

FROM THE DIRECTOR

My name is Dan Hutchins, the director of the Van Buren District Library. I've worked in various capacities in many different libraries for nearly thirty years. The work I do as VBDL director is informed by the unique history of the institution, and the experiences of those who guided it before me. First among these individuals is Norman Webster.

Norman Webster was born in Decatur in 1869, where he grew-up and attended school. After graduating from Decatur High School, Webster went on to a successful career in accounting, first with the Decatur Manufacturing Company, then successively with the Kalamazoo Buggy Company, the Chicago World's Fair, and the U.S. Government in the Treasury and Interior Departments. Webster then found himself for a number of years at a private accounting firm in New York City before ultimately going on to co-found his own New York accounting agency with a few professional acquaintances.

Throughout his life Webster stayed in touch with friends in Decatur. He returned in 1945 at the invitation of the local school board to give the Decatur High School commencement address. During the address Webster spoke of the Decatur schoolteachers who influenced and encouraged him.



Some years after his return visit, Webster decided to leave his estate to the town of his birth and childhood. "My wish for this is a library site and building," he wrote to an old Decatur friend. A year before his death he purchased the plot of land now occupied by Webster Memorial

Library expressly for that purpose. After he passed away Norman Webster left the entirety of his estate, \$727,772 or approximately 6.5 million dollars in today's funds "for the purpose of establishing a free public library in the Village of Decatur...open and available to all persons without distinction as to race, creed, color or sex for educational and literary pursuits."

Webster stipulated that the library endowed by his estate should be integrated with a larger system in order to serve a wider geographical area than just the Village of Decatur. The decision was made to merge Webster Memorial Library in Decatur with the existing Van Buren County Library system, headquartered in Paw Paw. The administrative offices were subsequently moved from the Van Buren County Courthouse to Webster Memorial Library.

Another man largely responsible for the district library system is former library director David Tate. Tate is the longest serving director in Van Buren District Library's history (1978 – 2012) and the one most directly responsible for the quality of the library system the county enjoys today.



When David Tate began his tenure as county library director in 1978 the system was largely dependent on an annual appropriation from the Van Buren County government for funding. Being dependent on a county appropriation meant the financial health of the library was subject to varying economic conditions and prevailing political opinions.

To solve the funding issues that plagued the county library system, Tate and the library board were proactive in taking advantage of Public Act 24 of 1989, known as the District Library Establishment Act, which was sponsored by State Senator Harmon Cropsey of Decatur. Van Buren County Library was quickly reorganized into a district library under the new law, allowing the new Van Buren District Library to secure a one-mill property tax levy of its own to stabilize funding.

Once funding was stabilized, Tate oversaw many enhancements to the system including extended hours, an expanded collection of books, a large video collection, establishment of an endowment fund to further enhance book acquisitions, and a computerized cataloging system. Under Tate's administration the District Library began offering high-speed Internet access and many of the system's locations such as Webster Memorial in Decatur, the Covert branch, Bangor branch, Antwerp Sunshine Library, Bloomingdale branch, and Lawrence branch were expanded or moved to new facilities.

When I find myself faced with a decision regarding the library, I frequently reflect upon the original intentions of Norman Webster or the challenges faced by David Tate. Having often cited the Decatur schoolteachers that encouraged him to attain his true potential, Norman Webster wished to leave behind something that subsequent generations of Van Buren County residents might use to help themselves reach their goals. David Tate worked diligently for over 33 years to make Norman Webster's vision a reality through changing times. I am proud to have been chosen to continue the work of these fine men, to guide Van Buren District Library and its mission of education for all.

Sincerely,
Dan Hutchins
Director, Van Buren District Library

2017 ENDOWMENTS



Austin E. Dwight: In 2017, VBDL received a generous bequest of \$10,000 from the estate of Austin E. Dwight, who was born and raised in Decatur. Annual proceeds from the memorial will be used exclusively to purchase new materials for the Toni

I. Benson Local History and Genealogy Room at Webster Memorial Library.



Carole A. Tate: It was with great sadness that the staff and Board of Van Buren District Library learned of the death of Carole Tate on October 7, 2017. Carole was not only a teacher and librarian, but also a friend and colleague. The Carole A. Tate

Memorial fund was established to support children's programs at Webster Memorial Library, where Carole served as children's librarian and assistant director between 1978 and 1985.

2017 VOLUNTEERS

Marianne Abbott	Becky Crites	Rolla Hemingway	Andrew Muday	Cheryl Rumery
Naima Abdul-Haqq	Dick Crites	Loretta Hiemstra	Barry Nelson	Rich Rumery
Sandra Ackerman	Charlette Cruse	Catherine Hulin	Carol Nelson	Paul Schultz
Julie Aguilar	Bruce Cutting	Barbara Hunt	Kelly O'Leary	Anne Snider
Mike Anchor	Phil Decker	Dennis Hurlbut	Nolan Okoniewski	Melinda Snider
Gerald Anderson	Phil DeYoung	Wynne Hurlbut	Rebekah Osborn	Theresa Soloma
Gordon Andrews	Ginny Drogula	Kim Ingalls	Deb Overhuel	Darlene Spalo
Anne Arthur	Sue Dunton	Karen Jensen	Carmen Pajevich	Mary Spencer
Joyce Beedie	Wendy Estrada	Natalie Kelley	Fabiola Pantoja	Judy Stackpole
Adam Bemis	Mo Faromuz	Cailin Kessen	Bonnie Pardike	Debby Stassek
Lucille Bergen	Dan Faulkner	Jean Ketchum	Ashley Parr	Ken Steuer
Josie Bull	Nolan Fisher	Clay Kessen	Rich Pender	Nolan Stratton
Micki Burns	Ann Flora	Terra Klein	Jan Petersen	Carolyn Stuckum
Denise Campagna	Nancy Ford	Char Kolon	David Podolak	Bonita Suter
Sal Campagna	Adri Fryman	Paul Kolon	Melissa Piontek	Steve Talsma
Marcy Cardinal	Emily Gabriel	Cindy Kusmack	Madison Pratt	Anita Thomas
Evelia Carrasco	Bette Glindmeyer	Rick Leestma	Linda Read	Jon Towne
Malana Chan	Libby Godwin	Sandra Lombard	Marilyn Rendell	Art Toy
Deb Chandler	LaDonna Golden	Joel Macyauski	Wayne Rendell	Betty Usrey
Ana Chin	Cheryl Goodreau	Betty Markel	Michelle Renee-	Marilyn Vana
Daniele Clavier	Phyllis Graham	Phil Marshall	Vyverman	Mary Webster
Clark Clement	Alan Grossmann	Linda Marshall	Joyce Riggins	Ron Wilde
Dee Clement	Sandy Hanson	Lynn Martin	Helene Rivers	Luanne Wright
Kriss Colgren	Anne Hawkinson	Ron McCrumb	Sarah Rodriguez	Marty Youngblood
Julie Collard	Jeff Heaton	Jeri Mills	Faith Rogers	
Bob Cooley	Theresa Heaton	Mary Muday	Lily Rozeveld	

2017 STATISTICS

EVENTS & CLASSES

EVENTS & CLASSES:
1,820

ATTENDEES:
18,351

SUMMER READING PROGRAM ATTENDANCE:
1,921

ITEMS

ITEMS CHECKED-OUT:
287,518

ITEMS LOANED TO OTHER MICHIGAN LIBRARIES: **13,972**

ITEMS BORROWED FROM MELCAT FOR VBDL PATRONS: **15,402**

PEOPLE

SERVICE POPULATION:
44,265

NUMBER OF VISITORS: **179,324**

TOTAL ACTIVE, REGISTERED CARDHOLDERS:
18,652

NEW CARDHOLDERS:
2,180

COMPUTERS

NUMBER OF PUBLIC COMPUTER HOURS: **21,089**

NUMBER WIFI LOGINS: **17,410**
EBOOKS, FILMS, TV, AND MUSIC STREAMED OR DOWNLOADED:
31,029

MATERIALS

CIRCULATION BY COLLECTION

CHILDREN:
94,819 OR 33%

ADULT:
83,446 OR 30%

DVDS & AUDIOBOOKS:
74,714 OR 26%

DIGITAL:
25,590 OR 9%

MATERIALS

COLLECTION SIZE BY FORMAT

BOOKS:
157,420 OR 78%

DIGITAL:
26,043 OR 13%

DVDS:
13,274 OR 7%

AUDIOBOOKS:
3,436 OR 2%

MAGAZINES:
4,263 OR 2%

COMPARATIVE BRANCH CIRCULATION %

ANTWERP:
74,107 OR 26%

WEBSTER:
69,101 OR 24%

BANGOR:
39,335 OR 14%

LAWRENCE:
29,882 OR 10%

BLOOMINGDALE:
26,065 OR 9%

GOBLES:
22,555 OR 8%

COVERT:
13,901 OR 5%

DIGITAL:
12,572 OR 4%

2017 DONORS

Stephen Bair
Karen Cabras
Vincent Cabras
Marcia Collins
Decatur Study Club
Barbara Farris
Friends of the Antwerp Sunshine Library
Friends of the Bangor Branch Library
Friends of the Bloomingdale Branch Library
Friends of the Covert Branch Library
Friends of the Gobles Branch Library

Friends of the Lawrence Branch Library
Friends of the Van Buren District Library
Hiemstra Optical
Burton Houtman
Buena Kraak
Library of America
Sewell Mason
Mattawan Business Association
Morris Picture Restoration
Ivy Sue Parker
Timothy Perry

Mary Lou Robinson
Janet Roeder
Lorraine Serbenski
Special Lite
Debby Stassek
John Stassek
Ronald Swartz
Molly Wieber
Ryan Wieber

The Webster Legacy



Norman Webster



At ten o'clock on the morning of June 29, 1960, Webster Memorial Library opened its doors for the first time. The library, named in honor of its benefactor Norman E. Webster, became the foundation of what would become Van Buren District Library thirty years later.



Earl Copley



Lyle Parker



Marvin McWilliams

According to Norman's wishes, nine dedicated individuals have served as Webster Trustees for a combined 57 years. The longest serving trustees, Gordon D. Krum, Oscar "Topper" Newell, and Warren B. Grosvenor, administered the corporate assets of the Trust from 1966 to 2011. They succeeded Earl Copley, Lyle Parker and Marvin McWilliams who served from 1960 – 1966.

Norman Webster left a significant legacy to the people of Decatur and Van Buren County. In 1956, Webster left the proceeds from his entire estate, approximately \$750,000, in the care of his chosen trust. \$250,000 was spent to build Webster Memorial Library and \$500,000 was invested for ongoing care of the facility. Annually, the trust spends a portion of the interest from Webster's bequest for ongoing maintenance and upgrades to the facility that bears Webster's name.



Top row from left to right: David Tate, Warren Grosvenor, Oscar "Topper" Newell, Gordon Krum. Bottom row from left to right: John Grosvenor, Terry Newell, and James Creagan.



Continuing to honor Norman Webster's wishes are current Trustees Terry Newell, James Creagan, and John Grosvenor.

Webster Memorial Library is the headquarters of Van Buren District Library with branches in Antwerp Township, Bangor, Bloomingdale, Covert, Gobles and Lawrence.

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

	GENERAL FUND	ENDOWMENT FUND	TOTAL-MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS	GASB NO. 34 ADJUSTMENTS	LIBRARY AS A WHOLE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES-FULL ACCRUAL BASIS
REVENUES:					
TAXES	\$1,788,089	-	\$1,788,089	-	\$1,788,089
STATE SOURCES	28,283	-	28,283	-	28,283
PENAL FINES	202,767	-	202,767	-	202,767
FEEES AND BOOK FINES	39,427	-	39,427	-	39,427
INVESTMENT INCOME	7,183	-	7,183	-	7,183
LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER	145,617	17,679	163,296	-	163,296
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,211,366	\$17,679	\$2,229,045	-	\$2,229,045



**STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE/
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017.**

LIBRARY AS
A WHOLE
STATEMENT OF
ACTIVITIES-
FULL ACCRUAL
BASIS

EXPENDITURES/ EXPENSES:	GENERAL FUND	ENDOWMENT FUND	TOTAL-MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS	GASB NO. 34 ADJUSTMENTS	FULL ACCRUAL BASIS
SALARIES	\$1,072,214	-	\$1,072,214	(\$40,192)	\$1,032,022
PAYROLL TAXES	78,868	-	78,868	-	78,868
INSURANCE (HEALTH, LIFE, DISABILITY, W/C)	82,366	-	82,366	-	82,366
PENSION	109,781	-	109,781	14,942	124,723
OFFICE AND LIBRARY SUPPLIES	9,384	-	9,384	-	9,384
POSTAGE, PRINTING, COPYING	18,786	-	18,786	-	18,786
GAS AND OIL	2,947	-	2,947	-	2,947
JANITOR SUPPLIES	3,870	-	3,870	-	3,870
PROFESSIONAL FEES	83,469	-	83,469	-	83,469
DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	1,408	-	1,408	-	1,408
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	41,158	-	41,158	-	41,158
UTILITIES	53,528	-	53,528	-	53,528
TELEPHONE	12,682	-	12,682	-	12,682
TRAVEL	10,788	-	10,788	-	10,788
PROMOTIONAL AND READING PROGRAMS	23,823	-	23,823	-	23,823
GENERAL AND VEHICLE INSURANCE	6,126	-	6,126	-	6,126
MAINTENANCE	31,098	-	31,098	-	31,098
CONTINUING EDUCATION	5,384	-	5,384	-	5,384
CAPITAL OUTLAY	60,714	-	60,714	(22,799)	37,915
AUDIOVISUAL, BOOKS, AND PERIODICALS	236,725	-	236,725	(183,447)	53,278
INTERNET FEES	18,456	-	18,456	-	18,456
VEHICLE REPLACEMENT	24,217	-	24,217	(24,217)	-
MISCELLANEOUS	4,387	-	4,387	-	4,387
GRANT	50,000	-	50,000	-	50,000
DEPRECIATION	-	-	-	202,194	202,194
TOTAL EXPENDITURES/ EXPENSES	\$2,042,179	-	\$2,042,179	\$53,519	\$1,988,660
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES	\$169,187	\$17,679	\$186,866	\$53,519	\$240,385
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
OPERATING TRANSFERS IN(OUT)	-	-	-	-	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION	\$169,187	\$17,679	\$186,866	\$53,519	\$240,385
FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION-BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,537,688	167,301	1,704,989	535,997	2,240,986
FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION- END OF YEAR	\$1,706,875	\$184,980	\$1,891,855	\$589,516	\$2,481,371

LIBRARY LOCATIONS & HOURS

WEBSTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY DECATUR

District Administrative Offices
200 North Phelps St, Decatur, MI 49045
Phone: 269.423.4771 | Fax: 269.423.8373
www.facebook.com/VBDLWebsterMemorial

HOURS:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.*
Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

* Webster Memorial Library closes at 7:00 p.m.,
Monday – Thursday, between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

ANTWERP SUNSHINE BRANCH

24823 Front Ave, Mattawan, MI 49071
Phone: 269.668.2534 | Fax: 269.668.5332
www.facebook.com/VBDLAntwerp

HOURS:

Monday – Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Thursday & Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

BANGOR BRANCH LIBRARY

420 Division St, Bangor, MI 49013
Phone: 269.427.8810 | Fax: 269.427.0588
www.facebook.com/bangorbranch

HOURS:

Monday-Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Thursday-Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

BLOOMINGDALE BRANCH LIBRARY

109 East Kalamazoo, Bloomingdale, MI 49026
Phone: 269.521.7601 | Fax: 269.521.7614
www.facebook.com/VBDLBloomingdale

HOURS:

Monday-Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Thursday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

COVERT BRANCH LIBRARY

33680 M-140 Hwy, Covert, MI 49043
Phone: 269.764.1298 | Fax: 269.764.0433
www.facebook.com/covertbranch

HOURS:

Monday-Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

GOBLES BRANCH LIBRARY

105 East Main St, Gobles, MI 49055
Phone: 269.628.4537 | Fax: 269.628.0362
www.facebook.com/GoblesBranchVBDL

HOURS:

Monday-Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Thursday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

LAWRENCE BRANCH LIBRARY

212 North Paw Paw St, Lawrence, MI 49064
Phone: 269.674.3200 | Fax: 269.674.3704
www.facebook.com/lawrencecommunitybranch

HOURS:

Monday-Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Thursday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

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