



# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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ANTWERP - MATTAWAN BANGOR  
BLOOMINGDALE COVERT  
DECATUR GOBLES LAWRENCE



## Carol Nelson & Denise Campagna 2015 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

Library Director Ryan Wieber announced in December that Carol Nelson (above left) and Denise Campagna were the recipients of the 2015 Librarian of the Year Award due to their dedication, enthusiasm and passion for their work, the library, and ultimately, the patrons.

Nelson, who started as a Bangor Branch clerk in 2004, was credited with the ability to please patrons and fellow co-workers by exhibiting a consistently gracious and caring attitude. "Carol takes pride in serving others," Wieber says. "She makes everyone who walks through the door feel welcome and important. She is dedicated, dependable and an excellent representative of the library's mission."

Campagna, having earned her second Librarian of the Year Award, was recognized for instilling in the Lawrence community her enthusiasm and passion for library programs and services. "Denise's passion for the library shines through every day," Wieber says. "I know I can always count on her to make the right decisions, energetically promote the library and provide a healthy, fun and rewarding staff environment."

Wieber credited Campagna with making the Lawrence Branch a true community center by offering programs such as the Reader's Café, Graphic Novel Club, Tai Chi, high school art exhibits, photography contests, author visits and more.

Each recipient received a certificate of appreciation and monetary gift from the Friends of the Van Buren District Library.

## From the Director

"Great things are happening at the Van Buren District Library." This unofficial slogan is reflective of the work being undertaken to create a more dynamic library that meets the needs of our communities in the areas of new programs and services, expanded children's activities and an increase of digital offerings.

According to the Pew Center for Research recent study *Libraries at the Crossroads*, a majority of Americans recognize their local libraries as places that should support local education, embrace new technologies, and provide spaces for reading, studying, working and programming. VBDL made improvements in each of those areas in 2015 by significantly increasing technology training opportunities, offering more arts and cultural programs, teaming up better with local schools, and by analyzing our circulation trends and collection configurations in order to make adjustments to space usage.

Van Buren District Library is supported at each location by a caring and generous force of volunteers and Friends of the Library members. Last year's book sales, summer reading program activities, and word-of-mouth promotions were successful because of the special dedication and attention given by our volunteers.

VBDL's statistics from 2015 reflect a nationwide downward trend in circulation of printed books, an increase in digital checkouts, and an upward surge in the library as a WiFi hotspot. New materials acquisitions took a hit as revenue decreased, however a push was still made to provide more copies of popular items. Our website experienced a major makeover in terms of design and content, and the library's overall marketing plan became more active in 2015 with added staff hours and attention to consistency in promoting library news and activities.

Financially, the library had the good fortune of the district's voters approving an additional .20 millage for ten years, allowing VBDL to recoup some of the significant hit from a power plant tax

tribunal judgment. The new revenue will aid us in restoring the materials budgets back to appropriate levels, and it will also enhance services to branches in Bangor, Bloomingdale, Covert, Gobles and Lawrence by adding a sixth day of service in mid-2016. Property tax values are on the upward swing; however, VBDL's funding is also dependent on State Aid and Penal Fines, which vary from year to year. The recent legislative reduction to personal property taxes will also affect our revenue beginning in 2017. The library board continually has to balance a need to improve the library versus the reality of running a tight budget and cautiously planning against future funding threats.

Great things did indeed happen at the library in 2015, and there is much yet to come in the near future with more convenient open hours, more popular book and audio-visual additions, and a growing number of requested programming ideas. Please see the highlights from 2015 on the following pages.

Thank you,  
Ryan Wieber  
DIRECTOR

## Customer Service Award Winners

Van Buren District Library recently awarded its 2015 Customer Service Awards to Frank Kucharski, delivery driver, Decatur; and LaDonna Golden, Assistant Branch Librarian, Covert. Both were recognized for their commitment toward providing a welcoming, comfortable and creative library environment. Kucharski and Golden both have worked for VBDL since 2004.

Their special designations were announced at a staff luncheon in December, where they received a certificate and monetary gift from the Friends of the Van Buren District Library.



# 2015 VOLUNTEERS

Marianne Abbott  
 Janet Abshagen  
 Julie Aguilar  
 Gerald Anderson  
 Anne Arthur  
 Cindy Athey  
 Sandy Augst  
 Bitsy Becker  
 Joyce Beedie  
 Dan & Olivia Benson  
 Kathy Bisek  
 Cindy Boven  
 Mary Broekhuizen  
 Ann Brown  
 Jim Brunet  
 Micki Burns  
 Sal Campagna  
 Malana Chan  
 Candy Chapman  
 Lisa Chin  
 Ana Chin  
 Dec Clement  
 Kris Colgren  
 Julie Collard  
 Diane Corradini  
 Charlette Cruse  
 Megan Curtis  
 Bruce Cutting  
 Bertha Denemy  
 Phil DeYoung  
 Miranda Diaz  
 Sheri Dick  
 Jim Drake  
 Karolyn Drenth  
 Ginny & Ron Drogula  
 Sue Dunton  
 Wendy Estrada  
 Ginny Field  
 Ann Flora  
 Nancy Ford  
 Linda Fruin

Judy Fusko  
 Bette Glindemeyer  
 Libby Godwin  
 Phyllis Graham  
 Alan Grossmann  
 Sandy Hanson  
 Jeff & Theresa Heaton  
 Jan Hellenga  
 Wesley Hemenway  
 Darren Hemenway  
 Richard & Mary Ellen  
 Hemenway  
 Loretta Hiemstra  
 Pauline Hoadley  
 Loraine Houseman  
 Elaine Hovenkamp  
 Catherine Hulin  
 Dennis & Wayne  
 Hurlbut  
 Kim Ingalls  
 Bob & Karen Jensen  
 Velma Johnson  
 Dee Jorgboyan  
 Natalie Kelley  
 Cailin Kessen  
 Clay Kessen  
 Terra Klein  
 Dawn Kobreek  
 Marilyn Konkle  
 Beuna Kraak  
 Gloria Krogel  
 Olivia & Jodi Kuiper  
 Ron & Liz Kurzmann  
 Cindy Kusmack  
 Roger Leduc  
 Rick Leestma  
 Betty Markel  
 Phil & Linda Marshall  
 Lydia McDaniel  
 Barb McKeeby  
 Karrie Melvin

Martha Merriam  
 Donna Mills  
 Janelle Moelaart  
 Grace Montague  
 Chloe Orton  
 Laura Othralik  
 Margarita Pantoja  
 Fabiola Pantoja  
 Ashley Parr  
 Lydia Peterson  
 Melissa Piontek  
 David Podolak  
 Frank Popp  
 Wayne & Marcia Potter  
 Pastor Cliff Radtke  
 Larry & Edna Ralston  
 Linda Read  
 Barb Reits  
 Wayne & Marilyn Rendell  
 Heath Ricks  
 Ron Ritchie

Helen Rivers  
 Faith Rogers  
 Lily Rozeveld  
 Cheryl & Rich Rumery  
 Celia Schipper  
 Shawn Schipper  
 Gina Schipper  
 Eric Schultz  
 Paul Schultz  
 Jami Schultz  
 Linda Seaman  
 Paula Sipes  
 Katie Siple  
 George Skoropad  
 Charles Smith  
 Anne & Melinda Snider  
 Darlene Spalo  
 Mary Spencer  
 Judith Stockpole  
 Carolyn Stuckum  
 Marlene Suter

Bonita Suter  
 Connie & Steve Talsma  
 Anita Thomas  
 Kim Thompson  
 Jon Towne  
 Imani Tunstall  
 Christopher Turk  
 Betty Usrey  
 Sandra Valentine  
 Jennifer Valentine  
 Marilyn Vana  
 Rick Vreeland  
 Corinne Wade  
 Zach Waters  
 Eric Waters  
 Mary Webster  
 Jodi Wesaw  
 Debbie Woodard  
 Luanne Wright  
 Melissa Zagrzebski  
 Winnie Zimmerle





## Ana Chin BLOOMINGDALE

Former school teacher Ana Chin is familiar with big city life, growing up in Chicago and living in San Francisco for many years. For the past five years, however, the current Bloomingdale area resident has fallen in love with the Bloomingdale Branch Library. To her, the library “is a magical and joyful place, and a town center for meeting other residents.”

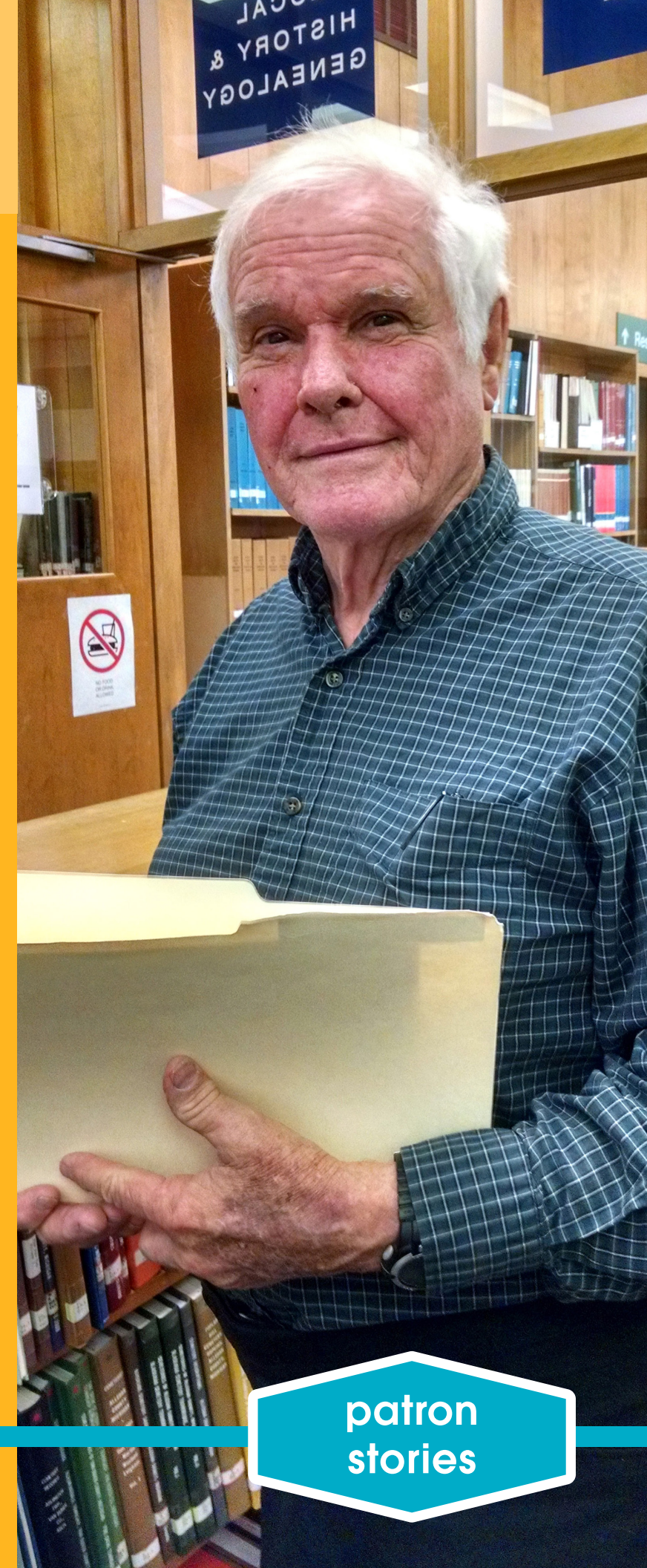
Ana and her family are avid readers and participants in all things library. Her happiness comes from voluntarily leading story times and introducing children to the world of reading. “I love to see the joy in kids’ faces when they hear a story or create a craft.” Ana also participates in the quilting club and leads a women’s coloring group. She appreciates the interaction between the women in her groups and enjoys initiating discussion topics. “The library is a very stimulating place and has the ability to reach and help many people.”

## Ray McAdams LOCAL HISTORY

Family history resources normally found in larger, metropolitan libraries are conveniently located in Webster Memorial Library’s Toni I. Benson Local History and Genealogy Room, named after its longtime and beloved organizer. It is home to a wealth of unique research materials centered on Van Buren County and southwestern Michigan.

Genealogists come from near and far to utilize the indexes, microfilmed and digitized newspapers, maps and photographs, and expert, personalized help that have made the collection a respected and valuable resource for the beginner or experienced researcher.

Pictured on the right is Ohio resident Ray McAdams during a 2015 visit while researching his Van Buren County ancestors.



patron  
stories

# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

Redesigned and Revamped Website  
Comic Con Event  
Dueling Pianos Concert at Lawrence  
Friends of VBDL Chicago Untouchables Tour  
Michigan Blood Drives  
"Every Hero Has a Story" Summer Reading Program  
Legos Clubs  
Van Buren Reads Loreen Niewenhuis' "A 1,000 Mile Walk on the Beach"  
Performance by Grammy winner Peter "Madcat" Ruth  
Zombie Fest  
November Voter Passage of New Millage  
Messy Mondays at Decatur  
Technology Classes  
Gobles Battle of the Books  
Staff Development Day at Portage District Library  
Give the Gift of Life Organ Donor Registry Drive  
Wiggle Time Music and Movement  
Read Around the Rink with K-Wings' Slappy  
Jacqueline Baerwald Art Exhibit at Lawrence  
Writer's Workshop with Ami Hendrickson  
Mobile Branch of the Michigan Secretary of State  
Mini Mobile Computer Lab courtesy of Antwerp Township  
Bangor Newspaper Digitization Project – Phase II  
Jewelry Classes  
Author Visits by David Burch, Thomas Funke and Shirley Rigozzi  
Illustrator "Dragonbrush" Dan Monroe

Library Employees of the Year: Carol Nelson and Denise Campagna  
Customer Service Award of 2015: LaDonna Golden and Frank Kucharski  
1,000 Books Before Kindergarten  
Van Buren County Great Start Birthday Book Club  
Internet Users Group  
Teen Photo Contest at Lawrence  
Underground Railroad in Southwest Michigan  
John Ball Traveling Zoo  
Joel Tacey's Super Caper  
Bangor Through the Years  
Thursday Afternoon with Friends  
Lawrence Tai Chi  
Decatur Student Art Show  
Movie Days  
Digital Photo Editing  
Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society Programs  
Covert All Crafters Club  
Bloomingdale Knitting Group  
Ice Princess Parties  
Mafia in Southwest Michigan  
Brown Bag Book Talk

## VBDL Core Beliefs

To Support the Library's Mission, We Value:

- Reading as a foundation for learning for all age groups
- Offering professional service in a welcoming, inviting environment
- Providing valued library services to our communities in a fiscally responsible way





**1000**  
**BOOKS**  
before kindergarten

## Brayden Westbrooks

ANTWERP - MATTAWAN

VBDL strives to provide a foundation for reading success for all patrons from birth onward. Therefore, the Antwerp Sunshine Branch was happy to investigate an important literacy program when young mom, Amber Westbrooks, inquired about a program she heard about: 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten.

Library staff researched, planned and implemented the program that is now available at all seven locations. Brayden Westbrooks completed his goal of reading 1,000 books in June 2015.

Young readers across VBDL libraries read a total of 40,108 books as part of the 1,000 Books program!

Reading with your children, even infants, is a great way to help with brain development and build literacy skills...And if you get your books from the library, it's free!



## Stephanie Sanchez

BANGOR

"Libraries are indeed a special place!" says Stephanie Sanchez of Bangor. "The Bangor Branch really promotes the love of reading to kids at all ages."

Thanks to ongoing support from families, such as Stephanie's, and many individuals, the Bangor Branch, like all VBDL locations, is recognized as a community center for literacy resources and programs. As Stephanie says, "Coming to the library hasn't just improved my children's literacy, but also their respect and love for the written word."

Through innovative programming, online resources, knowledgeable staff, and diverse collections, Van Buren District Library's goal is to provide a foundation for reading success from birth to adulthood.

As Stephanie's oldest daughter says, "the library transports you to a completely different world."

patron  
stories



Statements of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance/  
statements of activities for the year ended December 31, 2015.

LIBRARY AS  
A WHOLE  
STATEMENT OF  
ACTIVITIES-  
FULL ACCRUAL  
BASIS

## Statements of activities for the year ended December 31, 2015

	GENERAL FUND	ENDOWMENT FUND	TOTAL-MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS	GASB NO. 34 ADJUSTMENTS	LIBRARY AS A WHOLE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES-FULL ACCRUAL BASIS
<b>REVENUES:</b>					
TAXES	1,327,969	-	\$1,327,969	-	\$1,327,969
STATE SOURCES	27,487	-	27,487	-	27,487
PENAL FINES	200,383	-	200,383	-	200,383
FEES AND BOOK FINES	37,502	-	37,502	-	37,502
INVESTMENT INCOME	4,226	790	5,016	-	5,016
LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER	155,547	5,075	160,622	-	160,622
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$1,753,114</b>	<b>\$5,865</b>	<b>\$1,758,979</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$1,758,979</b>

EXPENDITURES/ EXPENSES:	GENERAL FUND	ENDOWMENT FUND	TOTAL-MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS	GASB NO. 34 ADJUSTMENTS	LIBRARY AS A WHOLE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES- FULL ACCRUAL BASIS
SALARIES	\$929,093	-	\$929,093	\$626	\$929,719
PAYROLL TAXES	69,602	-	69,602	-	69,602
INSURANCE (HEALTH, LIFE, DISABILITY, W/C)	84,235	-	84,235	-	84,235
PENSION	42,490	-	42,490	13,057	55,547
OFFICE AND LIBRARY SUPPLIES	7,724	-	7,724	-	7,724
POSTAGE, PRINTING, COPYING	18,721	-	18,721	-	18,721
GAS AND OIL	3,092	-	3,092	-	3,092
JANITOR SUPPLIES	3,278	-	3,278	-	3,278
PROFESSIONAL FEES	68,427	-	68,427	-	68,427
DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	3,565	-	3,565	-	3,565
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	47,083	-	47,083	-	47,083
UTILITIES	53,198	-	53,198	-	53,198
TELEPHONE	12,434	-	12,434	-	12,434
TRAVEL	9,119	-	9,119	-	9,119
PROMOTIONAL AND READING PROGRAMS	19,073	-	19,073	-	19,073
GENERAL AND VEHICLE INSURANCE	8,045	-	8,045	-	8,045
MAINTENANCE	70,976	-	70,976	-	70,976
CONTINUING EDUCATION	1,759	-	1,759	-	1,759
CAPITAL OUTLAY	86,686	-	86,686	(48,867)	37,819
AUDIOVISUAL, BOOKS, AND PERIODICALS	175,244	-	175,244	(146,844)	28,400
INTERNET FEES	19,694	-	19,694	-	19,694
MISCELLANEOUS	2,099	-	2,099	-	2,099
GRANT	50,000	-	50,000	-	50,000
DEPRECIATION	-	-	-	159,843	159,843
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES/ EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,785,637</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$1,785,637</b>	<b>\$(22,185)</b>	<b>\$1,763,452</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$(32,523)</b>	<b>\$5,865</b>	<b>\$(26,658)</b>	<b>\$22,185</b>	<b>\$(4,473)</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>					
OPERATING TRANSFERS IN(OUT)	337	(337)	-	-	-
<b>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION</b>	<b>\$(32,186)</b>	<b>\$5,528</b>	<b>\$(26,658)</b>	<b>\$22,185</b>	<b>\$(4,473)</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION-BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>1,445,491</b>	<b>156,069</b>	<b>1,601,560</b>	<b>531,335</b>	<b>2,132,895</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION- END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$1,413,305</b>	<b>\$161,597</b>	<b>\$1,574,902</b>	<b>\$553,520</b>	<b>\$2,128,422</b>



# 2015 Van Buren District Library STATISTICS

37,072

items loaned between  
Van Buren District  
Library Branches

9,257

items loaned  
to other Michigan  
library patrons

12,485

items borrowed  
from other Michigan  
libraries for VBDL  
patrons

280,314  
TOTAL ITEMS  
BORROWED



PROGRAMS: 812  
PROGRAM ATTENDEES:  
11,217  
SUMMER READING  
PROGRAM  
ATTENDANCE: 2,629

PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTERS 73

NO. OF PUBLIC COMPUTER SESSIONS 10,472

NO. PUBLIC COMPUTER HOURS 40,851

WIFI INTERNET LOGINS 18,730

WIFI % INCREASE 15%



## TONI I. BENSON LOCAL HISTORY ROOM

RESEARCHERS: 546  
ITEMS CIRCULATED: 5,235  
LOCAL HISTORY VOLUNTEER  
HOURS: 911

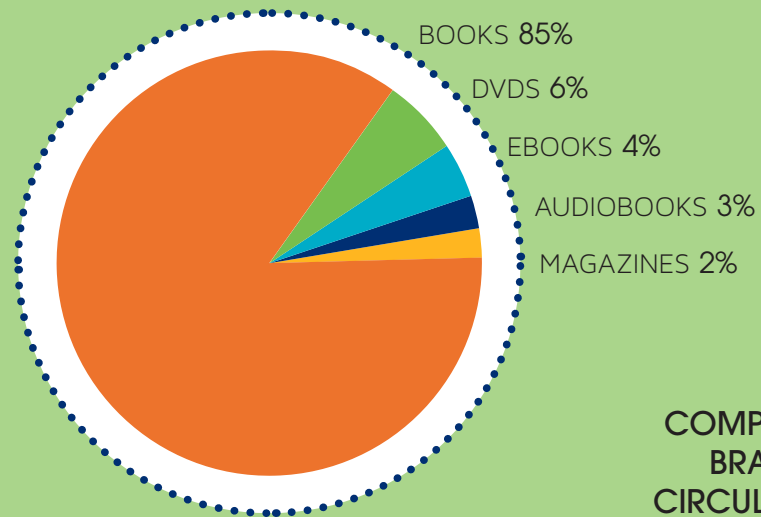


NUMBER OF VISITORS:  
166,751

NEW CARDHOLDERS:  
1,579

TOTAL ACTIVE,  
REGISTERED  
CARDHOLDERS:  
18,579

## COLLECTION STATISTICS % OF OVERALL COLLECTION



### CIRCULATION % BY FORMAT

BOOKS: 66%  
DVD'S: 22%  
E-BOOKS: 5%  
MAGAZINES: 5%  
AUDIOBOOKS: 2%

### CIRCULATION % BY COLLECTION TYPE

CHILDREN: 34%  
ADULT: 29%  
AUDIO-VISUAL: 26%  
E-BOOKS: 6%  
MAGAZINES: 5%

### COMPARATIVE BRANCH CIRCULATION %

ANTWERP: 28%  
WEBSTER: 26%  
BANGOR: 12%  
LAWRENCE: 11%  
GOBLES: 9%  
BLOOMINGDALE: 7%  
COVERT: 5%  
DIGITAL: 2%

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS: 2,353

## 2015 DONORS

Antwerp Sunshine Friends of the Library  
Antwerp Township  
Bangor Area Community Foundation  
Bangor Friends of the Library  
Janet Beatty  
Ana Chin  
Nina Consolatti  
Barry & RoseAnne Cook  
Allan B. Copley Foundation  
G. Dean Copping  
Covert Friends of the Library  
Covert Twp. Community Foundation  
Decatur Study Club  
Virgie Denton  
Bob Emmert  
Barbara Farris  
Friends of the Van Buren District Library  
Gobles Friends of the Library  
Dr. Judith Halseth  
Craig Hermann, D.D.S.  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kilburn  
Lawrence Friends of the Library  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen McGuire  
Duane & Kathyne Miller  
Julian and Judy Pilarski  
David Podolak  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Popp  
Palisades Park Women's Committee  
Palisades Power Plant  
Jan Roeder  
Jim & Marianne Sipka  
Janice Whitney  
Debbie Woodward







# VAN BUREN DISTRICT LIBRARY

Locations in:  
 Antwerp-Mattawan, Bangor, Bloomingdale,  
 Covert, Decatur, Gobles, Lawrence

[www.vbdl.org](http://www.vbdl.org)

## Van Buren District Library LOCATIONS

**Bangor Branch**  
 420 Division St  
 Bangor, MI 49013  
 269.427.8810  
 Bobbi Martindale,  
 Branch Librarian

**Bloomingdale Branch**  
 109 East Kalamazoo  
 Bloomingdale, MI 49026  
 269.521.7601  
 Marianne Sipka,  
 Branch Librarian

**Covert Branch**  
 33680 M-140 Hwy  
 Covert, MI 49043  
 269.764.1298  
 Lois Brigham,  
 Branch Librarian

**Gobles Branch**  
 105 East Main St  
 Gobles, MI 49055  
 269.628.4537  
 Barbara Insidioso,  
 Branch Librarian

**Lawrence Community Branch**  
 212 North Paw Paw St  
 Lawrence, MI 49064  
 269.674.3200  
 Denise Campagna,  
 Branch Librarian

**Antwerp Sunshine Branch**  
 24823 Front Ave  
 Mattawan, MI 49071  
 269.668.2534  
 Kay McAdam,  
 Branch Librarian

**Webster Memorial Library**  
 Van Buren District  
 Library Headquarters  
 200 North Phelps St  
 Decatur, MI 49045  
 269.423.4771  
 Ryan Wieber,  
 VBDL Director

## Board of TRUSTEES

MARIANNE ABBOTT	Bloomingdale
BRUCE CUTTING	Antwerp, Vice-Chair
ELIZABETH GODWIN	Decatur
SANDRA HANSON	Van Buren County, Chair
CATHERINE HULIN	Gobles
BETTY MARKEL	Bangor
PHILLIP MARSHALL	Lawrence
WAYNE RENDELL	Covert

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