

Spotlight Programs

Access Historical Military Records with Fold 3

Saturday, January 11, 10:00am
VBDL Webster Memorial - Decatur

Black History Month Movies Saturdays at 12:00pm

February 1:

- 42 - The Jackie Robinson Story
- February 8: Hidden Figures
- February 15: The Great Debaters
- February 22: Selma
- February 29: Loving
- VBDL Covert Branch

Be Mine! Valentine Make-and-Take

Saturday, February 8, 10:30am
VBDL Gobles Branch

Intro to Sign-Language for Kids Saturdays at 10:30am

February 22, March 28, April 25
VBDL Antwerp Sunshine - Mattawan

Create-a-Coffee Mug Workshop

Friday, March 13, 2:00pm
VBDL Bangor Branch

Make Your Own Spice Blend Saturday, March 14, 11:00am

VBDL Lawrence Community Branch

Starting a Garden from Seeds Wednesday, March 25, 4:00pm

VBDL Bloomingdale Branch

Author Mitch Horowitz

April 18, 2020, 2:00pm



Antwerp
Activity
Center
Mattawan

#WinterRead2020

Chase away those winter doldrums by participating in Penguin Random House's (PRH) Winter Reading Challenge in January. The month-long challenge, now in its third year, is designed to support public libraries and schools throughout the United States.

PRH has pledged to donate \$50,000 in prizes to the top-performing libraries and schools. The iconic publishing house will also sponsor author visits from Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich ("Someday is Now") and Max Brallier ("The Last Kids on Earth" series).

How can you help VBDL be a winner? Register at vbdl.beanstack.org and log how many minutes you read January 1 and through January 31. Badges earned at each level of participation are redeemable for small prizes. **Participants can earn up to three tickets for the grand prize drawing after logging at least 10 hours of reading and writing two short book reviews.**

Beanstack, the platform VBDL uses for 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, launched in 2013 with an appearance (and subsequent investment from Mark Cuban) on Shark Tank, has become the #1 most-used reading challenge software for US libraries.

Last year's Winter Reding Challenge enrolled 65,323 readers nationwide, who logged over 150,000 books and 13.5 million minutes of reading.

For more information, contact the library at 269.423.4771 or email info@vbdl.org.



From the Director

I am pleased to announce that VBDL is the recipient of a \$45,000 grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. Thanks to the grant and continued support from the Webster Trust and Library Board of Trustees, we are renovating Webster Memorial Library, Decatur, in 2020.

The renovation includes a refurbished community room, new family restroom, a new interior layout, and new carpet and paint throughout the building.

While we are excited about the upcoming project, we do realize it will cause some inconvenience at various times throughout the year. We do apologize for this, but are looking forward to providing a more comfortable, community-friendly space.

You can stay up-to-date with the project's progress through announcements on Webster Memorial's Facebook page, our website at VBDL.org, our quarterly newsletter, or by subscribing to our twice-monthly eNewsletter.

If you do have questions, please feel free to contact me any time at 269.423.4771 or dhutchins@vbdl.org.

Dan Hutchins, Director, Van Buren District Library

Van Buren District Library

Antwerp Sunshine - Mattawan * Bangor * Bloomingdale * Covert * Gobles * Lawrence * Webster Memorial - Decatur

VBDL Updates Fees

As of November 1, VBDL is fine free! During November, the library waived outstanding overdue fees from all patron accounts.

However, the library will continue to issue due dates and send notifications when items are coming due and overdue.

VBDL will also continue to charge accounts for items that are lost or damaged, plus a \$3.00 processing fee. Any account that has more than \$20 in unpaid bills for lost, damaged, or incomplete materials, will be blocked from borrowing additional materials. Once the lost materials have been returned or paid for, and damaged items paid for, borrowing privileges will be restored.

Beginning January 1, 2020, the annual fee for a VBDL nonresident household membership will cost \$60, or \$35 for six months. The library has not increased the nonresident fee since 2013. The increase is commensurate with what District residents pay each year to support the library.



VBDL Antwerp Sunshine Branch
Wednesdays & Thursdays at 10:30am
January 2 - March 19

VBDL Bangor Branch
Wednesdays at 10:30am
January 8 - March 25

VBDL Bloomingdale Branch
Thursdays at 10:30am
January 9 - March 26

VBDL Covert Branch
Tuesdays at 11:30am
January 7 - March 31

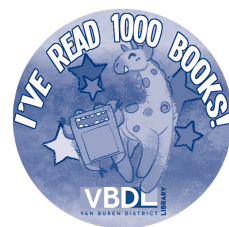
VBDL Gobles Branch
Wednesdays at 10:30am
January 8 - March 25

VBDL Lawrence Community Branch
Wednesdays at 11:00am
January 8 - March 25

VBDL Webster Memorial - Decatur
Wednesdays at 10:00am
January 8 - March 25

Make sure your child is registered for 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Sign-up online at vbdl.beanstack.org



VBDL Holiday Schedule

All VBDL locations are closed
December 24 and 25
December 31 and
January 1, 2020



Connect to a Career Tutor

VBDL's FREE Online Tutoring and Career Resource Center available daily 9am - 12midnight

VBDL.org's eLibrary

March Book Madness 2020

Mystery vs. General Fiction vs. Sci-Fi/Fantasy vs. Historical Fiction
Round One begins February 22!



Southwest Michigan TCWC 2020

The Southwest Michigan Teen Creative Writing Challenge 2020 is underway.

Students in grades 7 through 12 are eligible to enter their work through January 31, 2020. This year's Challenge includes five categories: Fiction, Flash Fiction, Poetry, Comics, and Cover Art. Top prize in each category is \$100.

Fiction entries will be judged by Rich Frantz, Linda Read and Jenny Phillips. Flash Fiction judges are Teri Frantz, Brian Johnston, and Monica Luke. Cover Art judges include David Baker, Mary Brodbeck and Jeff Matejovsky, while poetry will be judged by Mary Ann Hoebeke, Monica McMichael, and Debora Stermer. Comics judges will soon be announced.

For complete rules and submission instructions, contact any sponsoring library or visit VBDL.org.

The Challenge is sponsored by Cass District Library, Dowagiac District Library, Lawton Public Library, Marcellus Township Wood Memorial Library, Paw Paw District Library and Van Buren District Library.

February Blood Drive Versiti Blood Center of Michigan (formerly Michigan Blood)

Your blood donation can help:
Trauma victims - Surgery patients
Premature babies - Anemia patients
Cancer patients and many more!

Monday, February 24
3:00 - 7:00pm
VBDL Webster Memorial Decatur



Register online at Versiti.org