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

- **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%
- **Bloomfield:** 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
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.

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.

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

## Revenues:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Endowment Fund</th>
<th>Total-Modified Accrual Basis</th>
<th>GASB No. 34 Adjustments</th>
<th>Library as a Whole Statement of Activities-Full Accrual Basis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>$1,788,089</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,788,089</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,788,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Sources</td>
<td>28,283</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>28,283</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>28,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penal Fines</td>
<td>202,767</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>202,767</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>202,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees and Book Fines</td>
<td>39,427</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>39,427</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>39,427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>7,183</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,183</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Contributions and Other</td>
<td>145,617</td>
<td>17,679</td>
<td>163,296</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>163,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,211,366</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,679</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,229,045</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>$2,229,045</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### General Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures/Expenses</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Endowment Fund</th>
<th>Total-Modified Accrual Basis</th>
<th>GASB No. 34 Adjustments</th>
<th>General Fund Adjustments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>$1,072,214</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,072,214</td>
<td>($40,192)</td>
<td>$1,032,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll Taxes</td>
<td>78,868</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>78,868</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>78,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance (Health, Life, Disability, W/C)</td>
<td>82,366</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>82,366</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>82,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensions</td>
<td>109,781</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>109,781</td>
<td>14,942</td>
<td>124,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office and Library Supplies</td>
<td>9,384</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9,384</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage, Printing, Copying</td>
<td>18,786</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18,786</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas and Oil</td>
<td>2,947</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,947</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitor Supplies</td>
<td>3,870</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,870</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Fees</td>
<td>83,469</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>83,469</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>83,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues and Subscriptions</td>
<td>1,408</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,408</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractual Services</td>
<td>41,158</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>41,158</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>41,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>53,528</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>53,528</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>53,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>12,682</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12,682</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>10,788</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,788</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotional and Reading Programs</td>
<td>23,823</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>23,823</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>23,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and Vehicle Insurance</td>
<td>6,126</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,126</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>31,098</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31,098</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing Education</td>
<td>5,384</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,384</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Outlay</td>
<td>60,714</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>60,714</td>
<td>(22,799)</td>
<td>37,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audiovisual, Books, and Periodicals</td>
<td>236,725</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>236,725</td>
<td>(183,447)</td>
<td>53,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Fees</td>
<td>18,456</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18,456</td>
<td>(24,217)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Replacement</td>
<td>24,217</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>24,217</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>4,387</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,387</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,387</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>202,194</td>
<td>202,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures/Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$2,042,179</td>
<td>$2,042,179</td>
<td>$53,519</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,988,660</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures/Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Endowment Fund</th>
<th>Total-Modified Accrual Basis</th>
<th>GASB No. 34 Adjustments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$169,187</td>
<td>$17,679</td>
<td>$186,866</td>
<td>$53,519</td>
<td>$240,385</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other Financing Sources (Uses)**

| Operating Transfers In/(Out) | - | - | - | - | - |

**Net Change in Fund Balances/Net Position**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Endowment Fund</th>
<th>Total-Modified Accrual Basis</th>
<th>GASB No. 34 Adjustments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>$169,187</td>
<td>$17,679</td>
<td>$186,866</td>
<td>$53,519</td>
<td>$240,385</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fund Balance/Net Position-Beginning of Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Endowment Fund</th>
<th>Total-Modified Accrual Basis</th>
<th>GASB No. 34 Adjustments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,537,688</td>
<td>167,301</td>
<td>1,704,989</td>
<td>535,997</td>
<td>2,240,986</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fund Balance/Net Position-End of Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Endowment Fund</th>
<th>Total-Modified Accrual Basis</th>
<th>GASB No. 34 Adjustments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,706,875</td>
<td>$184,980</td>
<td>$1,891,855</td>
<td>$589,516</td>
<td>$2,481,371</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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: 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 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
DENISE CAMPAGNA
BRUCE CUTTING
ELIZABETH GODWIN
SANDRA HANSON
CATHERINE HULIN
BETTY MARKEL
WAYNE RENDELL
Bloomingdale
Lawrence
Antwerp Twp., Chair
Decatur
Van Buren County
Gobles
Bangor
Covert, Vice-Chair

DOWNLOAD BOOKS & MUSIC DIRECTLY FROM OUR WEBSITE

It’s easy to access downloadable content from your phone,
tablet or eReader.

Visit us online
www.vbdl.org