



VAN BUREN DISTRICT LIBRARY

# 2014 Annual Report





# From the Director

I am happy to report the Van Buren District Library had a banner year in 2014 serving its local communities! VBDL focused on increasing its program offerings, providing new technology and digital collections, and ensuring excellence in customer service.

We continue to recognize our responsibility to maintain a library environment where traditional and expected resources are available, but also one where VBDL proactively and creatively designs and implements innovative ideas, programs, technology and digital collections.

A variety of helpful technology education classes available across the district has become the norm, story times can be found at all branches on a regular basis, and a variety of children's and adult educational and recreational programs are conveniently scheduled on the calendar.

One of the library's core values – as reported in VBDL's recent strategic plan—is the credo that reading is a foundation for learning for all age groups. As a result, literacy is constantly on our minds as we plan programs and collaborate with schools and families. The “1,000 Books before Kindergarten” program was introduced in 2014 and has become a hit at each branch as more families continue to sign up and participate. Another preschool age program, “Wiggles Time,” is a new music and movement activity that has brought loud noises and happy faces to our children's sections.

VBDL is recognized for its comprehensive print and non-print collections available for lending, yet we're also pleased to begin providing more copies of popular titles in an effort to fulfill patron's expectations and expend the materials budget more efficiently. Activities designed to

engage our communities abounded last year! From the student photo contest at Lawrence and the dedication of the Toni Benson Local History & Genealogy Room in Decatur, to Bloomingdale's Summer Reading finale and the Gobles Santa Claus event, our branches offered positive programming throughout the year.

Unfortunately not all is quite so rosy. Over the past several years, the library has contended with rising operational costs, a relatively flat tax-base growth, and a significant revenue hit due to the New Covert Generating tax tribunal case. As a result, VBDL is seeking a millage increase of .2 mills in May 2015. The library currently levies .89 mills, and this will be its first tax increase request since 1991. The current millage is one of the lowest amounts for libraries in southwest Michigan and if the additional amount is approved, VBDL's millage would still be lower than several area district libraries.

VBDL is committed to providing a quality public library for its residents, and looks forward to offering a positive library experience every day.

Thank you,  
Ryan Wieber  
DIRECTOR



# 2014 Highlights

Librarians of the Year: Kay McAdam, Antwerp; and Emily Burns, Webster

Customer Service Award: Bloomingdale Branch Staff

Genius Idea Award: R.J. Werden

25-Year Service Award to Jennifer Youker

Installation of district-wide VOIP phone system

Implementation of biannual staff training days

Staff Development Day at KPL

Schlitz Creek Bluegrass Concert

Dedication of the Toni I. Benson Local History & Genealogy Room

Early literacy computer stations at Covert and Antwerp

1,000 Books before Kindergarten

Strategic Planning for 2014-2017

Wiggle's Time Music and Movement

Kindles and Nooks available at every branch

Jewelry and craft classes

Regularly scheduled technology classes

Bangor Historic Newspapers Digitization Project

Fizz, Boom, Read Summer Reading Program

One Book, One County Community Read

New Friends of the Library group in Gobles

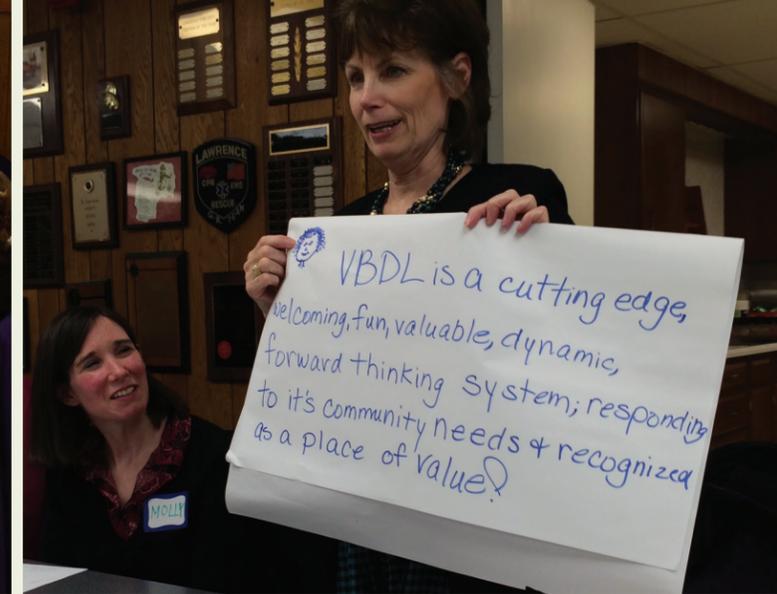
Family Fun Night, Webster Memorial

Cirque Amongus at Antwerp Sunshine

Student Photography Contest, Lawrence

Friends of the Library Chicago Architecture Tour

All Crafters Club at Covert Branch



## Goal 1: Provide Financial Stability, Allowing the Library to Meet Its Mission

### Objectives:

1. Implement a Capital Improvement Plan
2. Maintain communication with local communities to strengthen relationships, resulting in cooperation for future support.
3. Seek grant opportunities and alternative funding

## Goal 2: Offer Necessary Technology and Support to Staff and Patrons

### Objectives:

1. Proactively plan for future technology needs
2. Improve staff training and building/location support
3. Offer innovative technology to patrons
4. Offer enrichment training for patrons

## Goal 3: Provide Innovative Customer Service and Programming

### Objectives:

1. Assess and provide a wide range of programs for the public. Anticipate and respond to public program needs.
2. Improve communications and partnering opportunities with outside organizations
3. Strive to provide more community outreach with increased hours, services to homebound patrons, after-hours activities.

## Goal 4: Maximize Staff Resources

### Objectives:

1. Implement regular staff development workshops on customer service, safety, time saving ideas, etc.
2. Rotate the location for monthly branch meetings
3. Implement opportunities for more branch visits by headquarters staff, and branch to branch staff visits

## Goal 5: Create a Persistent and Consistent Library Image in all Marketing Efforts

### Objectives:

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

# Strategic Plan 2014-2017

The library undertook a strategic planning program in late 2013 – early 2014 in an effort to develop a roadmap for the future. The process began with a system-wide staff gathering in August 2013, followed by local public focus group meetings in each of our seven library locations. It concluded with staff and board workshops in early 2014 where the outcomes resulted in a revised mission and vision, newly established core values, and five overriding goals for 2014-2017.

The 2014-2017 plan puts into motion a rational attitude (mission, vision, core values) that is driven forward by a series of goals and objectives. The impetus is to improve the library environment and provide a more valuable public library for the taxpayers and residents of the district.

### Mission

To provide equitable access to a world of resources, reading, and lifelong learning.

### Vision

We will be an innovative gateway to information, culture and enrichment

### Core Values

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 manner

### MISSION

To provide equitable access to a world of resources, reading, and lifelong learning.

### VISION

We will be an innovative gateway to information, culture and enrichment



## Tom Greiffendorf

Tom Greiffendorf is a regular visitor at the Bloomingdale Branch. The retired teacher stops in at least once a week to check-out books and DVDs.

"I love our public library system," Tom says. "To me, it's the one thing I don't mind paying taxes for!"

Tom hopes everyone in the area realizes how easy it is for the library to find and request books from just about anywhere in the United States.

"Our library system," he says, "is the best kept secret!"

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!



## Julie Collard

Julie Collard enjoys sharing her love of reading with the community. As President of the Friends of the Gobles Library, Julie hopes to inspire a love for reading in young people and encourage parents to read aloud to their children while using the library as a resource.

"I love the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program our district library offers," Julie says. "At six months old, my son, Angus, already loves picking out prizes for reaching his reading milestones. The smile on his face when he picked out his tiger finger-puppet was priceless.

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



## All Crafters' Club

Crafters are welcome at the Covert Branch Library thanks to the recently formed All Crafters' Club. May Herring, Ann Brown and Joyce Smith are some of the area crafters who have found the library to be a great place to meet, work, socialize and learn together. Each member brings a unique interest to the group whether its crochet, sewing, quilting or jewelry making. The library has plenty of space for crafting: large work tables and a storage area for materials, so new members and their crafts are always welcome! The All Crafters' Club meets twice a week on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings.

Covert All Crafters' Club  
Tuesdays at 5pm  
Saturday at 10am



## McCaw Family

Visiting the Lawrence Community Branch Library is a family affair! Just ask Joe, Noel, Ben and Colleen McCaw who are long-time library patrons.

The McCaws participate in many programs throughout the year, but especially appreciate being able to borrow DVDs the whole family can enjoy. The collection is a great resource for the McCaws and other patrons who are not able to stream or rent online movies due to insufficient availability of high speed internet in their rural communities.

"Our family enjoys many of the services, programs and media available at the Lawrence Branch Library," Noel says. "We have benefited from Story Hour, Lego Club, Christmas community celebrations, the summer reading program and special guests. Most importantly we appreciate the strong community connection the library fosters and the tremendously helpful staff."



## Statements of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance/ statements of activities for the year ended December 31, 2014

	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	1,332,710	-	\$1,332,710	-	\$1,332,710
STATE SOURCES	28,303	-	28,303	-	28,303
PENAL FINES	235,745	-	235,745	-	235,745
FEES AND BOOK FINES	40,258	-	40,258	-	40,258
INVESTMENT INCOME	5,058	449	5,507	-	5,507
LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER	123,828	5,825	129,653	-	129,653
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$1,765,902</b>	<b>\$6,274</b>	<b>\$1,772,176</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$1,772,176</b>



## Statements of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance/statements of activities for the year ended December 31, 2014.

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	\$944,782	-	\$944,782	\$12,061	\$956,843
PAYROLL TAXES	73,147	-	73,147	-	73,147
INSURANCE (HEALTH, LIFE, DISABILITY, W/C)	76,266	-	76,266	-	76,266
PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS	44,134	-	44,134	-	44,134
OFFICE AND LIBRARY SUPPLIES	8,820	-	8,820	-	8,820
POSTAGE, PRINTING, COPYING	13,377	-	13,377	-	13,377
GAS AND OIL	4,217	-	4,217	-	4,217
JANITOR SUPPLIES	3,729	-	3,729	-	3,729
PROFESSIONAL FEES	43,382	-	43,382	-	43,382
DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	3,079	-	3,079	-	3,079
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	45,899	-	45,899	-	45,899
UTILITIES	58,024	-	58,024	-	58,024
TELEPHONE	11,497	-	11,497	-	11,497
TRAVEL	12,116	-	12,116	-	12,116
PROMOTIONAL AND READING PROGRAMS	15,641	-	15,641	-	15,641
GENERAL AND VEHICLE INSURANCE	8,728	-	8,728	-	8,728
MAINTENANCE	62,915	-	62,915	-	62,915
CONTINUING EDUCATION	3,134	-	3,134	-	3,134
CAPITAL OUTLAY	101,733	-	101,733	(79,713)	22,020
AUDIOVISUAL, BOOKS, AND PERIODICALS	164,845	-	164,845	(138,218)	26,627
INTERNET FEES	22,329	-	22,329	-	22,329
DEPRECIATION	-	-	-	154,781	154,781
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES/ EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,721,794</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$1,721,794</b>	<b>\$(51,089)</b>	<b>\$1,670,705</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$44,108</b>	<b>\$6,274</b>	<b>\$50,382</b>	<b>\$51,089</b>	<b>\$101,471</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>					
OPERATING TRANSFERS IN(OUT)	1,899	(1,899)	-	-	-
<b>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION</b>	<b>\$46,007</b>	<b>\$4,375</b>	<b>\$50,382</b>	<b>\$51,089</b>	<b>\$101,471</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION-BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>1,399,484</b>	<b>151,694</b>	<b>1,551,178</b>	<b>624,410</b>	<b>2,175,588</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE/ NET POSITION-END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$1,445,491</b>	<b>\$156,069</b>	<b>\$1,601,560</b>	<b>\$675,499</b>	<b>\$2,277,059</b>

# 2014 Van Buren District Library Statistics

**293,519**  
TOTAL ITEMS  
BORROWED

**37,945**

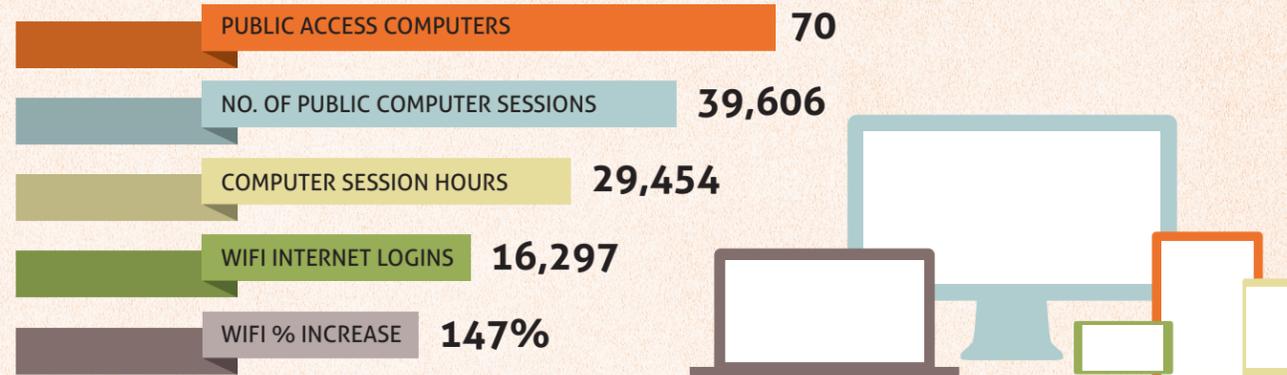
items loaned between  
Van Buren District  
Library Branches

**9,743**

items loaned  
to other Michigan  
library patrons

**12,209**

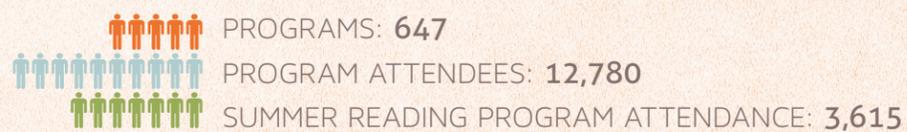
items borrowed  
from other Michigan  
libraries for VBDL  
patrons



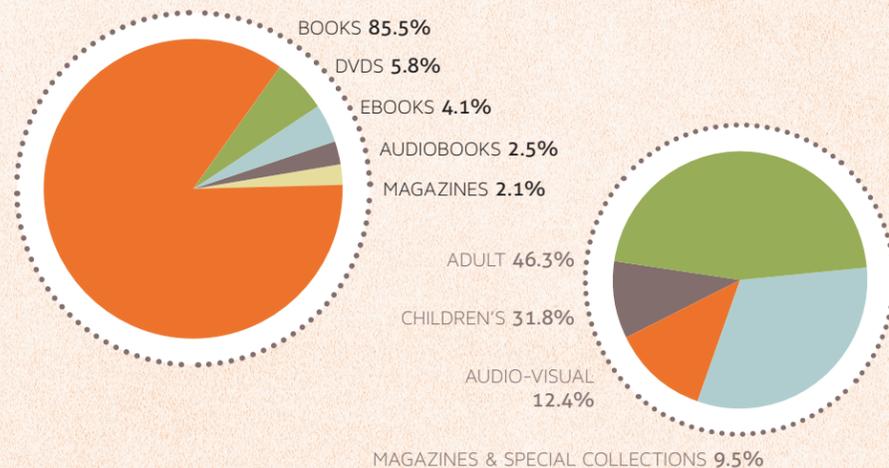
NUMBER OF VISITORS:  
174,559

NEW CARDHOLDERS:  
2,557

TOTAL ACTIVE,  
REGISTERED  
CARDHOLDERS:  
18,293



## COLLECTION STATISTICS % OF OVERALL COLLECTION



VOLUNTEER HOURS: 2,563 | LOCAL HISTORY ROOM USERS: 537

## 2014 Donors

Ann Allen  
Antwerp Friends of the Library  
Bangor Friends of the Library  
Bangor Historical Society  
Clarence Bohn  
Allan B. Copley Foundation  
G. Dean Copping  
Covert Friends of the Library  
Deborah Dunstone  
Bob Emmert  
Wendy Estrada  
Barbara Farris  
Bill Fox  
Gobles Friends of the Library  
Jeanne Grubb  
Beverly Haas  
Dr. Judith Halseth  
Maureen Hutchinson  
Barbara Knickerbocker  
Don Larson  
Lawrence Friends of the Library  
Susan McClure  
Penny Popp  
Linda Reynnells  
Barbara Reynolds  
Judy Saros  
Katie Schoenholz  
Judith Sherrod  
David Snyder  
John Snyder  
Norma Stancati  
Bonita Suter  
Steve & Connie Talsma  
David Tate  
Van Buren Friends of the Library  
John & Patricia Wilson  
Women's Club of Palisades Park



# Board of Trustees

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

## Van Buren District Library Locations

### Bangor Branch

420 Division Street  
Bangor, MI 49013  
269.427.8810  
Bobbi Martindale,  
Branch Librarian

### Gobles Branch

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

### Antwerp Sunshine Branch

24823 Front Avenue  
Mattawan, MI 49071  
269.668.2534  
Kay McAdam,  
Branch Librarian

### Bloomingtondale Branch

109 East Kalamazoo  
Bloomingtondale, MI 49026  
269.521.7601  
Marianne Sipka,  
Branch Librarian

### Lawrence Community Branch

212 North Paw Paw Street  
Lawrence, MI 49064  
269.674.3200  
Denise Campagna,  
Branch Librarian

### Webster Memorial Library

Van Buren District Library  
Headquarters  
200 North Phelps Street  
Decatur, MI 49045  
269.423.4771  
Ryan Wieber,  
VBDL Director

### Covert Branch

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

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