



Loutit District Library

407 Columbus Ave, Grand Haven, MI 49417

(616)850-6900

www.loutitlibrary.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Loutit District Library to Receive \$10,000 Gift from Carnegie Corporation of New York

Grand Haven, MI - October 23, 2025 — The Loutit District Library will receive a \$10,000 gift from [Carnegie Corporation of New York](http://www.carnegie.org), the foundation established by Andrew Carnegie. The award is part of [Carnegie Libraries 250](http://www.carnegie.org), a special initiative celebrating the upcoming 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and honoring the roughly 1,280 Carnegie Libraries still serving their communities across the United States.

Scottish immigrant Andrew Carnegie funded the construction of 1,681 free public libraries nationwide between 1886 and 1917. Approximately 750 of them continue to use their original buildings, while others have moved to new locations. Opened in 1914, our library is one of the 61 Carnegie Libraries in Michigan built through this historic program.

"In their original request to Andrew Carnegie, the Grand Haven Women's Club began by saying, *'Dear Sir- Perhaps no town in our State has ever been in so crippled a condition for want of good literature as the beautiful lake port of Grand Haven, Michigan [...]'* They requested the funding to build a library after Central School and its library had burned two years prior, leaving the city without a public resource for literature."

"Today, the legacy of the Women's Club lives on through a monthly-meeting group called Local Ladies Lunching and Learning at Loutit Library, or L6 for short, who meet on the first Wednesday of the month for an educational presentation and discussion. We hope we have fulfilled the original hopes of the Women's Club in furthering the 'intellectual [...] growth of this community' and are so thankful for the support from the Carnegie Corporation in the past and present," said Chelsea Payton, Community Engagement and Marketing Manager.

"We are delighted to be one of the many recipients of the Carnegie grants celebrating the 250th anniversary of our nation. Our library started small, with a donation from Andrew Carnegie, and grew into what it is today, a robust and thriving organization serving a multitude of needs throughout the community. We are grateful to Carnegie Corporation of



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New York for their generous gift of \$10,000, which will be used to benefit the people of the Grand Haven area,” said Ellen Peters, Executive Director.

“Our founder, Andrew Carnegie, who championed the free public library movement of the late 19th century, described libraries as ‘cradles of democracy’ that ‘strengthen the democratic idea, the equality of the citizen, and the royalty of man,’” said [Dame Louise Richardson](#), president of Carnegie and former head of the University of Oxford. “We still believe this and are delighted to celebrate our connection to the libraries he founded.”

The Loutit District Library will receive the gift in January 2026 and plans to use the funds to celebrate the country's 250th anniversary, further the library's mission, and benefit the community.

Patrons are invited to share their Loutit District Library photos, stories, and community celebrations at carnegielibraries.org.

For media inquiries:

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Carnegie’s news release: <https://www.carnegie.org/news/articles/hundreds-of-carnegie-libraries-to-receive-10000-gifts-in-celebration-of-united-states-250th-anniversary/>



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Images of the original Grand Haven Carnegie Public Library





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Inside the original Grand Haven Carnegie Public Library





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Grand Haven Tribune articles from the 1914 library opening

LIBRARY RECEPTION

Nearly Two Thousand Grand Haven People Visit Building

If the multitude of people and their expressions of admiration on Saturday night are any indication of the appreciation of Grand Haven people of their new library building, those who were instrumental in procuring this neat, substantial edifice for the public library, as well as the donor of the most substantial sum which enabled the commission to have this beautiful library home erected, must feel proud and at least partially repaid for their efforts for if "Well done, thou good and faithful servants," was ever expressed, it was assuredly at the reception on the night mentioned.

From 1800 to 2000 of Grand Haven's people came to admire their new library building, between the hours of 7 and 10, Saturday night. It was a democratic crowd, a crowd of people of which any community should be proud.

No formalities, no red tape, no program, only one effort sublime was made by the commission and that was to make the people, one and all feel that the library belonged to them.

The decorations of ferns and smilax were neat and appropriate and with the splendid illuminations made an impressive scene, with the crowd surging through the building.

On Tuesday afternoon the regular monthly meeting of the commission meets and in all probability a statement will then be made as to the financial standing of the fund set apart for the building, etc., as well as some other matters pertaining to the library, which will be interesting to the patrons and public of Grand Haven in general.

PUBLIC PULSE

Editor Tribune:—

It was with considerable interest I read in the Daily Tribune of the dedication of our beautiful new Public Library now open to the public. The rich man may take pride in his library printed in the finest tone paper, and handsome bindings. He is not the sole owner of the grand intellects of the world's greatest authors, however. The humblest laborer who walks to his daily laborer, perhaps being master of little else than the contents of his dinner pail, can share equally with the wealthy man. From the public library he gets a supply of the best books on philosophy, science and discovery, ancient and modern history, which brings instruction, entertainment and inspiration, that keeps one in touch with the life and progress of our day.

William Harper.