

# 2015 Annual Report

## BARBERTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Looking back at 2015, it's fair to say that the most crucial event of the year was the community's overwhelming approval of our levy request. The levy was a renewal and 0.58-mil increase of the former 1.37-mil operating levy. We are very thankful to our

community for this ongoing support, which will enable residents to continue to have access to high-quality library services in support of lifelong learning.

Our new website was launched in July. The new platform is a responsive design, so it can be more easily used on cellphones and other devices. Information is presented in a much more user-friendly way and access to eBooks and other digital material is streamlined.

Programs for people of all ages continued to be in great demand. Summer Reading Club participation was at an all-time high and one of the most well-attended adult programs was a performance of the Akron Pops Orchestra. A regular book club as well as computer classes were provided in cooperation with the Active Adult Center and a new genealogy club was formed late in the year. New outreach locations were added at both Alexander Square and Heritage Place senior apartments.

Two new quiet study rooms were created in 2015 by renovating and repurposing underutilized space above Teen

Central. The rooms are appropriate for small group study, tutoring, or silent reading for those wishing to be away from the hustle and bustle of the main reading room.

The final major project of the year was planning a renovation which will encompass 1,973 square feet of existing space and new construction of an additional 1,070 square feet. Architect Matthew Ross designed the plan which will move the Local History Room to the main floor, relocate the Customer Services Department to the new construction, and allow for additional community meeting space on the lower level. Public notice seeking contractors to implement our expansion and renovation project was placed twice. Unfortunately no acceptable bids were received. The project will be re-bid in March and we hope to break ground shortly thereafter. While 2015 was an exciting year of progress and change, we look forward to even more progress in the coming year.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve the community of Barberton, and it will be our honor to continue that service through 2016. Please stop by or visit us at [barbertonlibrary.org](http://barbertonlibrary.org).

*Julianne Bedel*

Julianne Bedel, Director



