



200 N. Phelps St., Decatur MI 49045/PHONE 269-423-4771/FAX 269-423-8373

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 September 2017

For more information, contact Emily Leestma, at 269.423.4771, ext. 4106

VAN BUREN DISTRICT LIBRARY: HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

DECATUR, MICHIGAN - - - Public libraries matter. According to David Vinjamuri on Forbes.com, "they are dynamic, versatile community centers."

The numbers support the statement: libraries experience approximately 1.5 billion in-person visits each year, while more than 92.6 million people attend the nearly 4 million public library programs offered annually across the country.

VBDL is celebrating its role as the Heart of the Community in each of the seven municipalities it serves between Monday, October 9, and Saturday, October 14.

According to Interim Director Molly Wunderlich, VBDL is offering special morning, afternoon and evening programs to highlight the library's role as a community center.

"VBDL's vision is to be an innovative gateway to information, culture and enrichment. Our Heart of the Community Week is a chance to showcase each branch as a recognized source for literacy services and provider of quality programs."

On Monday, October 9, Family Literacy Night at the Lawrence Branch emphasizes the district's available literacy resources and presents a special evening Story Time. In Bangor, during the same evening, family educator Kevin Merrell discusses "Parents as Teachers." The Covert Branch welcomes storyteller Naima Abdul-Haqq to its Family Literacy Night, Wednesday, October 10, while Webster Memorial Library, Decatur, hosts a "down on the farm" themed evening of literacy-based games and dinner.

Decatur * Bangor * Bloomingdale * Covert * Gobles * Lawrence * Mattawan

Other VBDL Heart of the Community events include A History of Gobles from the Gobles Brothers to the Present, Tuesday, October 10, at the Gobles United Methodist Church; and Family Bingo for Books, Wednesday, October 11, at the Antwerp Sunshine Branch, Mattawan.

VBDL's Bloomingdale Branch welcomes Lt. Bob Kirk of the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department Office of Domestic Preparedness, Wednesday, October 11, 7:00 pm. Kirk presents the "Active Shooter" program at Bloomingdale Communication's conference room. All events are free and open to the public.

For a complete program schedule, visit the closest VBDL branch, access the online calendar at VBDL.org, or phone 269.423.4771. Van Buren District Library is headquartered in Decatur with branches in Bangor, Bloomingdale, Covert, Gobles, Lawrence and Mattawan.

###