

Van Buren District
LIBRARY
ANNUAL
REPORT
— 2019 —



ANTWERP - MATTAWAN BANGOR BLOOMINGDALE
COVERT DECATUR GOBLES LAWRENCE

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Much of 2019 was spent considering the direction Van Buren District Library should go in over the next five years. Having a plan with goals and measurable objectives is important. Toward that end, focus groups were conducted in all seven communities that host a VBDL branch. Participants included District Library stakeholders, including Library patrons and local officials. Additionally, a planning day was held with Library staff at every level.

While the Library means different things to different people, there were commonalities of thought among the different groups Library administration spoke with. The first is the Library as "place." In this age of social media and virtual connectivity, people crave a physical community space to pursue their interests, spend time, and interact with their neighbors in a tangible way. Planning for a better Library isn't a theoretical exercise, people pay their hard-earned money, on average \$75 per household or local business annually, to support a Library they expect to serve as a foundational element of their community. It's important for the Library to provide an experience that demonstrates the money they pay is being judiciously spent.

Another area of that came-up frequently in the community conversations was literacy. Literacy is foundational to almost any interest an individual, young or old, might have, or any pursuit one wishes to commit to. Michigan's "Third Grade Reading Law" mandates all children must, with some exceptions, read at grade level midway through elementary school, or be kept from

advancing through the rest of their education until they do. While the law places the onus on public schools and the students themselves, public libraries are uniquely positioned to assist with the goal of a universally literate society.

Additionally, a trend emerging in the world of public libraries, of which you may be aware, is the growing body of evidence that indicates the practice of public libraries levying overdue fines deters library use. Public libraries assess overdue fees as part of a well-intentioned effort to induce library patrons to return borrowed items so others may use them. However, this practice actually has the opposite effect, keeping the very people public libraries are here to serve away due to outstanding late fees or the embarrassment of having returned items to the library past the due date.

After listening to the people who live in the communities of the Van Buren Library District, and considering the trends of the times, the Library Board and administration have drafted several goals, which comprise VBDL's strategic plan. Over the next five years, Van Buren District Library intends to reaffirm its commitment to the people of our Library District, by advancing literacy for people of all ages, providing better facilities for use as a community commons, and removing barriers to library use for all people. Through these efforts, Van Buren District Library will demonstrate its enduring value in these changing times as a cornerstone institution of Van Buren County.

Sincerely,
Dan Hutchins
Director
Van Buren District Library

VAN BUREN DISTRICT LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN: 2020-2024

1. Advance Literacy to Improve the Quality of Life for All Ages.

Literacy is foundational to everything else one wishes to achieve in life. If one may read, one may acquire any skill.

2. Enhance Accessibility to Library Resources.

In recent times public libraries have become increasingly aware the methods traditionally used to facilitate the equitable sharing of resources, such as late or overdue fees, actually have the opposite effect of keeping some people away. In response to this growing body of evidence, Van Buren District Library has eliminated all late fees as of November 1, 2019. Not only have late fees been eliminated for future library transactions, but also all current outstanding overdue charges on all existing library card accounts have been forgiven. Literacy shouldn't be just for people who may pay, literacy is for everybody, regardless of their circumstances.

3. Update Library Facilities to Better Meet the Needs of the Community.

The Library is a community space where anyone, of any means, may go for self-enrichment, to meet with others, or as a place to spend time, no purchase necessary. Many VBDL locations offer meeting rooms and spaces for community or personal use.

4. Demonstrate Value to the Community.

While many think of the Library as a building full of books, it is much more than that. The Library offers in-person experiences such as classes, events, and exposure to new ideas. The Library also offers technology and connectivity that one might not have access to otherwise.

2019 VOLUNTEERS

Sandra Ackerman
 Lisa Adams
 Lucille Bergen
 Cadence Brown
 Josie Bull
 Denise Campagna
 Sal Campagna
 Luke Caruso
 Katrina Chan
 Deb Chandler
 Jasmin Chavez
 Violeta Chavez
 Ana Chin
 Dee Clement
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 Kriss Colgren
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Nolan Stratton
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 Marlene Suter
 Cimarron Tarpey
 Jian Toy
 Marilyn Vana
 Lokia Wallace
 Alesia Webb
 Mary Webster
 Luanne Wright
 Marty Youngblood



#todaywasgoodtodaywasfun



#ifyoueverdidyoushouldThesethingsarefunandfunisgood



#librariansarefun

2019 STATISTICS



Events & Classes

Events & Classes – **1,841**
 Attendance – **23,788**
 Summer Reading Program Attendance – **4,673**



People

Service Population- **44,265**
 Number of Visitors- **184,306**
 Total Active, Registered Cardholders -**16,265**



Items

Items Checked-Out – **288,033**
 Items Loaned to other Michigan Libraries – **15,924**
 Items Borrowed from MeLCat for VBDL Patrons – **17,701**



Computers

Number of Public Computer Uses – **21,316**
 Number Wifi Uses – **37,448**
 Ebooks, films, television, and music streamed or downloaded – **29,903**



Collection Size by Format

Collection Size by Format – **218,713**
 Books – **157,141 or 72%**
 Digital (ebooks, e-audiobooks, streaming films, etc.) – **40,849 or 19%**
 DVDs – **14,000 or 6%**
 Audiobooks – **3,484 or 2%**
 Magazines – **3,239 or 1%**



Circulation by Collection

Children's Books – **93,415 or 32%**
 Adult Books – **52,577 or 18%**
 Adult DVDs & Audiobooks – **46,977 or 16%**
 Special Collections – **35,943 or 12%**
 Digital Books, Audio Books, Films, etc. – **29,957 or 10%**
 Misc. Items Loaned to Other Libraries – **17,701 or 6%**
 Children's DVDs & Audiobooks – **11,463 or 4%**

Comparative Branch Circulation

Total Circulation = 288,033 items

Antwerp
77,252 or 27%

Webster
72,655 or 25%

Bangor
31,316 or 11%

Lawrence
24,856 or 9%

Bloomington
19,851 or 7%

Gobles
18,626 or 6%

Loaned to Other Libraries
17,701 or 6%

Covert
13,106 or 5%

Digital Items Not Associated With A Specific Branch
12,670 or 4%



#kidsonthefly

SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT VISITS VBDL



VBDL Webster Memorial, Decatur, had the honor in 2019 of being one of six host sites for a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit. Crossroads: Change in Rural America, made possible with support from Michigan Humanities. The exhibit was open to the public from October 18 through December 5.

The exhibition examines the evolving landscape of rural America by showcasing how small towns became centers of commerce, trade, local politics and culture. Through interactive kiosks and free-standing displays, the exhibit addresses the future of rural America by highlighting how small towns have changed over the past century and how they might be reshaped for the future.

The official opening ceremony, held on October 26, featured entertainment from Illinois singer/songwriter and two-time Illinois State Scholar Chris Valillo, while Crossroads curator, Dr. Debra Reid of The Henry Ford, assisted Local History Librarian Amy Druskovich with the ribbon cutting.

The exhibit was seen by almost 8,000 visitors, including 593 students from Decatur Public Schools. Students were given postcards to fill out which asked them to answer various questions. One question, in particular "What are three things you would miss about this community if you had to leave?" elicited many poignant answers from the students:

"I would miss all the nice people. I would miss the wonderful nature and the care of others helping others."

"I would miss riding on the tractor, playing with my trucks out in the fields and picking corn with my dad."

"I would miss all the nice people. I would miss all the good restaurants. I would miss all the good movies."

"I would miss the amazing friends I've made here. I would miss the fresh, nonpolluted air and all the stars I can see before I go to bed."

Crossroads first stop in Michigan was at the Old Mill Museum in Dundee. After its stay in Decatur, the exhibit was scheduled to travel to the Crawford County Library, Grayling; Reed City Area District Library, Presque Isle District Library, Rogers City; and Pickford Community Library in the Upper Peninsula.

The exhibition is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils nationwide. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.



#ruralcrossroads



#villagemanager



#librariesbringtheworldtoyou

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

	INDIVIDUAL LIBRARY MAJOR FUNDS		TOTAL-MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS	GASB NO. 34 ADJUSTMENTS	LIBRARY AS A WHOLE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES-FULL ACCRUAL BASIS
	GENERAL FUND	ENDOWMENT FUND			
REVENUES:					
TAXES	\$1,879,381	-	\$1,879,381	-	\$1,879,381
STATE SOURCES	35,066	-	35,066	-	35,066
PENAL FINES	169,459	-	169,459	-	169,459
FEES AND BOOK FINES	33,321	-	33,321	-	33,321
INVESTMENT INCOME	37,957	-	37,957	-	37,957
LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER	111,791	7,775	119,566	-	119,566
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,266,975	\$7,775	\$2,274,750	-	\$2,274,750

2019 DONORS

Jack & Janet Abshagen	Library Bangor Branch	Raymond Maki
Allan B. Copley Foundation	Friends of the Van Buren District	Bonita Markillie
Kathy Argo	Library Bloomingdale Branch	Michigan Humanities Council
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Austin	Friends of the Van Buren District	Patty Molter
Dale & Evelyn Avery	Library Covert Branch	Mr. & Mrs. Doug Olsen
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Baldus	Friends of the Van Buren District	Linda Reynnells
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Beeching	Library Gobles Branch	The Ritsema Family
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Mr. & Mrs. James Crandall	Library Lawrence Branch	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ross
Decatur Study Club	Carrilou Gale	Mr. & Mrs. Fred Ruff
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Friends of the Van Buren District	George Kusmack	Janet Utter
Library	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Ladewski	Mary Utter
Friends of the Van Buren District	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Lemm	Van Buren County C.A.N. Council
Antwerp Sunshine Library	Linear Electric	Mr. & Mrs. David Watt
Friends of the Van Buren District	Kathy Maher	Mr. & Mrs. James Winebrener

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE/
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

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	\$1,082,200	-	\$1,082,200	\$ (12,163)	\$1,070,037
PAYROLL TAXES	80,277	-	80,277	-	80,277
INSURANCE (HEALTH, LIFE, DISABILITY, W/C)	85,623	-	85,623	-	85,623
PENSION	181,663	-	181,663	(52,068)	129,595
OFFICE AND LIBRARY SUPPLIES	13,761	-	13,761	-	13,761
POSTAGE, PRINTING, COPYING	18,157	-	18,157	-	18,157
GAS AND OIL	2,815	-	2,815	-	2,815
JANITOR SUPPLIES	4,600	-	4,600	-	4,600
PROFESSIONAL FEES	91,782	-	91,782	-	91,782
DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	1,445	-	1,445	-	1,445
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	30,602	-	30,602	-	30,602
UTILITIES	66,817	-	66,817	-	66,817
TELEPHONE	15,066	-	15,066	-	15,066
TRAVEL	9,078	-	9,078	-	9,078
PROMOTIONAL AND READING PROGRAMS	34,306	-	34,306	-	34,306
GENERAL AND VEHICLE INSURANCE	6,557	-	6,557	-	6,557
MAINTENANCE	33,655	-	33,655	-	33,655
CONTINUING EDUCATION	4,541	-	4,541	-	4,541
CAPITAL OUTLAY	44,362	-	44,362	(21,986)	22,376
AUDIOVISUAL, BOOKS, AND PERIODICALS	238,994	-	238,994	(173,359)	65,635
INTERNET FEES	15,720	-	15,720	-	15,720
TAX REPAYMENT	-	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	135	-	135	-	135
GRANT	30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000
DEPRECIATION	-	-	-	213,163	213,163
TOTAL EXPENDITURES/ EXPENSES	\$2,092,156	-	\$2,092,156	\$ (46,413)	\$2,045,743
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES	\$174,819	\$7,775	\$182,594	\$46,413	\$229,007
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
OPERATING TRANSFERS IN(OUT)	-	-	-	-	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION	\$174,819	\$7,775	\$182,594	\$46,423	\$229,007
FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION-BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,849,235	192,614	2,041,849	659,671	2,701,520
FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION- END OF YEAR	\$2,024,054	\$200,389	\$2,224,443	\$706,084	\$2,930,527

LIBRARY LOCATIONS & HOURS



WEBSTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY DECATUR

District Administrative Offices

200 North Phelps Street, 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 Avenue, 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 Street, 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 Street, 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 Street, 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, Secretary/Treasurer
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