

# Annual Report 2009

Bay County Library System [www.baycountylibrary.org](http://www.baycountylibrary.org)

Hours &  
Locations



Teens



Children



Classes &  
Events



Services



Research



## Comments from the Director

### Tom Birch



Since Bay County voters approved a 3-year, 1.0 mill, operating levy in November 2007, we have been striving to provide the best library service possible. The Sage Branch library has reopened. The Bookmobile is back on the road 3 days a week, making 38 stops throughout the county. We have increased hours from 16 to 46 at both the Auburn Area and Pinconning branches. Sunday afternoon hours have been added

at the Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library during the school year. We have increased and improved the quality of programs and classes for all ages. Replenishing library collections with up-to-date materials and providing public computers with high-speed Internet access remain a high priority.

In times of economic hardship, Americans increasingly turn to, and depend on, their libraries and librarians. Bay County residents are using their libraries more than ever. It is significant that the number of items checked out from Bay County libraries increased 14% in 2009 from the previous year. This is more than twice the national average increase of 6%. Computer use increased by 29%. Visits increased by 14%. Other measures of patron use show a similar trend; library use is up substantially over the prior year.

There are many reasons library use is on the rise. Many Bay County residents are increasingly discovering the value of their public libraries. They use the library to research and apply for jobs online. They use the library

to check out materials such as books, magazines, music CDs, and movie DVDs rather than buying them at stores or paying for subscriptions. They use the library's computers for high-speed Internet access. They also use these computers for access to library-paid subscriptions to magazines, journals and newspaper databases that include thousands of full-text articles not otherwise available at no cost. They use library computers to interact with the government, health care providers and others.

Bay County residents also rely on the library as support for entrepreneurship, retraining and lifelong education. Increasingly, they are looking to the library as a social and entertainment hub providing free programs and classes while serving as a place of interaction with other members of the community. Bay County residents continue to discover their welcoming, comfortable and modern library facilities, which play a vital role as community anchor institutions in Auburn, Pinconning and Bay City.

Library staff is working hard to provide the consistent, first-class service taxpayers have a right to expect. We continuously evaluate our efficiency to meet increasing demands without increasing staff. We are committed to making your experience in the library pleasant and rewarding. This includes maximizing the value you realize in your investment in the Bay County Library System. We have added a "What is Your Library Worth to You?" link to an annual calculator from our home page at [www.baycountylibrary.org](http://www.baycountylibrary.org). Check it out! It's a quick and easy way to calculate the value of library services you receive in a year's time.

# Selected Activities

2009 marked the 35th anniversary of the Bay County Library System, which was organized in 1974, and the 125th anniversary of the Sage Public Library, which was dedicated in 1884.

## CHILDREN & FAMILY

**Valentines for Troops:** children and families from all over Bay County supported our troops at each branch by creating more than 200 cards that were distributed overseas through the non-profit group Soldiers Angels.

**Jonathan Rand:** best-selling author of Michigan Chillers and American Chillers series, presented two standing room only shows at the Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library.

**Rooftop Landing Reindeer:** live reindeer made appearances at each branch, drawing over 1,000 happy children and families. In this exciting educational program, all were invited to ask questions, make a craft, take pictures and pet these wonderful animals.

## TEEN

**Teen Advisory Council:** formed in 2009, this council met monthly with library staff to create and oversee library programs such as the Children's Medieval Fair at Wirt and several programs based on the popular Twilight book series.

**Wii Nights:** were introduced at all branches, bringing in more teens to our libraries. This program was made possible by a generous donation from the Friends of the Bay County Libraries.

**Teen Crafts:** soap carving, henna tattoos, macrame, picture frames, albums, jewelry, quilts, book covers, and time capsule were just some of the many crafts offered throughout the year.

## ADULT

**Lunch & Movie:** a series in partnership with the Bay County Division on Aging that offered participants an optional tour of Wirt Public Library, lunch provided by the Division on Aging, followed by a movie. In response to overwhelmingly positive feedback, the program continues in 2010.

**Booked for Lunch:** a long-standing program in which reviewers and authors give presentations on a variety of books and topics, permanently moved to Wirt. Six Friday sessions are held in the Kantzler Community Room each fall and winter.

**Food for Fines:** invited patrons to erase overdue fines by donating non-perishable items, which were forwarded to various food pantries in Bay County.

## 2009 Financial Summary

### Operating Revenue

1.0 Operating Millage	58%	\$3,093,500
1.0 Construction Millage	29%	\$1,566,000
Penal Fines	6%	\$339,579
State Aid	1%	\$69,058
Other	6%	<u>\$315,635</u>
Total	100%	<u>\$5,383,772</u>

### Operating Expenditures

Personnel	66%	\$3,553,824
Materials & Programming	15%	\$781,805
Building & Operations	19%	<u>\$1,048,143</u>
Total	100%	<u>\$5,383,772</u>

## Facts and Stats

- 846,797 items checked out, an increase of 14% over 2008, and more than twice the average increase for public libraries nationwide
- 109,087 computer uses, an increase of 29% over 2008
- 408,733 visits to the libraries, an increase of 14% over 2008
- 10,343 people participated in the Summer Reading Program, an increase of 31% over 2008
- 39,222 people attended 1,166 programs
- 12,840 people attended 518 Children's Story Times
- 4,510 people attended 215 teen programs
- 653 meetings booked in our meeting rooms by community groups and organizations
- 25,605 new items added to library collections
- 68,374 Bay County residents (64%) own a Bay County Library System library card

# The Bay County Library System Partnership Highlights

**Bay-Arenac Independent School District:** hosted and coordinated play groups and special programs for children.

**Bay County Genealogical Society:** volunteers were available to assist with genealogical research in the Local History Room at the Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library.

**Delta College Planetarium and Learning Center:** “Explore and Experience Summer Camp” for children ages 7 – 11. Children attended a special “Library Day” at the Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library.

**Do-All’s: “Coats for Kids.”** All branches served as drop off sites for the project, which collected donated coats at each branch for people of all ages.

**Literacy Council of Bay County: Literacy and ESL (English as a Second Language) Tutoring** was provided for people of all ages.

**Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center at Delta College: “Business Start-Up” Seminars** for entrepreneurs were held at the Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library.

**Michigan Works!: Resume Writing Workshops** were held at the Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library.

**Salvation Army, the Literacy Council of Bay County and The Bay City Times: “The Gift of Reading.”** Donations were collected to distribute new books during the holidays to children and teens who would not otherwise receive them.

**United Way of Bay County: VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)** provided free income tax preparation and e-filing of returns for persons meeting income guidelines.

**VOICE, Inc., the Valley Organization for Improvement of Communication and Equality for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing:** provided training for staff on the newly added **Sorenson Video Relay equipment** for American Sign Language users.

## From the Mail Room

“I am very impressed with our library facilities. They’re a nice place to enjoy peace and quiet in comfortable surroundings.”

“Thank you so much for the book club program . . . My daughter, a first-grader, absolutely loves the program . . . I am also impressed with how beautiful your library is as well as how extensive your collection is.”

“Thank you for working with my job placement students! I appreciate your time and support. The students learn valuable job skills in your lovely facility.”

“ . . . I love to bring my children to the library . . . ”

“Thank you for joining us for our carnival and health fair. All the families were so impressed that the library was there. I appreciated your staff taking time out of their busy schedules to be here! Looking forward to working with the library again!”

“ . . . The whole family enjoyed the wide variety of weekend events including the magicians, jugglers, live animals and harpist . . . We are extremely lucky to have a local library that values and promotes learning and the joy of reading! . . . As our family and others continue to struggle with the poor economy, it is nice to have free and educational local entertainment options.”

“I would like to comment on your ‘Read Off Your Fines’ program. What a great idea! . . . What a nice way to help people out financially and encourage more reading at the same time. We love Bay County libraries!”

Special thanks to the Friends of the Bay County Libraries for their generous support.

# Locations

## Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library

500 Center Ave. PH (989) 893-9566  
Bay City, MI 48708 FX (989) 893-9799  
TDD (989) 893-7052

## Auburn Area Branch Library

235 W. Midland Rd. PH (989) 662-2381  
Auburn, MI 48611 FX (989) 662-2647

## Pinconning Branch Library

218 Kaiser St. PH (989) 879-3283  
Pinconning, MI 48650 FX (989) 879-5669

## Sage Branch Library

100 E. Midland St. PH (989) 892-8555  
Bay City, MI 48706 FX (989) 892-1516

## Bookmobile

500 Center Avenue PH (989) 893-9566 x 2108  
Bay City, MI 48708 FX (989) 893-9799  
Schedule available online and  
at your local branch.

## Administrative Office

500 Center Avenue PH (989) 894-2837  
Bay City, MI 48708 FX (989) 894-2021

[www.baycountylibrary.org](http://www.baycountylibrary.org)

# Board of Trustees



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*The Mission of the Bay County Library System is: "... to promote the love of reading and foster the pursuit of knowledge by delivering quality library service which furthers the informational, educational, recreational, and cultural interests of the community, thus enriching the quality of life for all county residents."*

How Much Can You Save @ Your Library? Find out by using the calculator at [www.baycountylibrary.org](http://www.baycountylibrary.org).