

“The Farmer is the Man” Kicks-off Crossroads: Change in Rural America

Singer/songwriter and roots musician, Chris Vallillo (at right), presents, *The Farmer is the Man*, during the opening event for *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*, Saturday, October 26, 10:00am, VBDL Webster Memorial, Decatur.



Vallillo's presentation immediately follows the ribbon-cutting by local, state, and, hopefully, national dignitaries. The performance, written specifically for the Smithsonian exhibit, showcases songs that chronicle and celebrate farm life.

The two-time Illinois state scholar performs on six-string and bottleneck slide guitars and harmonica. He weaves original, contemporary and traditional songs and narratives into a compelling and entertaining portrait of the history and lifestyles of the Midwest. Learn more about Chris at <https://www.chrisvallillo.com>.

Van Buren County Farm Bureau is supplying activities for kids beginning at 11:00am. Refreshments provided by the Friends of VBDL. The event is made possible by Michigan Humanities and is free and open to all.



In 1900, about 40% of Americans lived in rural areas. By 2010, that number dropped to 17%. In just over a century, massive economic and social changes moved millions of Americans into urban areas. Still, nearly 60 million Americans live in rural areas today. To complete the perspective, only 3.5% of the U.S. landmass is considered urban. Therefore, the vast majority of the landscape remains rural.

Crossroads: Change in Rural America, on exhibit at VBDL Webster Memorial in Decatur, October 18 - December 5, offers the region a chance to look at our own paths.

Crossroads is designed to prompt discussions about what happens when America's rural population became a minority of the country's population and the ripple effects that occurred.

The exhibition is part of **Museum on Main Street**, a unique collaboration between **Smithsonian Institution Exhibiting Service (SITES)**, **Michigan Humanities**, and **Van Buren District Library**.

VBDL.org info@vbdl.org 269.423.4771



VBDL Webster
Memorial
presents

Crossroads: Change in Rural America

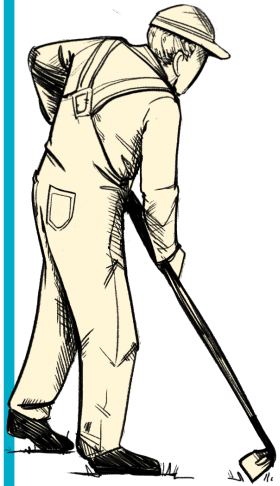
October 18 - December 5

200 North Phelps Street
Decatur MI 49045

A Museum on Main Street
Traveling Exhibit



Smithsonian Institution



VBDL invites you to the official, ribbon-cutting ceremony for
Crossroads: Change in Rural America
Saturday, October 26, 10:00am

VBDL Webster Memorial
 200 North Phelps Street, Decatur MI 49045

Immediately following the ceremony:
 Exhibit opens for self-guided tours

The Farmer is the Man from roots musician Chris Vallillo
 Children's activities courtesy of Van Buren County Farm Bureau
 Appearance by Pete the Cat

Refreshments courtesy of the Friends of the Van Buren District Library

VBDL programs are free
 and open to the public!
 Enjoy complementary programs
 at each VBDL location.

**Capturing the Past: Identification
 and Care of Your Photos**
 with State Scholar Dr. Thomas Henthorn
 University of Michigan-Flint
Saturday, October 12, 10:00am
VBDL Webster Memorial

200 North Phelps St., Decatur MI 49045
 269.423.4771

Monday - Wednesday: 9 am - 8 pm
 Thursday - Friday: 9 am - 5 pm
 Saturday: 9 am - 3 pm

**Made in the Mitten: Michigan's Rich
 Foodie & Agricultural History**
 with Dianna Stampfler
Thursday, October 17, 6:30pm
VBDL Webster Memorial

Presented with support from Michigan Humanities



**Hobby Farming in a Small Town
 with Dorie Beltz and friends!**
Saturday, October 19, 11:00am
VBDL Antwerp Sunshine Branch

24823 Front Avenue
 Mattawan MI 49071

269.668.2534

Monday - Wednesday:
 10 am - 7 pm
 Thursday - Friday:
 10 am - 5 pm
 Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm

**Windshadow Farm: Artisan Cheese
 with co-owner Sue Kline**
Saturday, November 2, 12noon
VBDL Brangor Branch

420 Division Street, Bangor MI 49013
 269.427.8810

Monday - Wednesday: 9 am - 7 pm
 Thursday - Friday: 9 am - 5 pm
 Saturday: 9 am - 2 pm

**Bloomington: Past and Present
 History on Display**
October - December

VBDL Bloomington Branch

109 East Kalamazoo
 Bloomington MI 49026
 269.521.7601

Monday - Wednesday: 10 am - 7 pm
 Thursday - Friday: 10 am - 5 pm
 Saturday: 10 am - 3 pm

History of Fruit Farming with Paul Rood
Friday, November 15, 3:00pm

VBDL Covert Branch

33680 M-140 Hwy, Covert MI 49043
 269.764.1298

Monday - Wednesday: 10 am - 7 pm
 Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
 Friday: 10 am - 5 pm
 Saturday: 10 am - 3 pm

History of Gobles Walking Tour
Saturday, November 9, 10:30am

VBDL Gobles Branch

105 East Main Street, Gobles MI 49055
 269.628.4537

Monday - Wednesday: 10 am - 7 pm
 Thursday - Friday: 10 am - 5 pm
 Saturday: 10 am - 3 pm

Lawrence: Then and Now Photo Display
November 2 - 23

VBDL Lawrence Community Branch

212 North Paw Paw
 Lawrence MI 49064
 269.674.3200

Monday - Wednesday: 10 am - 7 pm
 Thursday - Friday: 10 am - 5 pm
 Saturday: 10 am - 3 pm