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March 23, 2021

Carl Noonan
Empire Township Supervisor
Box 234
Empire, MI 49630

Dear Carl,

Thank you for the opportunity to share a brief update on the Glen Lake Community Library. This past year has been very eventful for all of us, due to the COVID pandemic. In this context, we're especially pleased to have opened our new facility on September 8, 2020, after years of planning, fundraising and construction. The new library is the result of wide-spread community support, funded by donations from over 400 individuals, families, businesses and other organizations. This includes two very generous gifts from Empire Township, totaling \$65,000, which helped complete not just our new building, but will also support additional landscaping improvements. We are extremely appreciative of the Township's support, and all you do for the Empire area.

The new library has grown to nearly 6000 square feet, with abundant room for books and media, reading and study areas, and much more. Highlights include:

- An expanded **Young Learners** section, with an inviting, kid-friendly design
- New **public computers** and enhanced WiFi
- **More seating** for individuals and groups, including a Reading Lounge with gas fireplace
- A **Program Room** for library activities and community groups
- A **Study Room** for smaller groups
- An **open, airy design**, with ample windows for natural lighting
- **Outdoor seating** and natural landscaping, with more improvements slated for this spring

With this new facility, we're working hard to expand our role, creating a vital hub for learning, recreation, and community sharing. To that end, we're building partnerships with other local organizations to take full advantage of our resources. This includes more outreach to Glen Lake schools, with all high school students invited to receive library cards. We'll once again be offering weekly kid's activities as part of our Summer Reading program. We've also been hosting virtual presentations in conjunction with our partner libraries in Leelanau County. I'm pleased to report that we've been able to keep the library open to the public this past fall and winter, with occupancy limits, social distancing and other COVID preventive measures. As conditions improve, we look forward to more fully opening the library to additional in-person activities.

If you have additional questions about the library, or suggestions for how we can continue to improve our services, please let us know. For more information, and access to our digital resources, please visit our website, glenlakelibrary.net.

Sincerely,

David Diller, library director