



**ANNUAL
REPORT
FY 2023/24**

**VESPASIAN
WARNER PUBLIC
LIBRARY DISTRICT**

WHO WE ARE

OUR MISSION

The Vespasian Warner Public Library District strives to be a welcoming place that meets the diverse needs of its communities through high-quality resources and supportive services to stimulate and facilitate creativity, curiosity and learning.

OUR VISION

Connecting People - Sharing Knowledge - Enabling Life-Long Learning

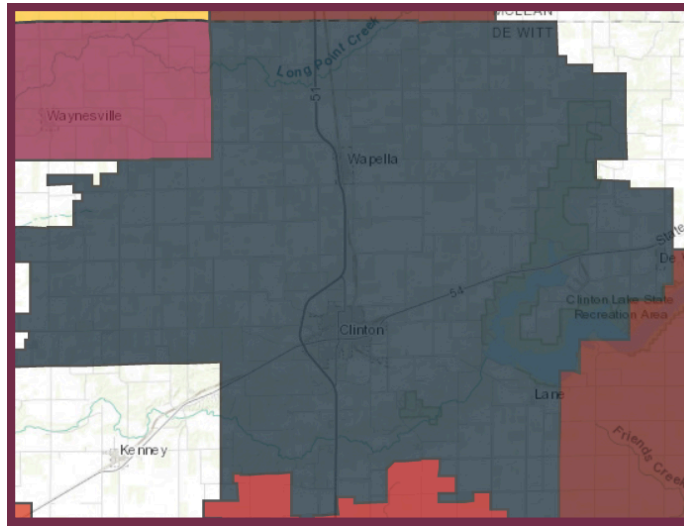
OUR CULTURE

Our library is more than just a building or a collection. It is the people who work every day to serve all patrons in our community in a welcoming, judgement-free environment. We have made our library a safe space, where everyone can be themselves, learn, and explore new ideas.

Our library should serve as a mirror and a window: all of our patrons deserve to see themselves reflected in our collection and our collection also serves as a window to the wider world.

At VWPLD, we value each employee's contributions and talents and administration is open to ideas and opinions from all staff members. We are flexible and will adapt services to meet our patrons' evolving needs. We collaborate with each other and with partner organizations to make our community a better place.

WHAT WE DO



Vespasian Warner Public Library District Boundaries

The VWPLD serves nearly 11,000 patrons in central DeWitt County. We work to have a variety of materials and services available to best meet our patrons' varying needs. Services include:

- 40,000+ items for check out
- Interlibrary-loan, giving our patrons access to millions of items
- New-release best sellers, popular movies, and a growing collection of videogames
- A robust local-history collection
- E-books and e-audiobooks on four different platforms
- Six public-access computers and free Wi-Fi
- Notary service
- Technology help
- Information services in person, by phone, or online
- Programs, classes, and events
- Delivery for home-bound patrons
- Meeting and study rooms

What We Do



IT'S OUR TENTH ANNUAL

Pajama Day!

STAFF HAVE MADE A DONATION TO THE BACKPACK MINISTRY TO WEAR THEIR PAJAMAS TO WORK

THE BACKPACK MINISTRY FEEDS HUNGRY KIDS IN OUR COMMUNITY
DONATIONS WELCOME!



WHAT WE DO

THE THIRD SPACE

Most of us divide our time between home (the first place) and work/school (the second place). The “third place” is where we can go to be with others. Third Places strengthen community ties and protect against social isolation.

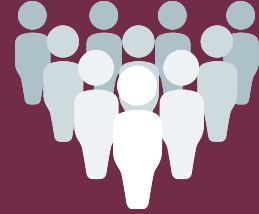
The library is one of those third places. A space where everyone, regardless of age, race, or social-economic status, can gather, learn, and have fun.



The Numbers



144 Events
4,219 Attendees
7,321 Passive
Program uses*



44,368 Visits
5,567 Cardholders
6,437 Free
Services*

*Passive Programs are activities available anytime in the library, such as toys and puzzles

*Free Services include Notary, Homebound Delivery, Technology Help, and Information Assistance



48,679 Items Checked Out
40,580 Items In Collection
11,481 e-Books
Checked Out



2,612 Computer
Sessions
733 WI-FI Sessions
7,321 Virtual Event
Views



Bouncing Back

8.6%

More checkouts
than FY 22/23

23/24 INCREASED CHECKOUTS

After a decline during and coming out of the COVID-19 Pandemic, our circulation, across the board, is increasing.

9.5%

More visits than
FY 22/23

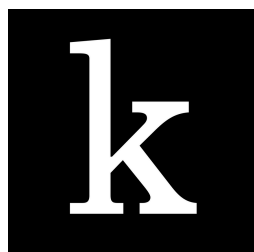
23/24 INCREASED VISITORS

More people visited the library in FY 23/24 than in any year since 2019.

WHAT'S NEW

LUNA

For the first time in many years, we have a library pet! Luna the Bearded Dragon has settled in nicely and been a huge hit.



MORE E-SERVICES

We added Kanopy for video streaming and CloudLibrary for e-books, to give our patrons even more options.

MORE PROGRAMS

We've expanded the number of programs we offer, and have a greater variety for patrons to choose from, including adult fitness, teen gaming, and family parties.

We're always excited to try something new and patron response has been overwhelmingly positive.



WHAT'S NEW

MEMORY LAB

Patrons can now digitize and preserve their family memories with our Memory Lab! The lab includes equipment to digitize VHS, Super 8, audio cassettes, slides, and more.



MORE PARTNERSHIPS

We are actively working to expand and strengthen relationships with partner organizations, such as 4H and Celebrate Clinton for programs and community projects.

MORE HISTORY

As of June 2023, we have digitized more than 1,200 local history items, plus more than 100 years of DeWitt County newspapers, making our shared history easily accessible.



Joined 26 August 2014

Vespasian Warner Public Library

Has pinned: [89 pins](#), created [6 collections](#) and [0 tours](#)

Has had 5071 profile views

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#) • [Twitter](#)

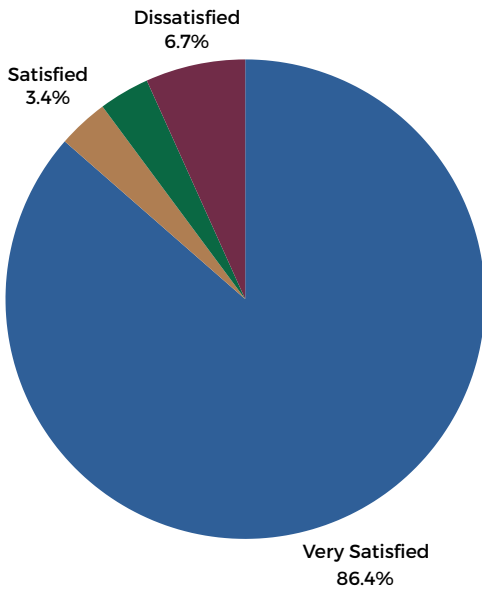
How are we doing?

SURVEY RESULTS

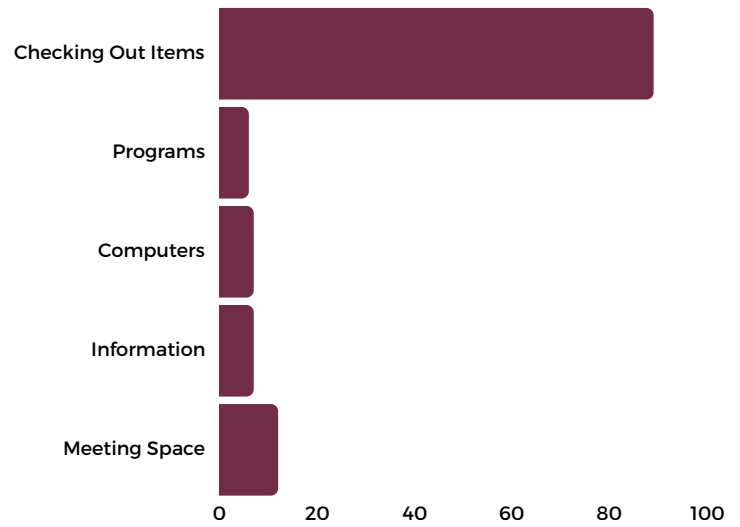
As part of its strategic plan review, the library put out a patron-satisfaction survey and conducted several targeted focus groups.

Here were the results:

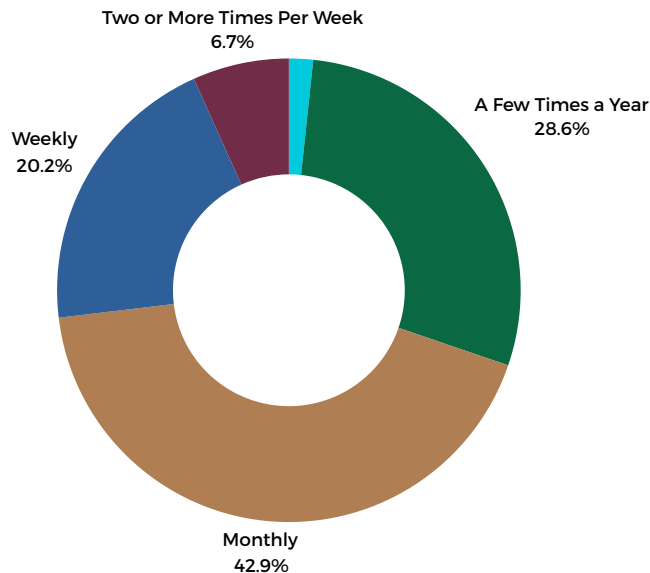
How Satisfied Are You With the Library?



What is the Most Important Library Service For You?



How Often Do You Visit the Library?



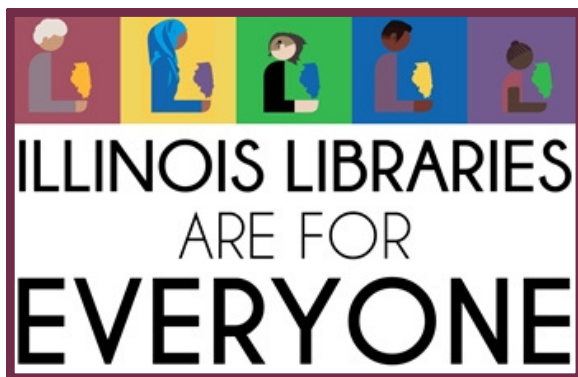
WHAT'S COMING IN FY 24/25?

HVAC PROJECT

The library will be completely re-vamping its HVAC system, starting in Spring 2025. More information is on our website:



FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT WAS PROVIDED FROM THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY, A DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, USING LIVE & LEARN CONSTRUCTION GRANT FUNDS.



ACCESSIBILITY

We are putting a major focus on library accessibility in the coming year to ensure that we have services and materials for patrons of all abilities.

LOCAL HISTORY

We will be partnering with other local organizations for two exciting new events: Local History Scavenger Hunt (Oct 2024) and DeWitt County Local History Fest (Date TBD). Look for more information in the future!



**Aspen
Discovery**

ASPEN

Our website will have a new functionality that will allow patrons to search all of the library's holdings, including e-books, at once with one search box.

CONCLUSION

CONTINUING OUR MISSION

For 123 years, the Vespasian Warner Public Library District has served its patrons through significant societal and technological changes.

Beginning in 1901 as the Free Clinton Library, we initially operated out of two rooms in a hotel. While our facilities have greatly evolved since then, our commitment to serving the informational needs of our patrons to the best of our ability remains steadfast.

The board of trustees and staff of VWPLD are dedicated to our vision of connecting people, sharing knowledge, and enabling lifelong learning.

We look forward to continuing this tradition of excellence and service for many years to come.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Laura Hale, President
- Janelle Sams-Thomas, Vice President
- Matt Love, Treasurer
- Becky Adams, Secretary
- Stephanie Coonce
- Clay Held
- Camille Redman

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- Lucas Snow, Maintenance Supervisor
- Aric Monkman, Circulation Supervisor
- Kyle Taylor, Business Manager
- Emily Dunham, Adult Programming Coordinator

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- Kelsey Gillman
- Madisyn Gillman
- Christin Haws
- April Harvey
- Trevor Legget
- Arada Meyen
- Olivia Totten
- Marcus Woods