



VAN BUREN DISTRICT

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

ANTWERP - BANGOR
BLOOMINGDALE - COVERT
DECATUR - GOBLES - LAWRENCE

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Why do public libraries exist? Before the days of the Internet, the public library served three primary roles: to promote literacy, as an institution of self-education, and as a repository of information or reference source.

The first role was to promote literacy. Libraries have traditionally accomplished this by stocking a wide variety of fiction for all ages. Additionally, public libraries customarily host events and classes to promote reading, especially among the young. These events and classes often include children's story times and summer reading programs.

The second role was as an institution of self-education. Public libraries accomplished this by acting as a community resource that collected tools people may use for self-empowerment. The patron saint of public libraries, philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, was the person who first conceived of public libraries as a place of self-education. According to Carnegie, public libraries aren't hand-outs or entitlements, they're a resource provided by the community so its residents might better their lives. Carnegie famously said "I choose free libraries as the best agencies for improving the masses of the people, because they give nothing for nothing. They only help those who help themselves."

The third role played by public libraries was as a repository of information. Need a telephone number? You could get it from the library. Want to undertake a home repair or renovation? The library had a book to help. Thinking about getting a dog? You could research various breeds at the library. However, with the advent of the Internet, the purely informational role libraries played in our lives became less relevant, and less still in the age of Internet-enabled smartphones. Now that one carries the sum of all human knowledge in their pocket, the idea of calling the library for something as mundane as a phone number today seems quaint. This rapid advancement of technology has forced public libraries to evolve and change.

In my view, rather than serving as reference sources as they once did, libraries now act more as community centers. In addition to fostering literacy and providing people with the means for self-education, public libraries now connect people to the world around them, and to each other.

Over the past five years, Van Buren District Library has leaned into enhancing its three-fold role as a promotor of literacy, self-education, and community-oriented offerings. In recent years Van Buren District Library has:

- Introduced Princeton Online Tutoring, AKA Tutor.com to our offerings. Princeton Online Tutoring

is an online platform students of all ages may use to receive help from live, credentialed tutors specializing in dozens of subject areas. Adult job seekers may also use Princeton Online Tutoring for help with their résumé, or for job search assistance. Princeton Online Tutoring is available via the library's website, VBDL.org, from any Internet connected computer or mobile device, wherever our patrons may be, from noon to midnight, seven days a week.

- Added the Transparent Languages learning platform. Transparent Languages may be accessed by our customers remotely via the Internet from any computer or mobile device. Transparent Languages offers instruction in over 110 languages, including English as a second language.

- Expanded events, classes, and programming:

- The library has increased funding for events and classes by 68%. In spite of the pandemic, event attendance has risen 29%.

- VBDL added a District Program Coordinator position to its staff to enhance the quality and consistency of these efforts.

- To better meet the needs of all, VBDL now offers Spanish language events and classes at our Covert branch.

- Made our meeting rooms available for public use at five VBDL locations: Antwerp Sunshine Library, Bangor Branch Library, Covert Branch Library, Lawrence Branch Library, and Webster Memorial Library in Decatur. In 2022 the public used the library's meeting rooms a total of 288 times.

- Renovated our main branch, Webster Memorial Library, to make it more useful and inviting for the community. This included adding additional meeting rooms for public use, upgrading Webster Memorial's Community Room to include a modern audio-visual system, lightweight furniture that is easily moved, and storage dedicated for our community partners, the Decatur Study Club and the Friends of the Library.

- Brought Internet connectivity to a community where not everyone has access to this necessary utility. According to the latest U.S. Census, over 14% of Van Buren County residents don't have a broadband Internet connection. The library is attempting to bridge this gap in two ways:

- Installing outdoor, Wi-Fi Internet access points at six of our seven locations: Antwerp Sunshine Library, Bangor Branch Library, Covert Branch Library, Gobles Branch Library, Lawrence Branch Library, and Webster Memorial

Library in Decatur. These access points provide high-speed, broadband Internet access to the public via Wi-Fi, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from the comfort of their vehicles.

- Adding 210 mobile Internet hotspots, 30 per library branch, to our collections. These mobile Internet hotspots may be borrowed for two weeks at a time by any adult resident or purchased library cardholder.

In support of its role to connect people to the world around them, and each other, what new services might Van Buren District Library add in the future? That's something the Library Board and staff are always considering. Some ideas we are currently discussing include:

- Free delivery of Library materials to homebound or infirm individuals via post-paid mail.
- More Spanish language library events and classes, at more locations.
- More full-time staff at more library locations to better serve the needs of our community.

- Training library staff to aid our customers in the use of the Michigan Legal Help website <https://michigan-legalhelp.org>.

- An expansion of our popular mobile Internet hotspot lending initiative, with more devices and longer loan periods.

The world will continue to change at an ever-increasing pace, which will continually cause the library to reinvent how it serves the public. Whatever may come, the library will always strive to place itself at the center of community life, finding new ways to promote literacy, provide self-education opportunities, and to connect people to the world around them, and to each other.

Best,
Dan T Hutchins
Executive Director
Van Buren District Library

2022 VBDL VOLUNTEERS

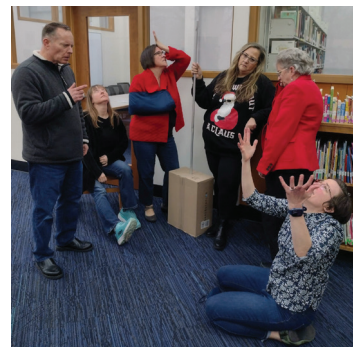
Lisa Adams
Jess Alburtus
Tyler Augst
Cheyenne Benavidez
Elaine Bloom
Louie Bonamego
Sherryl Bosker
Sabina Boston
Lucinda Boven & Emmie
Karol Buckner
Denise Campagna
Sal Campagna
Bryan Casasanto
Deb Chandler
Lorriane Crandell
Kristen Colgren
Crista Cornejo
Ginny Drogula
Wendy Estrada
Chloe Fingas

Nancy Ford
Gail Galbreath
Mike Galbreath
Debbie Gargus
Bette Glindmeyer
Joe Glista
Julie Glista
Phyllis Graham
Bob Griffin
Jeff Heaton
Theresa Heaton
Kayla Hill
Carol Iverson
Karen Jensen
Niki Juriga
Steve Kaszar
Clay Kessen
Corinne Kessen
Kira Kessen
Terra Klein

Pam Knight
Char Kolon
Paul Kolon
Ava Kroll
Isabelle Kroll
Lawrence Cheerleaders
Diane Lewis
Geri Lima
Linda Marshall
Mathew May
Savannah McKinney
Dawn Mergener
Hailee Mount
Elizabeth Newton
Natalie Newton
Natalie Pausch
Joy Porter
Anna Pride
Clara Pride
Sue Putt & Spencer

Linda Read
Mary Redmon
Jan Roeder
Jim Sebree
Vera Sebree
Nabi Shin
Edward Sichterman
Katie Siple
Kristen Smith & Comet
Judy Stackpole
Nathan Stratton
Bonita Suter
Marlene Suter
Jean Szczypka
Betty Usrey
Kellie Vandermeer
Mary Webster
LuAnn Wright
Tami Young & Lebowski

2022 VBDL IN PICTURES



2022 LIBRARY DONORS

Allan B. Copley Charitable Foundation
Doug & Sandy Athey
Lucinda Boven
Jody & Lawrence Crandall
Barbara Farris
Decatur Study Club
First State Bank Decatur
Friends of the Antwerp
Sunshine Library

Friends of the Lawrence Branch Library
Friends of the Van Buren District Library
Dr. Craig Hermann
M & M Thomas Murow
Doug & Ann Olsen
Rod Place
Robin Siegel

2022 VBDL BY-THE-NUMBERS



EVENTS & CLASSES

EVENTS & CLASSES
1,472

ATTENDANCE
23,636

SUMMER READING
PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE
3,827

TAKE & MAKE KITS
DISTRIBUTED
4,757



PEOPLE

SERVICE POPULATION
44,230

NUMBER OF VISITORS
120,101

TOTAL ACTIVE,
REGISTERED
CARDHOLDERS
18,202

NEW CARDHOLDERS
IN 2022
523

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM USES 288



ITEMS

ITEMS CHECKED OUT
304,894

ITEMS LOANED TO OTHER
MICHIGAN LIBRARIES
13,453

ITEMS BORROWED
FROM MELCAT FOR
VBDL PATRONS
15,007



COMPUTERS

NUMBER OF PUBLIC
COMPUTER USES
11,550

NUMBER WIFI USES
93,819

EBOOKS, FILMS,
TELEVISION, AND
MUSIC STREAMED OR
DOWNLOADED
37,753

ONLINE RESOURCE
USES (TUTOR.COM,
TRANSPARENT
LANGUAGES,
ANCESTRY.COM, FOLD3,
OTHERS) 4,582

MOBILE INTERNET HOTSPOT LOANS - 1,776



COLLECTION SIZE BY FORMAT

TOTAL COLLECTION SIZE
176,647

BOOKS 105,473 OR 60%

DVDS 13,475 OR 8%

DIGITAL (EBOOKS,

E-AUDIOBOOKS,
STREAMING FILMS, ETC.)
42,891 OR 24%

AUDIOBOOKS
3,127 OR 2%

MAGAZINES
2,387 OR 1%

MOBILE INTERNET
HOTSPOTS: 210 OR
LESS THAN 1%



CIRCULATION BY COLLECTION

CHILDREN'S BOOKS 129,742 OR 41%

ADULT BOOKS 78,610 OR 25%

ADULT DVDS & AUDIOBOOKS
39,327 OR 13%

DIGITAL BOOKS, AUDIO BOOKS,
FILMS, ETC. 37,670 OR 12%

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
15,850 OR 5%

CHILDREN'S DVDS & AUDIOBOOKS
9,997 OR 3%

MOBILE INTERNET HOTSPOTS 1,779
OR 1%

Comparative Branch Circulation - Total Circulation = 304,894 items

WEBSTER - 95,861 OR 31%

ANTWERP - 73,056 OR 24%

LAWRENCE - 34,659 OR 11%

BANGOR - 30,431 OR 10%

DIGITAL ITEMS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH
A SPECIFIC BRANCH- 21,286 OR 7%

GOBLES - 20,970 OR 7%

BLOOMINGDALE - 14,971 OR 5%

COVERT - 13,660 OR 4%

MOBILE INTERNET HOTSPOTS

It has now been over a year since VBDL first introduced mobile Internet hotspots as an item available for patrons to borrow from the library. During that time, it has easily become one of our most popular items. After securing a grant from the Federal Communication Commission's Emergency Connectivity Fund, VBDL received approximately \$27,350 to purchase hotspots for all seven of VBDL's branches, and to fund the monthly data costs for those devices. After a few months of delays due to supply chain issues, VBDL added 210 hotspots to our collection in February 2022. Since then, these hotspots have been borrowed over 1,700 times, and they rarely stay on the shelves for long!

Over 14% of households in Van Buren County don't have access to broadband Internet. For those County residents, the mobile Internet hotspots offered by VBDL often make all of the difference. With a two-week loan period and unlimited data, patrons can rest assured they will have reliable Internet access in their home. Because the hotspots use T-Mobile's cellular towers, the hotspots may also be used to access the Internet in many other parts of the nation as well. The hotspots may be used to do homework, connect with medical professionals, work from home, talk with friends and family, and catch up on the latest season of your favorite show. We asked a few Library patrons for their thoughts about the hotspots, and the replies have all been extremely positive:

"I live in the country; I have great service with the hotspots. I use it to watch Netflix." – Kim, Van Buren District Library, Antwerp Sunshine Library patron

"Wi-Fi is great and really helpful the way you guys do it." – Hayley, Van Buren District Library, Antwerp Sunshine Library patron

"It helps out in times of need, and it's convenient. We should get more libraries like this one." – Shailyn, Van Buren District Library Webster Memorial Library in Decatur patron

After offering the hotspots for a year, it has become clear these items are a valuable resource for many in the Van Buren District Library service area. The Library expects to receive an additional \$25,200 in grant funding during the summer of 2023 to help cover the ongoing data costs of the program. However, future grant funding to offer this valuable service is far from guaranteed. Going forward, Van Buren District Library hopes it may continue to provide these Internet hotspots to its patrons, and perhaps expand the service in the future, so even more residents of the library's service area may benefit from reliable Internet!



STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	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	\$1,959,811	-	\$1,959,811	-	\$1,959,811
STATE SOURCES	42,949	-	42,949	-	42,949
PENAL FINES	127,145	-	127,145	-	127,145
FEES AND BOOK FINES	20,772	-	20,772	-	20,772
INVESTMENT INCOME	10,101	-	10,101	-	10,101
LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER	213,395	4,532	219,927	-	219,927
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,376,173	\$4,532	\$2,380,705	-	\$2,380,705

**STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE/
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

	LIBRARY AS A WHOLE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES- FULL ACCRUAL BASIS				
EXPENDITURES/ EXPENSES:	GENERAL FUND	ENDOWMENT FUND	TOTAL-MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS	GASB NO. 34 ADJUSTMENTS	
SALARIES	\$1,145,068	-	\$1,145,068		\$1,145,068
PAYROLL TAXES	85,854	-	85,854	-	85,854
INSURANCE (HEALTH, LIFE, DISABILITY, W/C)	75,750	-	75,750	-	75,750
PENSION	35,583	-	35,583	(149,707)	(114,124)
OFFICE AND LIBRARY SUPPLIES	12,871	-	12,871	-	12,871
POSTAGE, PRINTING, COPYING	21,683	-	21,683	-	21,683
GAS AND OIL	4,547	-	4,547	-	4,547
JANITOR SUPPLIES	5,314	-	5,314	-	5,314
PROFESSIONAL FEES	77,666	-	77,666	-	77,666
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	27,289	-	27,289	-	27,289
UTILITIES	72,575	-	72,575	-	72,575
TELEPHONE	18,441	-	18,441	-	18,441
TRAVEL	7,403	-	7,403	-	7,403
PROMOTIONAL AND READING PROGRAMS	49,586	-	49,586	-	49,586
GENERAL AND VEHICLE INSURANCE	6,112	-	6,112	-	6,112
MAINTENANCE	53,587	-	53,587	-	53,587
CONTINUING EDUCATION	6,307	-	6,307	-	6,307
CAPITAL OUTLAY	85,635	-	85,635	(75,366)	10,269
AUDIOVISUAL, BOOKS, AND PERIODICALS	253,189	-	253,189	(187,732)	65,457
INTERNET FEES	59,933	-	59,933	-	59,933
GRANT	30,000	-	30,000		30,000
DEPRECIATION	-	-	-	226,092	205,419
TOTAL EXPENDITURES/ EXPENSES	\$2,104,393	-	\$2,104,393	\$ (195,740)	\$1,908,653
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES	\$271,780	\$4,532	\$276,312	\$195,740	\$472,052
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
OPERATING TRANSFERS IN(OUT)	-	-	-	-	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION	\$271,780	\$4,532	\$276,312	\$195,740	\$472,052
FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION-BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,866,326	204,538	2,070,864	1,785,504	3,856,368
FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION- END OF YEAR	\$2,138,106	\$209,070	\$2,347,176	\$1,981,244	\$4,328,420



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
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
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
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
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
DAVID VLIK
SANDRA HANSON

CATHERINE HULIN
BETTY MARKEL
WAYNE RENDELL

Bloomingdale
Lawrence
Antwerp Twp.
Decatur
Van Buren County,
Secretary/Treasurer
Gobles
Bangor, Chair
Covert, Vice-Chair

COVERT BRANCH LIBRARY

33680 M-140 Hwy, Covert, MI 49043
Phone: 269.764.1298 | Fax: 269.764.0433
www.facebook.com/covertbranch
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
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
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.

*Download or Stream eBooks, Audiobooks, Films,
and Television Series Directly from Our Website*

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

www.vbdl.org