When one thinks of public education, most often public schools or colleges and universities come to mind. However, there is a third type of public education institution—public libraries.

Unlike the public school system, which exists to educate children ages 5 to 18 with a curriculum of general knowledge, and public colleges and universities whose missions are to confer credentials in specific subject areas, with the object often being employment, public libraries are educational institutions whose mission is to bolster the knowledge of anyone, of any age, in any subject area—without the burden of tuition.

The actor Harrison Ford learned carpentry skills from books borrowed from the Encino Public Library, which allowed him to support himself until his big break came in Star Wars. Famed illusionist Jason Bishop first taught himself magic as a teen using books from local libraries in Allentown, PA. Bishop now has one of the largest touring magic shows in the United States.

Van Buren District Library’s core mission is to provide educational opportunities and resources to assist our partner educational institutions, in addition to providing tools to help the average citizen succeed in any area that matters to them. Two of these tools are our early literacy classes and the Princeton Online Tutoring Center.

Reading is the foundation of every other educational pursuit; if one may read, one may teach themselves virtually anything. Our series of early literacy classes helps local children learn the foundations of reading such as sounds, vocabulary, and comprehension. Literacy classes conducted by the Library form part of a sound academic foundation, preparing Van Buren County’s youth for success in school and in life.

Our Princeton Online Tutoring Center, available through the Library’s website VBDL.org, is available to provide one-on-one assistance to students from degreeed, vetted tutors in over 40 topic areas. In addition to live personalized tutoring sessions, the Princeton Online Tutoring Center also offers extensive test preparation resources for Advanced Placement (AP) and SAT examinations, including practice tests, course materials, and college application resources.

In addition to its scholastic features for students, the Princeton Online Tutoring Center also offers resources to assist job seekers of all ages find employment, including personalized, live job search assistance, and help writing résumés or drafting cover letters. Job seekers may also drop-off their existing résumés or cover letters for editing and content suggestions with a guaranteed 24-hour turn-around time.

In addition to early literacy classes and the Princeton Online Tutoring Center, Van Buren District Library offers events to enlighten in other ways, including social and hands-on experiences. In 2018, Van Buren District Library offered a series to educate people in Van Buren County about their Amish neighbors. Free classes were conducted at several Library branches on Amish history and culture. These classes were so well attended the Library organized an Amish Meet and Greet in Lawrence. The event was an opportunity for local residents to meet their fellow citizens in the Amish community, and learn more about them through personal interaction. The Meet and Greet featured food and opportunities for area residents to conduct trade with members of the local Amish community.

Also in 2018, the Library brought New York Times bestselling author William Kent Krueger to Van Buren County for an in-person appearance and lecture. Mr. Krueger told the packed audience the story of how he became an published author by writing every morning at a small café, why he decided to write in the mystery genre, the genesis of his main protagonist Cork O’Connor, and why he decided to deviate from writing mysteries to author the acclaimed stand-alone novel “Ordinary Grace.” He also took the opportunity to candidly share his experiences inside the Hollywood machine.

To further support and share the arts, the Library sponsors events such as concerts by varied performers including the Flamenco/Heavy Metal/Fusion guitarist Gladius. VBDL also cosponsors activities such as the Southwest Michigan Writers Conference, a day-long gathering designed to provide advice, instruction and camaraderie for writers interested in becoming self-published authors.

Van Buren District Library is proud to offer a variety of learning opportunities to people of all ages, interests, and needs. In 2019 the Library will continue to offer high quality education of exceptional value to the citizens of Van Buren County. It is our hope that people will rely on Van Buren District Library to train for and find employment, to prepare their children for school, to learn new skills, and to dream new dreams.

Thank you for your support of the Van Buren District Library and its mission of education for all.

Sincerely,
Dan Hutchins
Director
Van Buren District Library
2018 VOLUNTEERS

Marianne Abbott  Dick Crites  Loretta Hiemstra  Jeri Mills
Julie Aguilar  Bruce Cutting  Amy Higbee  Carol Nelson
Charlotte Cruse  Phil Decker  Alicia Hileski  Kelly O’Leary
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Ian Andrews  Ginny Drogula  Kim Ingalls  Fabiola Pantoja
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Kaley Athey  Wendy Estrada  Cailin Kessen  Jan Petersen
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Diane Corradini  Jeff & Theresa Heaton  Lynn Martin  Sarah Rodriguez
Becky Crites  Jackie Hemingway  Ron McAdam  Faith Rogers

VBDL MASCOT CONTEST WINNERS

We read 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten!

We create art!

We collaborate with area schools!

We provide education for all ages!

We participate in community events!

We support the Teen Creative Writing Challenge!

We bring talented authors to the District!

We have a happy, helpful staff!
2018 STATISTICS

EVENTS & CLASSES
EVENTS & CLASSES: 1,874
ATTENDANCE: 19,972
SUMMER READING PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: 2,441

ITEMS
ITEMS CHECKED-OUT: 268,292
ITEMS LOANED TO OTHER MICHIGAN LIBRARIES: 13,125
ITEMS BORROWED FROM MELCAT FOR VBDL PATRONS: 16,373

PEOPLE
SERVICE POPULATION: 44,265
NUMBER OF VISITORS: 177,642
TOTAL ACTIVE, REGISTERED CARDHOLDERS: 17,510

COMPUTERS
NUMBER OF PUBLIC COMPUTER HOURS: 20,399
NUMBER WIFI LOGINS: 44,590
EBOOKS, FILMS, TV, AND MUSIC STREAMED OR DOWNLOADED: 31,029

MATERIALS
CIRCULATION BY COLLECTION
CHILDREN: 88,138 (33%)
ADULT: 62,783 (23%)
DVDS & AUDIOBOOKS: 64,375 (24%)
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: 27,538 (10%)
DIGITAL: 25,435 (9%)

MATERIALS
COLLECTION SIZE BY FORMAT
206,219
BOOKS: 154,116 (74%)
DIGITAL: 30,453 (15%)
DVDS: 13,523 (7%)
AUDIOBOOKS: 3,498 (2%)
MAGAZINES: 4,629 (2%)

COMPARATIVE BRANCH CIRCULATION %

ANTWERP: 72,342 (27%)
WEBSTER: 69,377 (26%)
BANGOR: 34,255 (13%)
LAWRENCE: 26,800 (10%)
BLOOMINGDALE: 22,693 (8%)
GOBLES: 19,140 (7%)
COVERT: 12,997 (5%)
DIGITAL: 10,688 (4%)
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

INDIVIDUAL LIBRARY
MAJOR FUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES:</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>$1,919,064</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,919,064</td>
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<td>$1,919,064</td>
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<tr>
<td>STATE SOURCES</td>
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<td>32,082</td>
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<td>PENAL FINES</td>
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<td>147,326</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEES AND BOOK FINES</td>
<td>36,869</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>36,869</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>INVESTMENT INCOME</td>
<td>15,318</td>
<td>7,634</td>
<td>140,442</td>
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<td>LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER</td>
<td>132,808</td>
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<td>TOTAL REVENUES</td>
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<td>$7,634</td>
<td>$2,291,101</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$2,291,101</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2018 DONORS

Dennis & Cathy Anderson
Sandy Augst
Terry & Ruth Ausra
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Friends of the Van Buren District Library Covert Branch
Friends of the Van Buren District Library Gobles Branch
Friends of the Van Buren District Library Lawrence Branch
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Lynn & Sharon Stevens
Michael Swogger
David Tate
Diane Taylor & Family
Village of Lawton
Jeff & Sharon Vliek
WalMart
<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>LIBRARY AS A WHOLE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES-FULL ACCRUAL BASIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SALARIES</td>
<td>$1,035,536</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,035,536</td>
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<td>PAYROLL TAXES</td>
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<td>77,179</td>
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<td>INSURANCE (HEALTH, LIFE, DISABILITY, W/C)</td>
<td>85,232</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>85,232</td>
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<td>PENSION</td>
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<td>176,069</td>
<td>(17,013)</td>
<td>106,056</td>
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<td>OFFICE AND LIBRARY SUPPLIES</td>
<td>8,801</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>POSTAGE, PRINTING, COPYING</td>
<td>20,476</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAS AND OIL</td>
<td>3,347</td>
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<td>JANITOR SUPPLIES</td>
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<td>PROFESSIONAL FEES</td>
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<td>DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS</td>
<td>1,383</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>CONTRACTUAL SERVICES</td>
<td>25,956</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>UTILITIES</td>
<td>50,607</td>
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<td>TELEPHONE</td>
<td>13,536</td>
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<td>13,536</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRAVEL</td>
<td>11,618</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11,618</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROMOTIONAL AND READING PROGRAMS</td>
<td>26,096</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>26,096</td>
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<tr>
<td>GENERAL AND VEHICLE</td>
<td>7,975</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,975</td>
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<tr>
<td>INSURANCE</td>
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<td>39,748</td>
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<td>MAINTENANCE</td>
<td>4,180</td>
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<td>4,180</td>
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<td>4,180</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONTINUING EDUCATION</td>
<td>93,010</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>93,010</td>
<td>(40,233)</td>
<td>52,777</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUDIOVISUAL, BOOKS, AND PERIODICALS</td>
<td>207,330</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>207,330</td>
<td>(167,594)</td>
<td>39,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERNET FEES</td>
<td>18,253</td>
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<td>18,253</td>
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<td>18,253</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAX REPAYMENT</td>
<td>117,343</td>
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<td>117,343</td>
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<td>MISCELLANEOUS</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>58</td>
<td></td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRANT</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEPRECIATION</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES</td>
<td>$2,141,107</td>
<td>$2,141,107</td>
<td>$(70,155)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,070,952</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES     | $142,360     | $7,634         | $186,866                      | $70,155                  | $220,149                                                    |
| OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)                   |              |                |                               |                         |                                                             |
| OPERATING TRANSFERS IN/(OUT)                     | -            | -              | -                             | -                       | -                                                           |
| NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION         | $142,360     | $7,634         | $186,866                      | $70,155                  | $220,149                                                    |
| FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION-BEGINNING OF YEAR      | 1,706,875    | 184,980        | 1,704,989                     | 589,516                  | 2,481,371                                                   |
| FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION-END OF YEAR            | $1,849,235   | $192,614       | $1,891,855                    | $659,671                 | $2,701,520                                                   |
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 LIBRARY
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: 269.764.0362
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.

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MARIANNE ABBOTT
DENISE CAMPAGNA
BRUCE CUTTING
ELIZABETH GODWIN
SANDRA HANSON
CATHERINE HULIN
BETTY MARKEL
WAYNE RENDELL
Bloomington
Lawrence
Antwerp Twp., Chair
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Bangor
Covert, Vice-Chair

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