 and 2002.

Residents outside the library's service area may purchase a non-resident card to access the library's physical and digital collections. All community members are welcome to attend programs and utilize onsite services.



LIBRARY LEADERSHIP



Back Row: Joe Meyskens, Lori Nelson, Steve Schmunk (President)
Front Row: Heather Addison, Suzanne Williams (Secretary)

Steve Schmunk, Board President

I had the honor of serving as the President of the PWPL's Board of Trustees in 2025.

Like many people, I have a lot going on these days. Not just the activities of daily living, family life and socializing but also attention spent on the state of the world. It can feel like almost too much at times. I imagine most of you could say the same.

What does this have to do with the PWPL? Just this—that besides an abundance of physical resources, the library can offer some relief when we most need it. Three words come to mind: oasis, support, and community.

Oasis: you know when you step into the library that you've entered a place where you can take a deep breath and feel peaceful, if only for a little while. It's familiar and stable. You can find a quiet corner and you'll be left alone.

Support: the staff are there to support you in whatever way they can. Even though they too are experiencing a rapidly-changing world, they provide a reliably professional and friendly experience. You can count on it. You'll be acknowledged and respected ... and sometimes that's all we need.

Community: once you've gotten your fill of "alone time," the library has a wealth of opportunities to be with others at all levels of participation. From Concert on the Steps to writing workshops, from book groups to tech coaching, from dinner and movie nights to artist receptions, PWPL offers programs for all age ranges and interests. I can almost guarantee that you'll leave these events feeling like you've spent time with kindred spirits. Who doesn't appreciate that feeling?

I value PWPL and all it has to offer, and I'm guessing you do too. Your support makes a vibrant library like ours possible. Thank you!



Andrea Ingmire, Library Director

2025 was another very busy and productive year for Peter White Public Library. Significant progress was made on planned grounds projects including, essential sidewalk repairs, removal of pea gravel from the parking lot beds, and the sealing and striping of the parking lot. Additionally, work continues on the spaces formerly occupied by the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center.

Beyond facility improvements, 2025 was also marked by strong engagement in programming and services. The statistical charts throughout this report highlight these continued trends in use and participation. We remain committed to meeting the evolving needs of our community and are proud to provide resources, programs, and spaces that support learning, creativity, and connection.

We are always taking suggestions on how to make the library better. I hold regular Director Chat sessions if you would like to meet in-person, and I am also available by email aing@pwpl.info or phone 906-226-4303.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

As the 2023–2025 strategic plan winds down the PWPL Board of Trustees, Township Advisory Council, and Library Staff are setting new goals for 2026–2028. Our core strategic priorities—Service, Sustainability, and Expertise—will remain at the heart of our mission for years to come.

SERVICE

In partnership with Feeding America West Michigan, PWPL served as a Gather2Grow meal pickup site on Tuesdays and Fridays from June 3 to August 29, 2025. During this period, we distributed 1,756 meals to local families.



SUSTAINABILITY

In addition to sidewalk and parking lot repairs, PWPL staff also refurbished the benches located in the Betsy Clow Memorial Gardens which were originally installed in 2008.



EXPERTISE

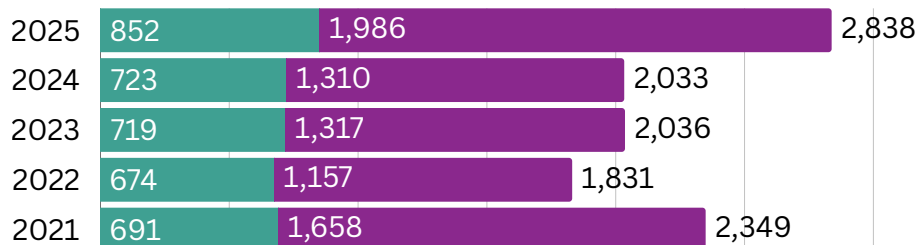
Along with helping you find your next read, the Adult Services Department oversees the Local History Research Room. Our Local History Specialist helps organize and preserve historic materials owned by PWPL. This space is an important resource for preserving while providing access to our community's historical record.



READING PROGRAMS *For Kids!*

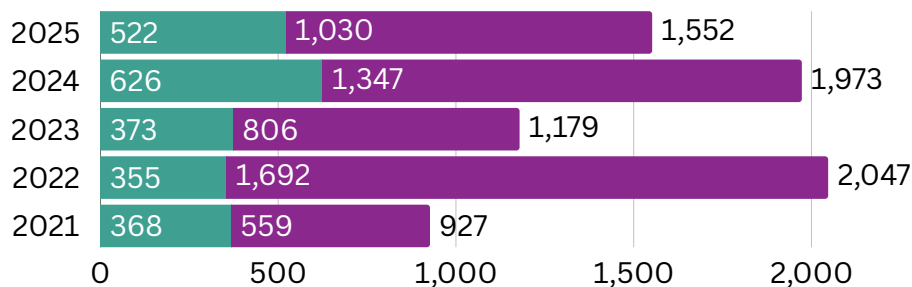
Summer Reading is our most exciting reading program. Each year, this event motivates youth to keep reading throughout the summer. Children who participate can choose up to three books at Summer Reading Book Fairs. Additionally, we host a wide variety of programming to keep youth engaged during the summer months.

● Sign-ups ● Books Distributed



Winter Reading started during COVID in 2021 with *Flamingos in the Snow*. Kids received yard flamingos to put in their snow banks. The program was so successful that we have been running iterations of it since. Youth are encouraged to turn in as many reading logs as they can to earn prizes. Past year prizes have included small animal figurines, awesome rocks, and in 2026—amazing stickers.

● Sign-ups ● Reading Logs Turned in



1000 Books Before Kindergarten is focused on early education for youth ages 0-5. Parents and guardians are encouraged to read 1000 books to their child before they begin formal education. Since this program began in 2021, over 180 youth have registered, 48 children have graduated, and 132 children are currently active in the program.

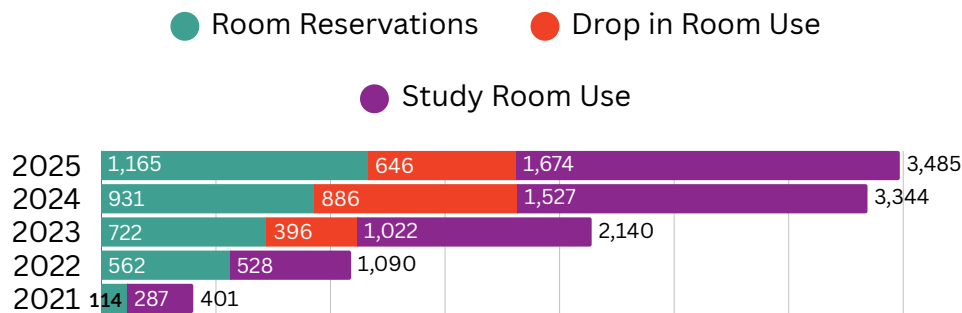


BUILDING COMMUNITY

A regular refrain heard at PWPL is, “There are so few spots in the parking lot and the building is so busy! What’s going on today?”

While the core of our mission involves offering library services and programs, we also know that building community involves much more. Our building serves as an important meeting spot for dozens of local clubs, service organizations, book groups, and informational meetings.

Providing this resource allows PWPL to contribute to the vitality of our community by offering space to gather, learn, and grow.



TEEN PROGRAMMING

We offered over 65 programs for teens in 2025. 2,053 teens participated in programs, including: Teen Cooking Classes at the Marquette Co-Op, Yule Ball and Spring Fling, Prom Dress Swap, and drop in crafts.

Thanks to support from the Friends of PWPL, the Teen Zone now blooms with color featuring a mural designed and painted by local artist Leo Barch. As we continue developing this space for teens, we are reminded of the importance of welcoming and safe drop-in spaces for members of our community of all ages.

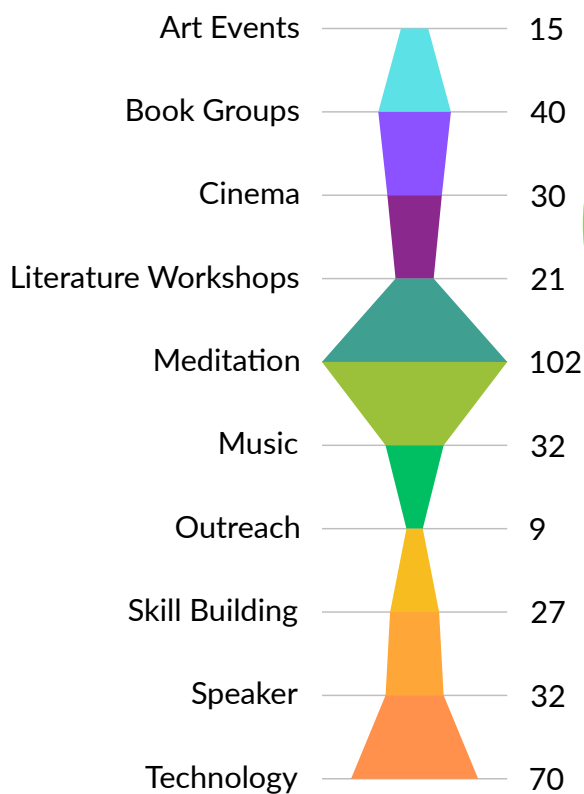


PROGRAMMING FOR ADULTS

In 2025 we offered a rich lineup of adult programming designed to provide educational, recreational, and cultural opportunities for our community. Notably, we hosted the NEA Big Read programming series funded by a National Endowment for the Arts grant. Ongoing programs included a variety of music concerts, Craft Magic, Repair Café, technology tutoring, educational presentations, meditation and contemplative programming, book groups, author visits, and the Great Lakes Poetry Festival.

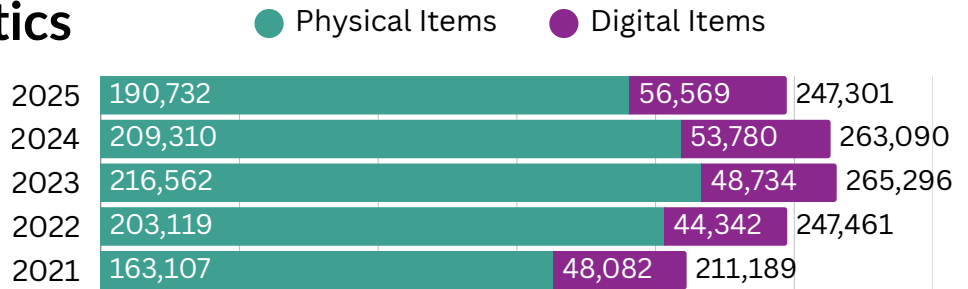


2025 Adult Programs Offered

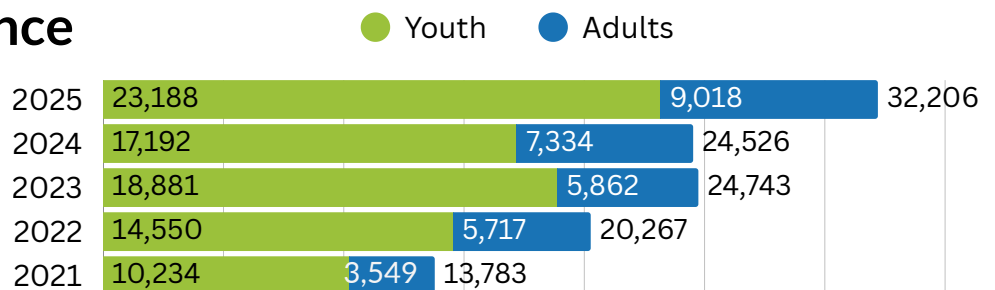


USAGE STATISTICS 2021-2025

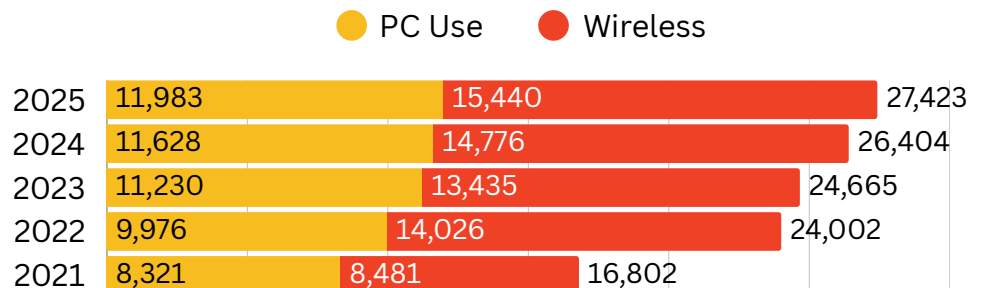
Circulation Statistics



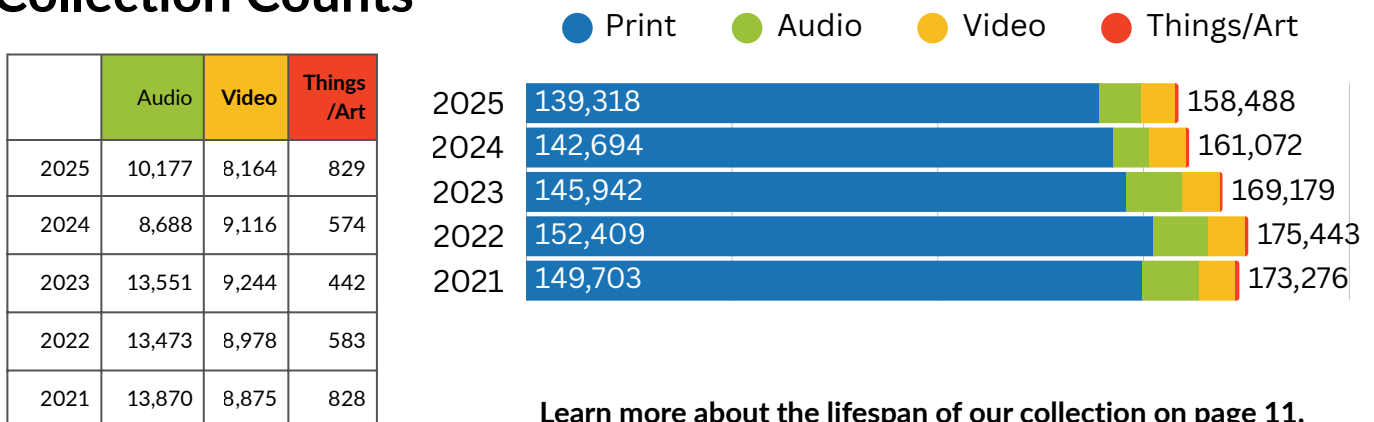
Program Attendance



Computer Usage



Collection Counts



Learn more about the lifespan of our collection on page 11.

STATISTICS BY TOWNSHIP

Chocolay Township

Year Service Established	1992
Active Registered Borrowers	699
Average Registered Borrowers	2,359
Circulation of Physical Materials	26,595
Book Drop Pickups	52
Items Returned in Book Drop	1,419

Sands Township

Year Service Established	1992
Active Registered Borrowers	249
Average Registered Borrowers	880
Circulation of Physical Materials	9,241
Book Drop Pickups	52
Items Returned in Book Drop	539

West Branch Township

Year Service Established	1996
Active Registered Borrowers	120
Average Registered Borrowers	452
Circulation of Physical Materials	10,105
Book Drop Pickups	51
Items Returned in Book Drop	102

**Township Advisory Council (TAC)
meetings are held quarterly at PWPL.**

Marquette Township

Year Service Established	1993
Active Registered Borrowers	509
Average Registered Borrowers	1,711
Circulation of Physical Materials	20,791
Book Drop Pickups	52
Items Returned in Book Drop	1,291

Skandia Township

Year Service Established	2002
Active Registered Borrowers	67
Average Registered Borrowers	272
Circulation of Physical Materials	4,785
Book Drop Pickups	52
Items Returned in Book Drop	386

2025 Township Advisory Council Members

Chocolay Township

Eve Lindsey
Jan Raskin

Marquette Township

Laurel Kniskern
Paul Marin

Sands Township

Kerrie Heikes
Suzanne Standerford

Skandia Township

Barb Bradley
Beth Linna

West Branch Township

Peggy Jensen
Natasha Lantz



LOCAL HISTORY

Digitization

In partnership with the Upper Peninsula Digital Network (UPLINK), Peter White Public Library continues to digitize and preserve materials of local historical significance. Established in 2021 through a federal grant to Northern Michigan University, UPLINK now serves as a major digital repository for Upper Peninsula primary historical sources. PWPL contributes several key collections, including *Cloverland Magazine* (1916–1923), the *Marquette Mining Journal* (1868–1989), the Wesley Perron Railroad Collection, and Marquette County Polk Directories (1873–2005).

Digitization remains a priority for PWPL. With continued growth dependent on private donor support, the library can expand the range of locally significant materials available online and further explore new digital preservation opportunities.

Local History Research Room

PWPL's Local History Research Room (LHRR) provides dedicated space for community members, genealogists, students, and researchers to explore the region's past. The LHRR houses newspaper files, maps, pamphlets, maritime and railroad collections, local history subject and people indices, weather records, and other specialized materials.

The LHRR is open weekly for drop-in use, with Reference staff available during all open hours to assist with accessing materials. PWPL also supports patrons through obituary lookups, local history research services, and on-site use of digital genealogy tools such as *Ancestry Library Edition* and *FamilySearch Affiliate Library* resources.

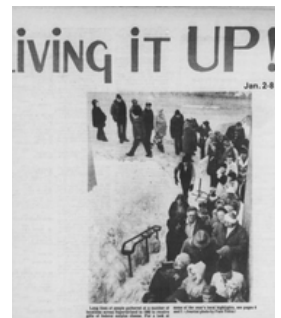
Circulating & Reference Collections

Beyond its archival holdings, PWPL maintains a broad circulating and reference collection focused on local and regional history. These materials include genealogy books, Michigan nonfiction and reference titles, plat books, community directories, family histories, maps, photographs, and local history publications. The microfilm collection and local history indices further support public research needs.

Together, these circulating, reference, and archival resources ensure that PWPL continues to serve as a vital center for preserving and sharing the history of Marquette and the Upper Peninsula.



PWPL staff receiving training on our new digitization scanner, enabling ongoing digitization of local historical materials for the UPLINK platform.



COLLECTION LIFESPAN



* Board-Approved Policy

Board of Trustees and library staff set policy which guides the collection development process.

* Selection by Library Staff

Professional librarians select new materials using trusted review sources, their knowledge of the collection, and patron requests within the guidelines of library policy.

* Purchased/Acquired

Using operating budget and donated funds, staff purchase materials from a variety of sources including library book vendors, local bookstores, and direct from publisher. Donated materials may also be added if they meet library policy guidelines.

* Processed/Catalogued

Upon delivery, materials are added to the online catalog and are processed with labels, stamps, and protected with covers and/or cases.

* Ready for Use

After processing is completed, items are moved to the library collection and become part of the checkout/return/reshelving cycle. Some items may also circulate to other libraries via Interlibrary Loan

* Weeding or Deselection

The process of removing items from the library's collection is a critical component of collection management.

How do we decide what gets added to the library collection?

Have you ever wondered how the library selects which books and materials become part of our collection? In recent years, this is a common question from community members, and we're always happy to share more about how these decisions are made.

It starts with policy...

Weeding or deselection

Patrons sometimes find the idea of “weeding” the collection unsettling. However, just as you might clear out unused or outdated items at home, removing materials is an essential part of maintaining a healthy, relevant library collection. Weeding ensures that the items on our shelves are accurate, in good condition, and easy for patrons to find. It also makes room for new materials—such as the 6,946 items added to the collection in 2025.

Common criteria used in weeding include:

- Physical condition
- Accuracy or relevance of information
- Usage or circulation history
- Publication date
- Number of copies available

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

As a component unit of the City of Marquette, PWPL follows the same fiscal year and budget deadlines as the City. The most recent fiscal year ran from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025 (FY2024/2025). The PWPL Board of Trustees carries fiduciary responsibility for all library finances, and maintaining financial stability requires constant attention. PWPL Administration and Board of Trustees operate with a fiscally conservative approach, closely monitoring both expenditures and revenues.

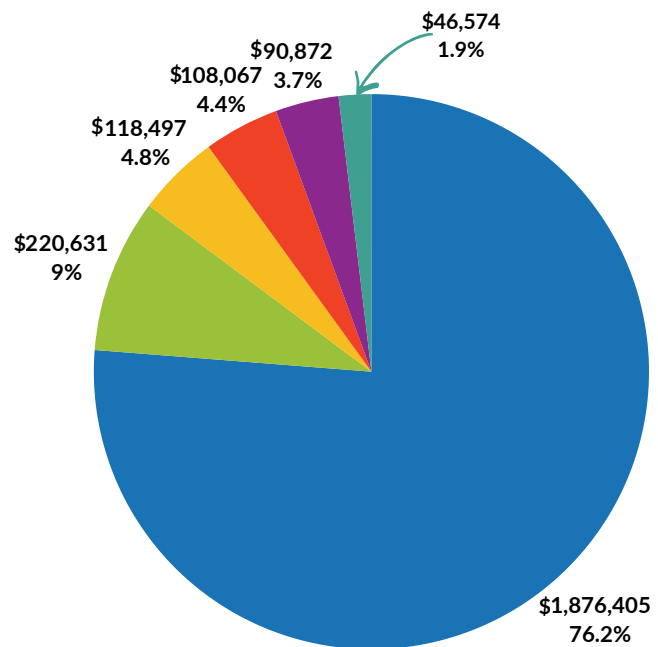
During FY2024/2025, we used existing library funds to complete several building and grounds improvements, including sidewalk repairs and resealing and restriping the parking lot.

Beyond building maintenance, staff wages and benefits remain a priority as the local cost of living continues to rise. Retaining high-quality staff is essential to providing the community with a high-quality library experience.

Revenues FY2024/2025

Total = \$2,461,047

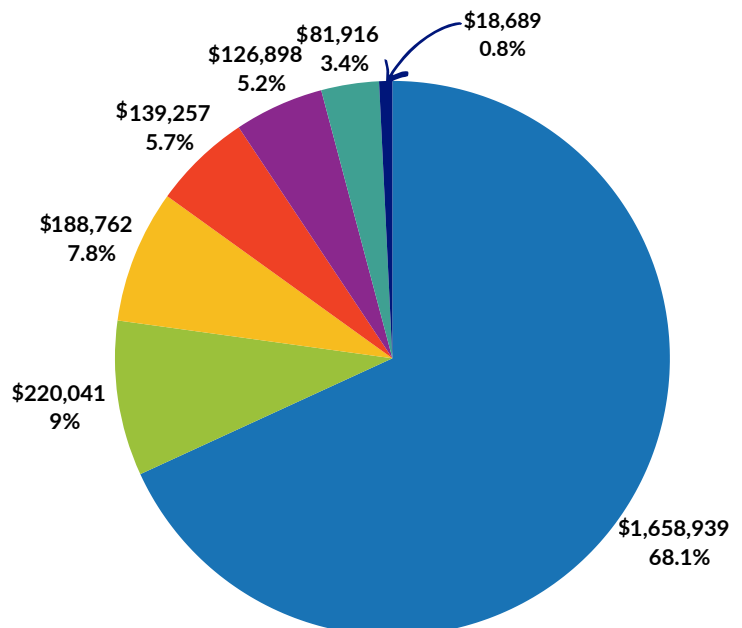
- Property Tax Revenues (City and Township)
- Fund Raising and Endowment Distributions
- State Aid/Revenue Sharing
- Library Fines/Fees
- Penal Fines (City and Township)
- Interest



Expenditures FY2024/2025

Total = \$2,343,546

- Wages and Benefits
- Supplies and Contractual Services
- Building Repairs/Maintenance
- Library Collection
- Utilities
- Programming Supplies
- Technology



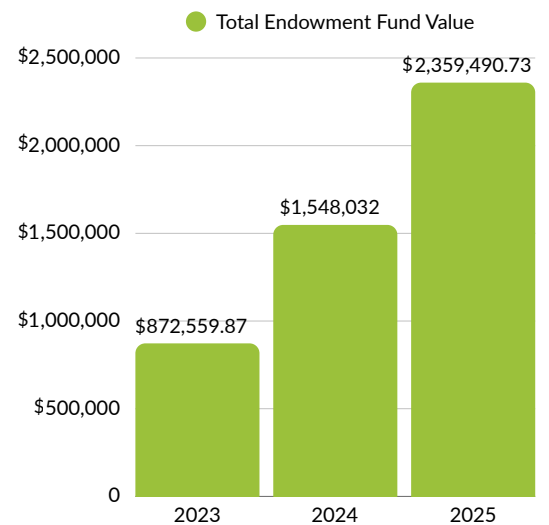
DEVELOPMENT FUND

Adding capacity and providing long-term financial stability is the work of the Development Fund, managed by Development Director Heather Steltenpohl. FY2024/2025 was a strong year for the Development Fund with over \$667,000 raised to benefit the annual fund and endowment funds.

PWPL Endowment Funds were created with \$30,000 from UP Health System in 2015. As of December 31, 2025 the total Endowment Fund value is over \$2.3 million dollars. The tremendous growth is a result of new donations coming into the Development Fund. Distributions to the PWPL operating budget in FY2024/2025 totaled \$14,430 for youth services and technology.

Those interested in donating to PWPL have many options, such as:

- Annual Fund - Donations of any amount benefits the annual operating budget.
- Bequests - Donations of any amount can be made in memory or honor of a friend or family member.
- IRA Minimum Distributions - Those over 73 can lower income and taxes from IRA withdraws through a charitable rollover.
- Endowment Funds - Named endowment funds can be established for gifts over \$25,000. In 2025, the library managed seven endowment funds which focus on supporting youth, technology, library collections, and local history.



Questions about donating?

Contact Heather at 906-226-4305 or heather@pwpl.info.



FRIENDS OF PWPL



The Friends of Peter White Public Library (Friends) formed in 2006 with a mission to foster positive relations between Peter White Public Library (PWPL) and the people it serves. The Friends have carried out this mission by raising funds to secure materials beyond the scope of the PWPL operating budget, providing additional services that support PWPL.

Activities began with biannual used book sales and assisting with PWPL events. In 2016, the Friends Used Book Store was opened on the second floor, and moved to its current location in late 2018. Through the years, the Friends have been delighted by the ever-increasing success and popularity of the Friends Used Bookstore. In FY2024/2025 the Friends raised a record setting \$75,166.66 through the used book sales, used bookstore and online sales.

In response to the Friends' growing membership and diverse interests, a Volunteer and Social Committee was established to offer opportunities beyond sales and bookstore activities.

Over the last twenty years, the Friends have developed lasting relationships with the staff of PWPL, which will help us stay strong and benefit the library and our patrons for many years to come.

~ David White, President, Friends of PWPL

Friends of PWPL Board Members:

David White (President), Vacant (Vice President), Cathy Seblonka (Secretary)

Members at large: Susie Colquitt, Donna Keskimaki, Margi Licht-Mallo, Dianne Patrick, Vicki Reuling, Joe Sabol, and Walter Wojtowicz. Staff Liaison and Treasurer: Heather Steltenpohl



Friends Spotlight - Vicki Reuling

I love books! I've had the privilege of owning a bookstore and serving on the board of a small community library, and through the Friends of PWPL, I'm able to continue connecting with others who share that same love of reading. I especially enjoy volunteering in the Friends Bookstore, which offers readers a wide variety of materials at very affordable prices. I'm grateful to everyone who donates their gently used books and to those who purchase them—every sale directly supports Peter White Public Library and the services so many people in our community enjoy and rely on.

From Children's Storytime to Tech Coaching for Seniors, PWPL truly offers something for everyone. I'm honored to be part of such an amazing community asset. ~Vicki Reuling, member since 2022.



217 North Front Street
Marquette, MI 49855

Main Line: 906-228-9510
Adult Services: 906-226-4311
Teen Services: 906-226-4321
Youth Services: 906-226-4323

www.pwpl.info

Social Media: @peterwhitepubliclibrary



Printed & mailed thanks to a generous donor.



Peter White Public Library

Enriching the community through access to library services and cultural opportunities.