



2016 Annual Report

ANTWERP - MATTAWAN BANGOR BLOOMINGDALE COVERT DECATUR GOBLES LAWRENCE



Van Buren District Library's 2016 EMPLOYEE AWARDS

Three staff members were recognized for their achievements in 2016.

The 2016 Employee of the Year is Jeffrey Babbitt, Library Clerk and Marketing Associate at the Antwerp Sunshine Branch, Mattawan. The honor is annually given to the staff member who demonstrates consistent hard work and achievement, provides an outstanding level of service beneficial to the library and patrons, exhibits energy and passion for the job, and whose actions have made a positive difference.

Babbitt employed his talents and motivation during the past year to organize a teen writer's group and challenge, a musician's group, actively participated on the organizing committee for the area's first GeekFest, and he was selected as a top five finalist in the SOUP competition at the Michigan Library Association Conference. Besides working for VBDL, Babbitt is enrolled in the Library and Information Science program at Wayne State University.

Recipients of the 2016 Customer Service Award and Genius Idea Award were Mollie Barkovich and Bobbi Martindale, respectively. According to Library Director Ryan Wieber, Barkovich, Branch Manager at Webster Memorial Library, Decatur, was instrumental in expanding the library's outreach and programs, and she demonstrated infectious enthusiasm among staff and patrons.

Martindale, Bangor Branch Librarian, was recognized for her start to finish involvement with the Children's Story Walk event in Bangor. A story walk is an innovative, fun way to experience nature, exercise and storybooks through the placement of laminated, colorful pages along a trail in a local park.

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

From the Director

A little library history: Organized in 1934, the Van Buren County Library System had its beginnings in a room at the county courthouse. Covert Township added its local library to the county system in 1945, followed by Bloomingdale, Bangor and Gobles in 1946, Lawrence in 1947, and Antwerp in 1957. Decatur and Lawrence share the distinction of having the earliest local libraries (1870s), while Gobles and Bloomingdale were 1934 Depression-era WPA initiatives.

Oftentimes, early township libraries consisted of a collection of a few hundred books in a downtown storeroom or office, contributed by way of donations or local fees and appropriations. Today's Van Buren District Library system, consisting of seven busy branches scattered around the county, has its roots based on a network of small local libraries begun by like-minded folks who recognized the importance of literacy and the value of a library in their town.

Libraries of course have changed dramatically since the 1930s and our Van Buren patrons today expect facilities, collections, services and programs that reflect modern trends found in a more digital world. Printed books and a love of reading still form the foundation of the library; however, we must also continue adapting to the growing demand for digital books, audios, movies and music. VBDL's circulation numbers in 2016 continued to mimic nationwide trends of fewer printed books being checked out and an increase in materials being downloaded or streamed. Our libraries continued to be key providers of high speed Internet access through public workstations and Wi-Fi, and sometimes the only solution for families who have no access at home. The library's Wi-Fi usage increased significantly last year as more patrons conveniently sought out the Internet on their own devices.

As a result of a new operational millage passed in November 2015, VBDL was able to provide enhanced open hours and newer collections. All branches now offer six-day service with more consistent hours and a significant increase in the availability of popular new titles. This is an added convenience for patrons who appreciate both the large selection of available titles and shorter waiting periods for brand new titles or authors. More new titles are



now available with the introduction of "Hot Picks," a collection of new titles that cannot be reserved, have a shorter checkout period, and are available on a first come-first served basis. Another new offering in 2016—"Hoopla"—features a huge selection of streaming movies, audios, music, and books that helps those patrons who prefer to supplement their library usage by way of tablet, phone or computer. Digital checkouts or downloads increased 68% in 2016 compared to the previous year.

In early 2016, the Library Board and several library staff members reviewed and revised the 2014 Strategic Plan. The most significant change was the addition of a new goal to "Provide a Foundation for Reading Success from Birth to Adulthood." Objectives for this goal include establishing the library as a recognized literacy resource and to constantly encourage a love for reading. As a result, all branches offer consistently scheduled and early literacy-based story times, makerspace (STEM-based) activities for elementary-age kids, and monthly adult book-discussion groups. We're especially striving to find ways to introduce the library to non-users and get books into children's hands. After-school programs, "1,000 Books before Kindergarten," and the Great Start-sponsored "Birthday Book Club" are all initiatives designed to do just that!

It is important that EVERY branch of the Van Buren District Library remain VITAL pieces to their respective communities and continue to be interesting, exciting and useful places. VBDL staff and board are ensuring this happens by adapting to new technology, planning for unique and beneficial library spaces, offering new collections and innovative services, and promoting a love for reading!

Ryan Wieber

2016 VOLUNTEERS

Marianne Abbott	Judy Fusko	Donna Mills	Barb Reits	Carlyn Stuckum
Janet Abshagen	Jamie Garcia	Jeri Mills	Marilyn Rendell	Bonnie Suter
Sandra Ackerman	Adele Gawel	Lee Moser	Wayne Rendell	Marlene Suter
Julie Aguilar	Bette Glindmeyer	Jennifer Nichols	Joyce Riggins	Connie Talsma
Mike Anchor	Elizabeth Godwin	Ben Nordbrock	Ron Ritchie	Steve Talsma
Gerald Anderson	Phyllis Graham	Kelly O'Leary	Helene Rivers	Jon Towne
Anne Arthur	Sandy Hanson	Chloe Orton	Jean Robinson	Betty Usrey
Sandy Augst	Allison Hein	Deb Overhuel	Faith Rogers	Jennifer Valentine
Joyce Beedie	Jan Hellenga	Carmen Pajevich	Lilly Rozeveld	Sandra Valentine
Dan Benson	Darren Hemenway	Fabiola Pantoja	Cheryl Rumery	Marilyn Vana
Kathy Bisek	Mary Ellen Hemenway	Ashley Parr	Rich Rumery	Corinne Wade
Bloomingtondale	Richard Hemenway	Sue Percival	Sherry Sanders	Kris Wasche
Historical Society	Loretta Hiemstra	Melisa Piontek	Linda Seaman	Mary Webster
Lucinda Boven	Pauline Hoadley	David Podalac	Celia Schipper	Bethany Woodward
Mary Broekhuizen	Loraine Houseman	Marcia Potter	Eric Schultz	Debbie Woodard
Ann Brown	Elaine Hovenkamp	Wayne Potter	Katie Siple	Luanne Wright
Micki Burns	Catherine Hulin	Pat Powers	George Skoropad	Tim Wydick
Sal Campagna	Dennis Hurlbut	Edna Ralston	Anne Snider	Winnie Zimmerle
Malana Chan	Wynne Hurlbut	Larry Ralston	Melinda Snider	
Ana Chin	Keely Ingalls	Linda Read	Darlene Spalo	
Dee Clement	Kim Ingalls	Arlynne Reiman	Mary Spencer	
Clark Clement	Karen Jensen			
Kris Colgren	Velma Jonson			
Julie Collard	Natalie Kelly			
Sarah Cook	Cailyn Kessen			
Bob Cooley	Clay Kessen			
Diane Corradini	Josie Keys			
Becky Crites	Terra Klein			
Dick Crites	Marilyn Konkle			
Charlette Cruse	Beuna Kraak			
Bruce Cutting	Rick Leestma			
Phil Decker	Cindy Kusmack			
Phil DeYoung	Julie Leighton			
Sheri Dick	Sandy Lombard			
Karolyn Drenth	Betty Markel			
Ginny Drogula	John Marks			
Sue Dunton	Susan Marks			
Wendy Estrada	Linda Marshall			
Mo Faromuz	Phillip Marshall			
Ginny Field	Lydia McDaniel			
Nancy Ford	Barb McKeeby			



Our patrons



"I LOVE books," Lori Thiede says. The enthusiastic patron enjoys coming to the library just to browse the stacks. She also says she benefits from the library's programs such as the monthly All About Town series featuring local stories and adventures, Webster Memorial's monthly book club; jewelry-making classes, and special activities such as Blind Date with a Book. The variety of programs, offered in Decatur, allow her to do something else she loves – learn new things!

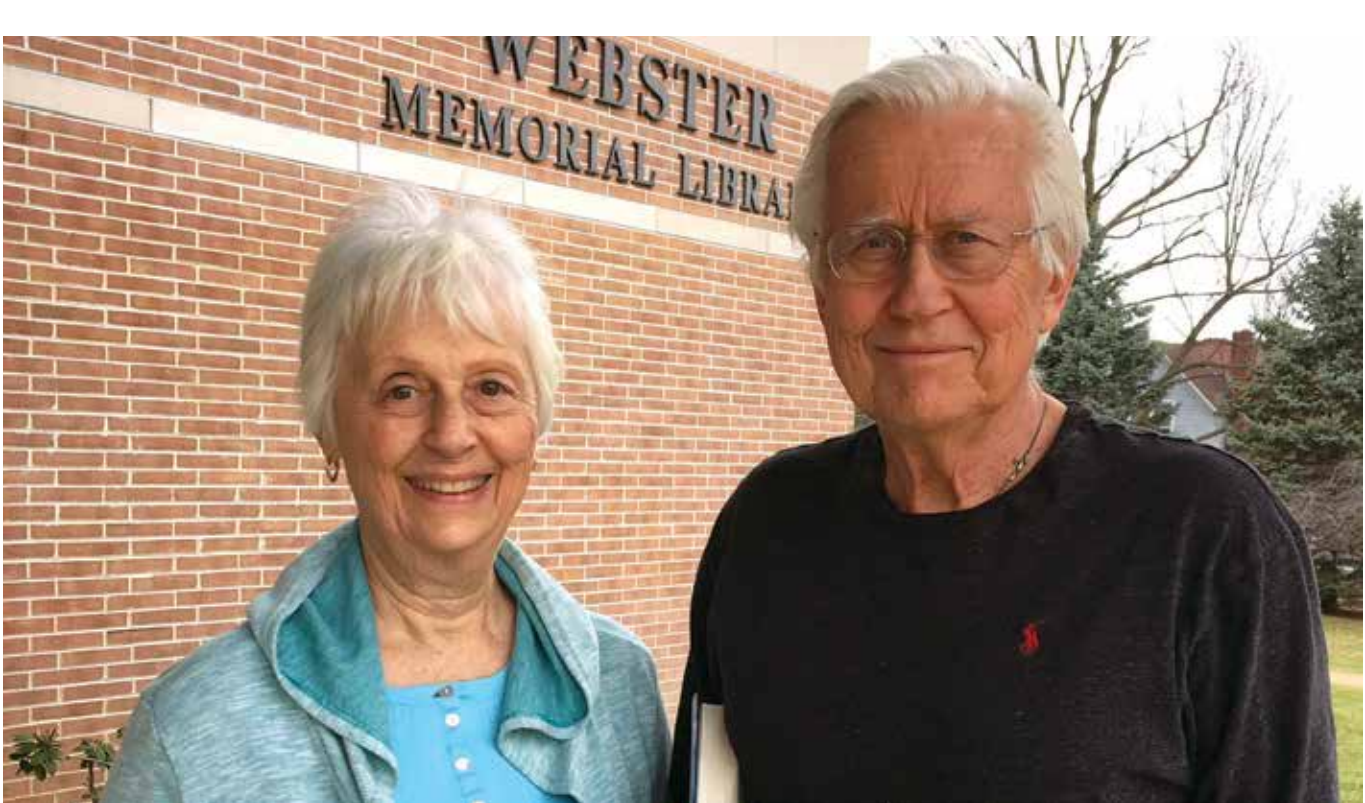
"VBDL adds to the quality of my life," Thiede says. "I'm able to enjoy activities that I might not otherwise participate in if not offered at the library."

A particular pleasure for Lori is attending For the Love of Books, a book club that meets the third Monday of each month. She loves sharing the joy of reading with the other members and hearing what each has learned from the monthly selection. She also appreciates being able to place a hold online during hours the library isn't open or when time doesn't allow her a personal visit.

Lori Thiede
DECATUR



Our patrons



The Skoropads have visited many libraries over the years in the different cities they've lived and places they've visited. Most of the libraries, however, were "a bunch of shelves with books in them and not much else."

Since moving to Decatur twenty years ago, the Skoropads have had the opportunity to watch the growth of Webster Memorial Library. From their point-of-view, the library grows better each year. They especially appreciate the computers in the library and being able to access the catalog from home. They also enjoy the tech classes and special interest presentations.

The couple also commends the library for its exceptional service from the friendly and helpful staff who the Skoropads say, "are the best we have encountered. The Decatur community is truly blessed to have such a wonderful resource."

George and Florence
Skoropad
DECATUR



Our patrons



As a homeschooling mother of three children, Kelly Fischer finds the Bloomingdale Branch library "an invaluable resource for both entertainment and homeschool needs."

Although Fischer's family lives out of the library district, they appreciate the library's services enough to maintain a VBDL card.

"Between the extremely helpful staff and our ability to order books, movies, and audiobooks," Fischer says, "we will gladly continue to patronize the Bloomingdale branch."

VBDL's many resources, both in-house and online, are excellent reference sources for all students. For example,

Britannica Learning Zone for kids in pre-school through second grade, offers activity-centered learning in the areas of reading, technology, numbers, shapes and geography. Learning Express, another online resource available through the MeL Databases has practice tests for students preparing for college and non-traditional students looking for a career change or additional skills.

Kelly Fischer
BLOOMINGDALE



Our patrons



Tony
loves the
fact that
the Ban-

gor Branch has something for everyone. She enjoys walking into the library and noticing so many different people, each with their own story: a child learning to read, a job seeker doing research, a student writing a paper, or a film buff picking out a DVD.

"Visiting the library has given my children a love of reading," Tonya says, "and a real interest in learning new things."

Tonya enjoys the variety of programs and services. "There are books to encourage our curiosity, a wonderful and friendly staff, and many activities to brighten the lives of many people."

Tonya Lemke BANGOR

Our patrons



"My husband's job allows us the opportunity to move state to state every few years," Sarah Meyer says. "When we moved to Mattawan, we joined the Antwerp Sunshine Library in hopes of finding books to keep us busy and entertained. What we found was so much more!"

Meyer and sons, Anderson and Miles, consider the library as a place to find adventure as well as a homeschool resource.

"My older son enjoys getting lost in the aisles of books and finds the library a peaceful and favorite place to visit. My younger boy loves the easy access to picture books that he

can en-
joy over
and over
again."

Sarah Meyer ANTWERP (TEXAS TWP)

Meyer appreciates the friendly smiles from the staff and the safe, warm environment in which her boys can explore the world, book by book.

"The library has continuously provided our family with a space to learn and grow, and to feel like we're part of the community."



2016-2018 VBDL STRATEGIC PLAN

GOAL

1

PROVIDE A FOUNDATION FOR READING SUCCESS FROM BIRTH TO ADULthood

Objectives

- Establish the library as a recognized literacy resource
- Constantly encourage a love for reading

GOAL

2

PROVIDE INNOVATIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE AND PROGRAMMING

Objectives

- Assess and provide a wide range of programs for the public. Anticipate and respond to public program needs
- Improve communications and partnering opportunities with outside organizations
- Strive to provide more community outreach with increased hours, services to homebound patrons, after hours activities
- Regularly assess general needs, expectations of library patrons by way of surveys and by using demographic studies

GOAL

3

OFFER NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY AND SUPPORT TO STAFF AND PATRONS

Objectives

- Proactively plan for future technology needs
- Improve staff training and building/location support
- Offer innovative technology to patrons
- Offer enrichment training for patrons

GOAL

4

CREATE A PERSISTENT AND CONSISTENT LIBRARY IMAGE IN ALL MARKETING EFFORTS

Objectives

- Establish a PR staff workgroup
- Refine current PR process and staffing to ensure consistency
- Prepare future budget for upcoming needs
- Create a new logo and transition to a new website

GOAL

5

MAXIMIZE STAFF RESOURCES

Objectives

- Implement regular staff development workshops on customer service, safety, time saving ideas, etc.
- Rotate the location for monthly branch meetings
- Implement opportunities for more branch visits by Decatur staff, and branch to branch staff visits
- Require regular branch library updates at Library Board meetings

GOAL

6

PROVIDE FINANCIAL STABILITY, ALLOWING THE LIBRARY TO MEET ITS MISSION

Objectives

- Maintain a 3-year Capital Improvement Plan
- Maintain communication with local communities to strengthen relationships, resulting in easier access for future support
- Seek grant opportunities and alternative funding for identified needs

VISION STATEMENT

WE WILL BE AN INNOVATIVE GATEWAY TO INFORMATION, CULTURE AND ENRICHMENT.

BELIEFS / CORE VALUES

TO SUPPORT THE LIBRARY'S MISSION, WE VALUE:

OFFERING PROFESSIONAL SERVICE IN A WELCOMING, INVITING ENVIRONMENT

PROVIDING VALUED LIBRARY SERVICES TO OUR COMMUNITIES IN A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE WAY

READING AS A FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING FOR ALL AGE GROUPS



**VBDL PROVIDES
EQUITABLE ACCESS TO
A WORLD OF RESOURCES,
READING, AND LIFELONG
LEARNING.**

2016 NOTABLE HAPPENINGS

Beginning May 2016: All VBDL branches now open 6 days a week

Van Buren Reads author Kelly Fordon & her book "Garden for the Blind"

Addition of Hoopla Digital movies, audios, books

An Evening of Bluegrass with the Schlitz Creek Bluegrass Band

1,000 Books before Kindergarten

Bangor through the Years with Bob Emmert

Read around the Rink with Slappy

Antwerp Teen Writers' Group

Messy Mondays at Webster Memorial

Prominent Van Buren County Women by Pam Pender

VBDL Day at the Ballpark

Bangor Brown Bag Book Talk

Pre-school Wiggle Time at several branches

Summer Reading 2016: On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!

STEM-STEAM-based Makerspace activities

Teen Creative Writing Challenge

Spring 2016 Open Houses at every branch

New addition: Global Road Warrior World Cultures Database

Antwerp Sunshine's Very Ready to Read program

Learn to Juggle with Mr. Jim

Addition of "Hot Picks" popular titles collection

Titanic: West Michigan's Connections program

Cheese-making program at Bangor

Paul Rood's History of Covert

Miniature Golf Week at Webster Memorial

Biking the Territorial Road: Detroit to the Lake Michigan Shore

Antwerp Sunshine's Non-fiction Book Club

Binder Park Zoomobile visits

Writers Club Series with Ami Hendrickson

Staff visits to local schools' orientations

Gobles Garden Gab

Summer Birds with Wendy Jones of Fernwood

Bloomington Tae Kwan Do

Mark's Ark of Animals at Webster Memorial

Surveillance and Spies in the Civil War—Bangor

New Monthly Book Discussion Group in Covert

Children's author Amy Logan and her book "Rock the Cape"

Employee of the Year Jeffrey Babbitt

Author visit by Amy Goodwin at Lawrence & Bloomingdale

New monthly program: "All about Town" in Decatur

Covert G.Y.M.: Get Yourself Moving

Jeffrey Babbitt presentation at MLA Annual Conference

Tai Chi classes at Lawrence

Sarett Nature Center demonstration at Covert

Fall in Love with Books...Again!: Fall special programming

Geek Fest 2016 (partnership with several libraries)

A History of Gobles and Mill Lake

Lawrence Teen "Bookface" Photo Challenge

Facebook Tips and Tricks Classes

Friday Afternoon at the Movies

Local history: I Remember Decatur When...

Friends of the Van Buren District Library Thank You Luncheon

Customer Service Award winner Mollie Barkovich

Storyteller Naima Abdul-Haqq at Covert

Tinker Tuesdays for kids at Webster

Jewelry and Crafting Classes at all branches

National Civil Rights Museum Program

For the Love of Books Monthly Book Club

Coffee and Ink Writers' Group

Library Card Sign-up events, selfies, and contest

Author visit by Shirley Rigozzi at Bangor

Teen Writers Journey to Publication

History of Bloomingdale with Pam Pender

Employee Genius Idea Award winner Bobbi Martindale

New Cook Book Club in Decatur

MSU Jump into Foods & Fitness

Gilmore Car Museum Program at Antwerp

Kay McAdam presentation at the Rural Libraries Conference

Ladies of the Lighthouses presentation

Bangor's Story Walk in the Park



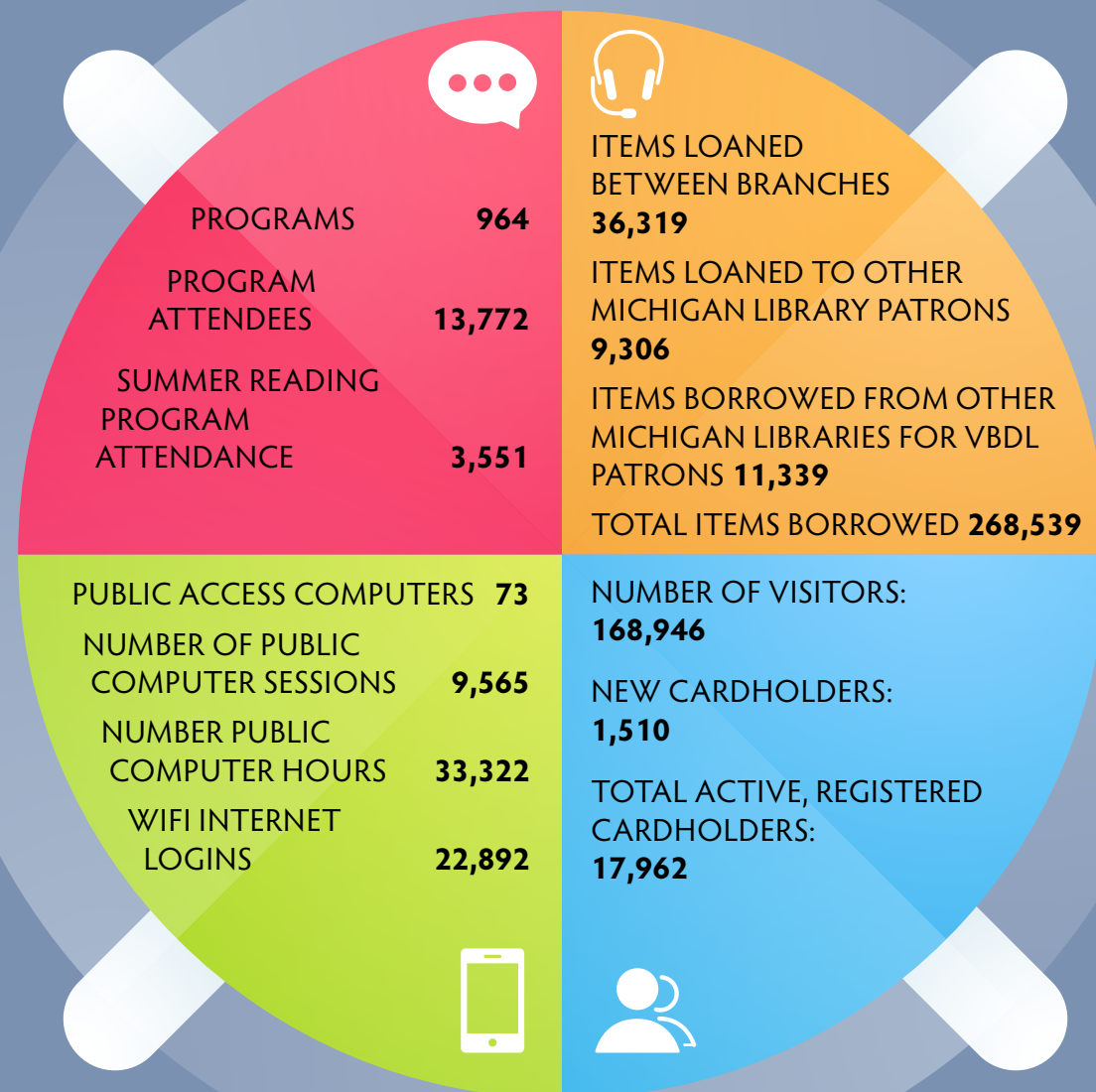
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

	GENERAL FUND	ENDOWMENT FUND	TOTAL-MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS	GASB NO. 34 ADJUSTMENTS	LIBRARY AS A WHOLE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES-FULL ACCRUAL BASIS
REVENUES:					
TAXES	\$1,662,790	-	\$1,662,790	-	\$1,662,790
STATE SOURCES	31,443	-	31,443	-	31,443
PENAL FINES	179,617	-	179,617	-	179,617
FEES AND BOOK FINES	36,866	-	36,866	-	36,866
INVESTMENT INCOME	5,327	1,155	6,482	-	6,482
LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER	135,431	5,141	140,572	-	140,572
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,051,474	\$6,296	\$2,057,770	\$-	\$2,057,770



STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE/ STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016.					LIBRARY AS A WHOLE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES-FULL ACCRUAL BASIS
EXPENDITURES/ EXPENSES:	GENERAL FUND	ENDOWMENT FUND	TOTAL-MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS	GASB NO. 34 ADJUSTMENTS	
SALARIES	\$1,002,544	-	\$1,002,544	\$13,305	\$1,015,849
PAYROLL TAXES	73,301	-	73,301	-	73,301
INSURANCE (HEALTH, LIFE, DISABILITY, W/C)	89,235	-	89,235	-	89,235
PENSION	98,663	-	98,663	6,677	105,340
OFFICE AND LIBRARY SUPPLIES	8,732	-	8,732	-	8,732
POSTAGE, PRINTING, COPYING	20,279	-	20,279	-	20,279
GAS AND OIL	2,568	-	2,568	-	2,568
JANITOR SUPPLIES	3,400	-	3,400	-	3,400
PROFESSIONAL FEES	51,918	-	51,918	-	51,918
DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	3,579	-	3,579	-	3,579
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	44,471	-	44,471	-	44,471
UTILITIES	49,876	-	49,876	-	49,876
TELEPHONE	12,423	-	12,423	-	12,423
TRAVEL	12,063	-	12,063	-	12,063
PROMOTIONAL AND READING PROGRAMS	23,161	-	23,161	-	23,161
GENERAL AND VEHICLE INSURANCE	9,888	-	9,888	-	9,888
MAINTENANCE	59,806	-	59,806	-	59,806
CONTINUING EDUCATION	4,201	-	4,201	-	4,201
CAPITAL OUTLAY	59,998	-	59,998	(28,232)	31,766
AUDIOVISUAL, BOOKS, AND PERIODICALS	227,588	-	227,588	(185,793)	41,795
INTERNET FEES	19,137	-	19,137	-	19,137
MISCELLANEOUS	260	-	260	-	260
GRANT	50,000	592	50,592	-	50,592
DEPRECIATION	-	-	-	211,566	211,566
TOTAL EXPENDITURES/ EXPENSES	\$1,927,091	\$592	\$1,927,683	\$17,523	\$1,945,206
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES	\$124,383	\$5,704	\$130,087	(\$17,523)	\$112,564
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
OPERATING TRANSFERS IN(OUT)	-	-	-	-	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION	\$124,383	\$5,704	130,087	(\$17,523)	\$112,564
FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION-BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,413,305	161,597	1,574,902	553,520	2,128,422
FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION-END OF YEAR	\$1,537,688	\$167,301	\$1,704,989	\$535,997	\$2,240,986

Van Buren District Library's 2016 STATISTICS



COLLECTION SIZE BY FORMAT
 BOOKS: 79%
 DIGITAL: 10%
 DVD'S: 7%
 AUDIOBOOKS: 2%
 MAGAZINES: 2%

COMPARATIVE BRANCH CIRCULATION %
 ANTWERP: 27%
 WEBSTER: 26%
 BANGOR: 13%
 LAWRENCE: 11%
 GOBLES: 8%
 BLOOMINGDALE: 7%
 COVERT: 4%
 DIGITAL: 4%

CIRCULATION BY COLLECTION
 CHILDREN: 33%
 ADULT: 30%
 AUDIO-VISUAL: 25%
 DIGITAL: 8%
 SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: 3%
 MAGAZINES: 1%

2016 DONORS

Antwerp Sunshine Friends of the Library
 Bangor Community Foundation
 Bangor Friends of the Library
 Chris Buchman
 Faith Burleigh
 Annette Campbell
 Allan B. Copley Charitable Foundation
 G. Dean Copping
 Covert Foundation
 Covert Friends of the Library
 Decatur Study Club
 Barbara Farris
 Freestone Pickle Company

Gary & Marjorie Gaynor
 Gobles Friends of the Library
 David & Kathleen Groendyk
 Dr. Judith Halseth
 Hexion R & D Lab
 Bruco & Melanie Hitchcock
 Kalamazoo Community Foundation
 Lawrence Friends of the Library
 Julie Leighton
 Bridget McCurdy
 Modern Woodmen of America
 Richard & Jeanette Morris
 Ron & Sheridan Morris
 Lee Moser

Penny Popp
 Larry & Edna Ralston
 Blaine & Bobbie Rex
 Rex Schneider
 Dennis Shafer
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Sikkema
 Katie Siple
 David Snover
 Debby Stassek
 VBDL Friends of the Library
 VBISD Great Start Collaborative
 Webster Memorial Library Trust
 Ryan & Molly Wieber
 R. Ellen Wietecha
 Rhonda Yellig





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
Mollie Barkovich, Branch Librarian
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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