

Locations & Hours

Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library Mon-Thu: 10 am - 8 pm
500 Center Ave. Fri-Sat: 9 am - 5 pm
Bay City, MI 48708 Sun: 1 pm - 5 pm*
989.893.9566 (*May-Sep only)

Auburn Area Branch Library Mon: Closed
235 W. Midland Rd. Tue-Thu: 10 am - 8 pm
Auburn, MI 48611 Fri-Sat: 9 am - 5 pm
989.662.2381 Sun: Closed

Pinconning Branch Library Mon: Closed
218 Kaiser St. Tue-Thu: 10 am - 8 pm
Bay City, MI 4876 Fri-Sat: 9 am - 5 pm
989.879.3283 Sun: Closed

Sage Branch Library Mon-Tue: 9 am - 5 pm
100 E. Midland St. Wed-Thu: Noon - 8 pm
Bay City, MI 4876 Fri: 9 am - 5 pm
989.892.8555 Sat-Sun: Closed

Bookmobile Tue, Wed, Thu
500 Center Ave.
Bay City, MI 48708 Complete schedule at:
989.893.9566, ext. 2108 www.BayCountyLibrary.org

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www.BayCountyLibrary.org

Bay County Library System
500 Center Avenue
Bay City, MI 48708
www.BayCountyLibrary.org

Bay County Library System Annual Report 2010

Message from the Director Tom Birch

2010 marked the third year in a row of increased use of the libraries. By all measures patron demand continues to grow. As compared to 2009, checkouts increased by 4%, computer use increased by 6%, visits increased by 3% and program attendance increased by 39%.

We introduced a new website that is designed to be user-friendly. The screens are clean and easy to navigate. We see our website as an important two-way communication tool through which we can enhance the library experience of our patrons inside and outside the library buildings. The keyword searchable website includes a calendar of events, quick and easy access to library catalogs, information about new material that becomes available, details about upcoming programs, and convenient links to much more.

As part of our ongoing effort to keep up with changing technology, we added new formats to the collection such as eBooks for children ("Tumblebooks"), and through NetLibrary, a collection of downloadable eAudiobooks.

In November, Bay County voters approved the renewal for four years of a 1.0 mill operating levy for the Bay County Library System. The election results were especially gratifying for library supporters since both a strong majority of voters

and every precinct in the county voted in favor of the renewal. In view of the fact that the election took place during tough economic times, we believe the positive vote confirmed that Bay County residents see real value in the services and products that their libraries are now providing and that they would like to see it continue. Even with the renewed millage, we face serious challenges as we strive to maintain quality library services in an environment of shrinking tax revenues.

We continue to owe a debt of gratitude to the many volunteers who step up to help us realize many of our accomplishments. These include individuals who assist us in the branches, the Friends of the Bay County Libraries, who work hard throughout the year to raise money for our operations, and the dedicated members of the Board of Trustees, who provide us with guidance and oversight. Of particular note, we'd like to extend our sincere appreciation to Don Carlyon who at year-end stepped down after four years of highly effective leadership as Chairperson of the Board. Thankfully, Don will continue on as a trustee.



2010 Spotlight Partner V.O.I.C.E, Inc.'s Mug@Wirt Cafe

On January 26 V.O.I.C.E, Inc. (Valley Organization for Improved Communication and Equality) opened Mug@Wirt Cafe inside the Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library.

Since 1984, V.O.I.C.E., Inc. has provided a wide variety of service for the deaf, hard of hearing and the other individuals with disabilities within the Tri-County area and throughout the state.

While providing American Sign Language interpreters has historically been the primary function of VOICE, Inc, the past several years have witnessed a diversification of services. In 2003,

they began working in cooperation with Michigan Rehabilitation Services to provide employment services. Most recently in 2005, the agency began offering in-home support services to individuals with disabilities.



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

Programming Highlights



Paula Doak,
The Merry Music Maker

Merry Music Maker Workshop for Early Childhood Educators: Paula Doak, the Merry Music Maker, taught 64 educators how to incorporate sign language into circle times. She also presented a series of successful Musical Adventure Family Concerts at each library branch.

Johnathan Rand: 308 people attended two shows presented by the best-selling author of the *Michigan Chillers* and *American Chillers* children's book series at the Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library.

Live Animal Shows: Children learned about animals through hands-on experiences. Classroom Critters put on a series of programs called Our Scaly Friends, where children learned about and got to touch turtles, lizards, snakes and even an alligator! When live reindeer from Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farms visited the libraries in December, they drew an amazing crowd of 1,667 people.

School Visits: Classes of all ages come to visit our libraries each year for tours, stories, and special introductions to our services and collections. 64 groups with a total of 1,645 students visited our library buildings. Children's staff visited schools 36 times and spoke to a total of 2,272 students.

Valentines for Troops: For the third year, children and families were invited to create valentines for men and women serving in the military. Their creative, heartwarming cards were distributed by Soldiers' Angels.

Booked for Lunch: Attendance at both Fall and Spring sessions of this popular adult program remained high. Guest authors and reviewers cover a wide range of titles and topics.

Summer Reading Program

4,583 children participated in the Summer Reading Program in 2010. That is a **9.5% increase** over the number of children that participated last year.

248 children entered our Summer Reading Program Design-A-Bookmark Contest. One winner was chosen in each of these grade categories: Pre-K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6.

Partnership Highlights

Tail Waggin' Tutors: Children practiced their reading skills by reading to certified therapy dogs at monthly programs held at the Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library.

The Bay Arts Council: Our library system helped sponsor the Young People's Summer Series concerts held at Wenonah Park.

Bay Regional Medical Center: Our library system participated in their 7th Annual Community Baby Shower.

Bay County Fair: 388 children made bookmarks and puppets at our resource table in the Kid's Tent.

Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy: Staff from the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy presented children's hands-on science programs focused on insects, animals of the Saginaw Bay, and wetlands.

Delta College Planetarium and Learning Center: "Explore and Experience Summer Camp" for children ages 7-11. Children spent an activity filled morning at the Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library.

The Bay City Times: Library staff contribute weekly book reviews for The Bay City Times and Mlive.com.

Do-All, Inc.: Library branches collected Coats for Kids and school supply donations.

United Way: Library branches collected back to school clothing for students in need.

American Red Cross: Library branches collected household/personal care items for Project Angel.

Tall Ships Festival: The Bay County Library System set up a series of professional storytellers who performed throughout the festival. Staff volunteered their time to oversee the storytelling tent.

Bay County Division on Aging: 336 senior citizens and adults attended "Lunch and a Movie" events. Once per month the Division on Aging provided healthy meals while the Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library provided a friendly atmosphere and a second chance to see a movie patrons may have missed in theaters.



5th-6th Grade Bookmark
Contest Winner, Kaylee
Meyers

Financial Report

Operating Revenue

1.0 Operating Millage	56%	\$3,042,011
1.0 Construction Millage	32%	\$1,701,254
Penal Fines	6%	\$321,691
State Aid	1%	\$48,517
Other	5%	\$274,934
Total	100%	\$5,388,407

Operating Expenditures

Personnel	66%	\$3,549,156
Materials & Programming	14%	\$760,285
Building & Operations	20%	\$1,078,967
Total	100%	\$5,388,407

Patron Feedback

"Received my new library card, which I love, with the new key chain tag. I also like the new website. It is more user friendly and I plan on using it for my research for my thesis and more! Thank you for the improvements as we move into 2010. In these hard times it is great to have such a great resource. Thank YOU!"

~ Don, Pinconning

"I have to write and thank you for two library books I borrowed to help me install an entry door in my garage. The books I checked out gave me details that the door manufacturer didn't provide. My project would not have been a success without these library books. The section with the carpentry books is not that large, but I found exactly what I needed. It put me in charge of the project and helped me avoid a couple of costly blunders that I otherwise would have made."

~ R., Bay City

"My family and I moved here from Bay City in February. [Pinconning Branch Library] may be smaller...but we love it. The staff - you get to know them well. Our children come just about every day, my husband and I weekly. This is a really great library. We enjoy it very much!"

~ Barb, Pinconning

"I love the Wirt Library - it is a quiet, friendly place in a stormy world. I especially like the great selection of large print books!!! My lifelong love of reading would be seriously handicapped without that beautiful large print."

~ Linda, Essexville

"This is a lovely library. I especially like that it is child and family friendly. I teach at [omitted for privacy] and have about 1/3 of my students fail each term. Many simply can't (and sometimes won't) read. Anything that helps children (and their parents!) enjoy reading is a giant investment in their future."

~ Judith, Saginaw



Decades of Michigan weather cracked the pool beneath Sage Branch Library's historic *Leda and the Swan* fountain, rendering it unusable. Thanks to generous donations by The Russell H. & Maxine E. Smith Charitable Foundation and The Bay Area Community Foundation Beautification Fund, *Leda and the Swan* was restored.

Library Statistics 2010

878,950 materials were checked out, an increase of 32,153 over 2009.

115,841 computer uses, an increase of 6,754 over 2009.

420,284 visitors, an increase of 11,551 over 2009.

54,664 people attended programs, an increase of 15,442 over 2009.

1,283 programs were offered system wide.

Study and Community Rooms

Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library: 162 groups used the community room; study rooms were used 2,078 times.

Auburn Area Branch: 82 groups used the meeting room; study room was used 154 times.

Pinconning Branch: 76 groups used the meeting room; study room was used 139 times.

Sage Branch: 31 groups used the meeting room.

Cardholder Stats

Bay County Population	107,517
Resident Card Holders	72,178 (89.10%)
Non-resident Card Holders	8,826 (10.90%)