

## Report of the Ainsworth Public Library

The Ainsworth Public Library offers many services to the community aside from lending books. The library is part of the village's face, along with other important businesses you see as you drive through town.

One of the most critical services the library offers is free Wi-Fi and internet access, a need that continues to grow. The library is open 43 hours per week, including Sunday hours that started in October, which was highly requested by our patrons. Our services range from programming for adults and children, free access to state parks, museums, and historical sites, a monthly book group, a crafting group, and inter-library loans. In 2025, we had over 5,000 people utilize the library. Additionally, over 6,000 materials (books, passes, audios, puzzles, DVDs, etc.) were borrowed.

This year, Federal funding for interlibrary loan services was cut, leaving libraries like ours to fill financial gaps. In 2025, over 4,000 Inter-Library loans happened at the library. We intend to allocate a significant portion of our fundraising efforts to supporting this service, as it is the one our patrons use most.

Elements of our budget have changed this year due to rising costs and factors beyond the library's control. These include:

- Mandatory minimum wage increases by the State
- Health insurance costs
- An increase in prices of hardcover and paperback books (hardcover \$30-35, paperbacks \$15.99-\$18.99)

We continue to offer free COVID test kits and gun safety locks to all. For a small fee, you can also print and fax documents from our printers. We will continue to pursue grant funding to offset the library's costs.

Annually, we offer events like:

- Trunk or Treat
- Gingerbread House Contest
- Winter Hat, Mitten, and Scarf Drive
- Cribbage Tournaments
- Winter and Summer Reading Programs

We are preparing to promote more programming in 2026, including book shed sales, raffle prizes, and more.

At this time, we want to thank the voters, Select Board, townspeople, and all of our patrons for their support.

Please continue to support our Library and be sure to visit our website or Facebook page to learn more about upcoming events and library happenings. [AinsworthPublicLibrary.org](http://AinsworthPublicLibrary.org)

Thank you,  
The Ainsworth Public Library Trustees