



Charter Township of Van Buren

Lake Ledger

Visions of Van Buren



A beautiful view down Renton Road



New restaurant O'Charley's next door to TCF Bank in front of Meijer



Playstructure along the lake at French Landing Park

Spring / Summer 2006

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

Once again, the Charter Township of Van Buren has concluded a year full of challenges and opportunities. Together, we have witnessed history as the Township continues to transition to a more populated, diverse and urban community. Considering our location midway between two large metropolitan areas - Detroit and Ann Arbor - this is not surprising. We are witnessing land use trends which reflect the achievement of the "American Dream" by moving out and away from large urban centers to smaller communities such as Van Buren. According to the U.S. Census, Van Buren's population in 1980 was 18,940, a 10.67% increase in 5 years (1975 Census of 17,144 residents). In 1990 our population was 21,010, a 10.93% increase and in 2000 the census reflected a population of 23,559, a

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12.13% increase. 2004 U.S. Census information indicates a 12.25% increase in Van Buren's population in four years to 26,445 residents. Since 1975, we have increased in population by 9,331 or just over 54%!

The changes taking place in the township can be challenging, particularly for long-time residents who remember with fondness a time when the greater Belleville Area was dotted with small pockets of residential development, surrounded by acres of farms and open space. This migration of people is natural and somewhat anticipated since our community by its nature is a convenient and desirable location between the large metropolitan areas in and around Detroit and the academic and high-tech growth centers of Ann Arbor and eastern Washtenaw County. Long-timers always knew they had a special piece of Americana here in our community and while often vexing to long-time residents, others are now realizing what a great place Van Buren Township is for living, working and raising a family. The transformation of the township has resulted in a more diverse population, in the types of employment of our residents, in ethnicity, in religion and socio-economically.

In Van Buren, 2005 commenced with the January Michigan Recreation and Parks Association awards ceremony held at the Michigan Historical Library in Lansing. Public Safety Director Champagne, Deputy Director Smolen and I traveled to the Library along with Recreation & Facilities Director Ross as the Van Buren Fire Department was awarded MRPA's Outstanding Community Service Award for the Department's efforts to educate the public, particularly our youth, about what to do when a fire occurs. The Smokehouse, donated to the Tri-Community by the Rotary and Van Buren resident Ralph Nodwell, has been an integral part of this fire education. We were pleased to have the VBFD so recognized because our fire fighters know that education is always the best defense against preventing fires. To have MRPA acknowledge our efforts with this award was the icing on the cake!

Understanding one of our greatest responsibilities as elected officials is to ensure the safety of all who live or pass through Van Buren, the Board of Trustees chose to support the formation of a traffic unit. The Board approved hiring four additional police officers (bringing our total sworn personnel to 39) with the intent first, to provide for your safety and second to do so with a sustainable operation.

Why not simply assign some of our existing police officers to traffic details? Because with only 35 sworn personnel including the Director, command and patrol officers and detectives, there are not enough officers at the present time to have a dedicated traffic unit. Typically, our patrol officers spend most of their shifts running from call to call. While they

do provide some measure of traffic enforcement, this occurs more on an "as time permits" basis than regular, routine shift assignments. This new traffic unit, a first for the township, is a result of many months of research by Department personnel, the Public Safety Committee and feedback from you. During several months of discussion, many of you expressed concern about safely traveling our increasingly congested roads and you indicated support for increased traffic enforcement. Your pleas did not fall on deaf ears as staff dutifully recorded your requests for increased police presence in various areas of the township or on specific roads.

Your regard for Van Buren Public Safety is valued by every member of the department and Township Board. We understand your support will only continue if the service provided is professional, responsible and appropriate to ensure everyone's safety. Toward those objectives and in response to the concerns expressed about possible negative impacts, we want you to know our intent is to improve traffic safety through education and active enforcement. The expectation is that the unit will be self-sustaining, meaning the funds necessary to pay for officers' wages, fringes, equipment and related costs will be derived from the traffic citations issued. Forming a self-supporting traffic unit is one method by which we can improve service to you without asking you to support a tax increase, i.e. millage to do so. Clearly, if you violate a traffic law and are cited for your disregard of the law, we know you will be less than pleased with the financial cost to you. However, the traffic unit is our best option for improving safety along our busy, crowded thoroughfares, and it is needed and wanted.

Also related to traffic safety, the Township has secured federal transportation funding for creating a "Michigan left" turnaround at the Belleville/Ecorse Road intersection. The intersection has been the scene of several accidents, some of which have resulted in very serious injuries. Congressman McCotter has been instrumental in securing nearly a million dollars for making these vital improvements and we hope the funds will become available for the improvements to be realized in 2006.

In 2005, the financial situation facing Michigan continued to be serious and its impacts felt by every municipality in this great state. In many communities, services and/or staff are being reduced or eliminated or communities may be seeking support for raising taxes. In Van Buren Township, we are experiencing an ever increasing reliance upon landfill tipping fee revenue to continue routine municipal services. For now, the Township Board is not seeking additional voter-supported millage to fund any level of municipal service; something we may need to revisit if economic conditions warrant. Van Buren Township's ability to receive landfill tipping fees

is a result of the Host Community Agreement the township entered into in 1990 with Waste Management, Inc. in return for WMI locating a sanitary landfill at Van Born and Hannan Roads. As you may know, the HCA also provides other benefits including free garbage collection and disposal, and curbside recycling and compost pick-up, services which would otherwise cost the Township about \$2 million annually or over 2 mills in property tax millage. The HCA funds the annual fireworks display and earmarks for public safety, recreation and environmental services, annual royalties in excess of \$300,000.

Representing 15% of General Fund revenues, State-Shared Revenue was held at the 2004 level for 2005. SSR has been reduced for the past several years and in total, Van Buren has seen a reduction of over \$800,000 in SSR. In 2005, roughly 30% of General Fund revenues came from landfill monies. As I have said in years past, this continued reliance upon landfill revenues is not a sustainable long-term resource. The challenge is that Michigan's economic condition is not likely to improve anytime soon and costs are expected to continue to increase. Thus, executive staff was tasked with reviewing every single service they manage to determine whether or not efficiencies can be gained in the delivery of those services or services that appear underutilized can be eliminated. They were also asked to review every source of revenue generated in their respective departments to determine how those revenues can be enhanced. The result was a Board-approved fee schedule that includes increases in fees charged for various items such as building and development permits, cemetery lots, recreation class fees, etc. We are well aware that you may pay more to participate in a recreation class or for the permit you are required to obtain for building a deck. However, like all cities and townships, Van Buren must recover its costs to provide service. Property taxes in Van Buren generate less than 25% of the operating revenue for General Fund services. General Fund services include the administrative duties performed by the Clerk's, Treasurer's and my offices, the inspection services performed by Developmental Services, environmental oversight, library services and leisure services provided by September Days Senior Center and the Parks and Recreation Departments. The General Fund also includes the Department of Public Safety - police, fire, emergency dispatch, animal control and emergency management. About 30% of the revenues used to fund these operations comes from licenses, permits and other miscellaneous revenue.

Other than the traffic unit, no staff increases occurred in 2005. Three positions became vacant in 2005; one in management, the other two hourly positions and they will remain vacant for the time being as a cost savings measure. Current township staff numbers 143 personnel not including seasonal employees and reservists, and represents just over 1/2% of the township's 2004 population.

Needed capital outlay was purchased in 2005 for police and fire. In addition, a new telephone system was purchased for a cost not to exceed \$85,000 with installation taking place late in 2005. Only two building inspector vehicles, the third payment for a fire engine and station furnishings for the Fire Department are planned in 2006, along with making improvements to the earthen embankment at French Landing Dam to guard against a breach of the existing embankment and flooding.

In 2005, we were excited to make one significant capital improvement. In November, the Downtown Development Authority, Township Board and Department of Public Safety broke ground on a new fire station in the northern part of the township. New Fire Station #2 will be located on the east side of Belleville Road just south of Ecorse Road and will replace the current 40-some year-old building that is no longer adequate for providing fire services and to house the equipment needed by today's modern fire department. The new 17,000 square foot station includes four equipment bays, office space, bunking facilities (although Van Buren remains a paid-on call, i.e. part time, fire department), and meeting rooms. This new fire station will be a voting precinct as well as a severe weather shelter. It is being built to enhance fire safety services for you, without an increase in taxes to do so. DDA funds will pay for the station that has been on the DDA's project list for over 10 years. Yes, this forward thinking group of men and women who are committed to the image of vitality of Van Buren were planning this significant capital improvement for some time.

The DDA is financing the cost of Fire Station #2 with a 22 year bond at a 4.53% interest rate. The funds used to pay the annual bond payments come from the capture of property taxes within the DDA District, including most notably those taxes that would otherwise leave Van Buren Township as provided for by State law.

In 2005, the DDA also refinanced the bond that funded improvements made to Township Hall in the mid-90's. The bond was refinanced to reduce the interest rate from 8.4% to 4.67%. The refinancing will save the DDA \$1.48 million, and will enable the bond to be paid off in ten years, two years earlier than the original bond.

In order to better plan for significant capital projects, executive staff commenced work on a six-year Capital Improvements Plan. A CIP is primarily a financial tool to assist the Township Board in planning for future capital needs. Eligibility for state and federal grants generally require that a community have a CIP in place and adopted by the governing body.

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CIPs are very common in both private and public sectors and in the public sector, are used to develop strategies and long-range plans for the development of new public facilities, to improve existing public assets and to protect assets from deterioration and to extend their useful life. Projects defined for inclusion in a CIP are those whose costs exceed \$25,000 and whose useful life is three or more years. Once developed, CIPs are updated annually. Some projects listed in a CIP may move one year closer to implementation, the ultimate objective of a CIP. However, others may be pushed back later in the Plan as other projects are deemed to have a greater priority. Some projects may never be implemented as they may no longer be deemed worthwhile endeavors. Whether any or all of the projects listed in a CIP come to fruition is dependent upon funding being or becoming available. Thus, while important financial tools, well-crafted CIPs are not necessarily cast in stone, but rather, are flexible tools for planning capital projects several years into the future.

The initial CIP reflected projects totaling over \$60 million. Most of these projects have already received some level of Board support such as approval to purchase fire equipment, the French Landing Dam improvements, and Board approval to seek design work on an equalization basin for storing wet weather flows. Others are a product of planning tools such as the five-year Recreation Master Plan, a plan developed with your input. As stated previously, some projects may never see the light of day. However, this CIP was a result of many months of effort by all department directors and was a studied attempt to plan for the future of our township. The Planning Commission recommended the Board approve the Plan, a routine part of the CIP process, with the CIP subsequently being received and filed at the Board's December 20 meeting. The CIP is a vital and important financial tool that will be part of our annual budget preparation process.

In June, the Board approved a \$39,000 contract with Plante & Moran, the township's professional accounting firm, to evaluate the township's information technologies. Another first for Van Buren, the objective was to assess our current and many technologies, determine areas in which efficiencies/cost savings can be achieved, determine how to best plan for future technologies and to prioritize how those improvements should be made. As you might imagine, the township is as dependent upon technology as any other private or public service provider and by appropriately utilizing technology, we can operate cost effectively and most importantly, improve service to you. This technology ranges from the personal computer work stations one sees on every desk, to the computer aided dispatch and E-9-1-1 systems in Public Safety to the software that enables financial records to be maintained as well as software used in land use planning. Other technologies include telephone communications, utility

billing, the State Qualified Voter Registration System, and Geographic Information Systems. The Township Board received a formal presentation of the Plante & Moran report at its February 2006 regular meeting. Management intends to incorporate Plante & Moran's many recommendations into operational and financial planning much like the Capital Improvements Plan with an objective of moving the township forward progressively and as a result, improving service to you.

In parks and recreation, projects made possible with the \$2 million Wayne County parks grant began in 2005. Among these are improvements to the beach area and relocation of the park entrance at Van Buren Park, restrooms for Van Buren and French Landing Parks and completion of the Senior Activity Garden located in Quirk Park. As a result of the resourcefulness of Director Ross and his staff, the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness sent representatives to Van Buren to review our facilities and programs. One result of that 2004 visit was receiving funding from the Council, funding used to build the vita course installed at Quirk Park. Vita courses are typically located along park walkways and are individual stations erected to provide a means for doing exercises such as chin-ups, sit ups and balancing techniques while walking in the park.

In 2005, the Recreation Department's first ever Youth Authority, comprised of youth ages 13-18 years, held their first meeting. The Authority was created to provide a means for Van Buren youth to study and recommend leisure activities they would like to see offered. One such event was a dance held during the summer and attended by about 30 teenagers. The Youth Authority plans to continue meeting in 2006 so if you are a teenager interested in offering your input, contact the Recreation Department about meeting times.

2005 was the inaugural year for the Western Wayne County Senior Olympics established by County Executive Robert Ficano. We were thrilled Van Buren Township was chosen as the location for this first ever event. Executive Ficano, County Commissioner Sullivan and other area dignitaries were on hand for the opening ceremonies held in the Senior Activity Garden of Quirk Park, the site of many Olympic events. The opening ceremonies provided a perfect backdrop to dedicate the new senior garden and to acknowledge the efforts of Wayne County that made the garden possible. I believe Executive Ficano and Commissioner Sullivan were proud knowing they were instrumental in the creation of this community asset. Certainly, if you bump into either of them, both deserve a big "thank you" from all of us!

The Senior Olympics was well attended with many seniors coming from over 20 communities. One of Van Buren's own, Planning & Economic Development Director Bryce Kelley,

brought home the gold in four events. We can hardly wait to see how he and all of Van Buren's other Senior Olympians do next year!

Development continues to be the number one issue facing Van Buren. Why? Increased development means more residents who depend upon municipal services and who often relocate with an expectation for services not typically provided by townships. It means more demand is placed upon all municipal services - more calls for police and fire protection, more water bills to process, more complaints about ordinance violations, more participants in recreation programs and more seniors enrolling at September Days. Development results in more cars on our already busy roads, and the loss of open space. A number of communities are experiencing what we see in Van Buren. One only needs to drive fifteen minutes away to Huron Township to the east, Ypsilanti Township to the west or Canton, Plymouth and Northville Townships to the north to witness similar examples of the development we are experiencing in Van Buren. Increased development is felt in several Michigan counties including Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw. Van Buren is not the only community grappling with growth.

In 2005, several residential projects were started including Bedford Cove, Cobblestone Ridge and Cobblestone Creek, all of which are on West Huron River Drive, and the Timbers located on Elwell Road. Work continued in Walden Woods and Hickory Woods on Tyler Road, Country Walk on Savage Road, Robinson River Park on Ecorse Road and Mission Pointe on West Huron River Drive. O'Charley's Restaurant opened in early 2006 in front of the Belleville Road Meijer while the Belleville Area Animal Hospital on Sumpter Road underwent a major renovation, and a new Rite Aid completed construction at West Huron River Drive and Rawsonville Roads.

Other new businesses that opened in 2005 include Healthy Paws Veterinary, Michigan Portable Storage, Advance America, Carpet Exchange and Prime Financial Group. Also new in 2005 were TNT Trailer Sales, Kids R Us Christian Daycare, Vistar-Archwood, BP Gas, Tastee Pizza and Wireless Toyz. Because of the development that has and continues to occur, Planning Commissioners participated in ongoing education in 2005.

Van Buren issued 473 new housing permits in 2005. A total of 1,100 building permits were issued, along with 907 electrical permits, 1,554 mechanical (heating/cooling) permits and 1,144 plumbing permits. While these numbers may seem high, they are lower than in previous years, likely due to the economy. These permits reflect \$860,000 in General Fund operating revenue.

One notable new house permit that was issued in 2005 was to Habitat for Humanity to build a home on Savage Road near Sheldon Road. The Habitat home was made possible by federal Community Development Block Grant funds that were used to purchase land the township owned. This Savage Road property was then donated by the township to Habitat. Soon Van Buren will be welcoming a new family to the community as they move into their Habitat home, one which they have donated a number of "sweat equity" hours toward building.

Related to development, the Board of Trustees denied several requests to rezone land in the township based upon a variety of factors such as compliance with the Land Use Master Plan, impacts on surrounding properties and compatibility with surrounding uses. A request to rezone several hundred acres of land near Belleville and Ecorse Roads from its current industrial zoning to residential zoning was denied. Another request to rezone land near Haggerty Road and the S. I-94 Service Drive to permit a commercial use was denied, and finally, a request to permit a higher density of residential use in the area of Martinsville and Hull Roads was denied. State law provides all of the applicants a means to seek redress of these denials; however, the Township Board believes we have acted in accordance with law, and in the best interests of our community.

The Water and Sewer Department commenced design work on a \$16 million equalization basin, a large storage tank that will be used to store storm water to be released into the sanitary sewer system after wet weather events to prevent flooding and to guard against flows in the system exceeding contractual capacities. This multi-million dollar project has received approval by the State of Michigan for inclusion in their list of State Revolving Fund projects as being eligible for a low, 1.625%, loan to make this vital project affordable for our community. The basin will be built on property west of Hannan Road and south of Huron River Drive the township will soon acquire from Wayne County.

A separate entity from the township, the Van Buren Civic Fund hosted a June reception at the Visteon headquarters, Van Buren's largest employer and a contributor to the Fund. The reception included entertainment by Blue Skies Trio, tasty cuisine and information about the Civic Fund's support for projects that better our community. Among the projects funded by the Civic Fund are the electronic (lighted) speed limit signs near Tyler Road Elementary School, the P.A. system at the Belleville Area Museum and new computer equipment for the Fred C. Fischer Library that was installed in December 2005. In 2006, the Civic Fund hopes to generate

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VAN BUREN PARKS & RECREATION RECEIVES GRANT FROM VAN BUREN CIVIC FUND

The Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department was recently awarded a \$15,000 grant to construct an ADA swing set and playstructure at Van Buren Park by the Van Buren Civic Fund. Funding the cost for a playstructure meets the mission of the Van Buren Civic Fund by providing swings that would be accessible to the physically challenged and would reduce Van Buren's burden in providing municipal services in the township. The parks department is planning a community build event this summer. The department feels this is a great opportunity to "Create Community through People, Parks and Programs" in Van Buren this summer. Thank you to the Van Buren Civic Fund for Creating Community in Van Buren Township.

Bruce J. Ross
 Director of Recreation and Facilities

BRUCE ROSS PRESIDENT ELECT OF THE MICHIGAN RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

Bruce Ross, Director of Recreation and Facilities was recently elected President of the Michigan Recreation and Park Association.

For more than 68 years the Michigan Recreation and Park Association has been committed to providing professional development, advocacy programs and services to over 2,000 members dedicated to enhancing the quality of life through recreation and park opportunities in Michigan.

Director Ross will begin his term as President at the MRPA business meeting in February of 2007. Director Ross is the fourth African American to serve as president.

JENNIFER MORRIS APPOINTED DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND FACILITIES



Jennifer Morris, Deputy Director of Recreation & Facilities

At the February 7th, 2006 Van Buren Board Meeting Recreation Manager Jennifer Morris was appointed to Deputy Director of Recreation and Facilities. The position became open when former Deputy Director Vincent Averill accepted a position in New York.

Ms. Morris began her career in Van Buren in 2000 as Recreation Manager. As a manager she has created an award winning recreation program of the highest quality and professionalism. She has supervised staff as manager and has been instrumental in obtaining recreation program grants. Ms. Morris is a lifetime Van Buren Township resident and a Cum Laude graduate of Eastern Michigan University. In addition to service as Deputy Director she will continue to provide oversight to the Township's Recreation Department.

Congratulations Deputy Director Morris!

Bruce J. Ross
 Director of Recreation and Facilities



V.B.T. Teen Authority

Meets every other Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. - Ongoing

Ages: 13-18



Create cool new ideas for youth in Van Buren Township and surrounding areas. Develop special events like a teen lock-in or field trips to Laser Quest, movies. Ideas are endless. Make a difference in your community!

Free meeting to be a voice in your community!

Come Hungry!!

This group consists of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer who bring vital information to each meeting.

PREVENTING AND SURVIVING A SUMMER HEART ATTACK

Summer time is around the corner and it is time to start planning for the fun ahead. The parks located within Van Buren Township offer opportunities to go outside and jog, stroll, hike, bike or swim. Doing these activities during the extreme heat, however, causes a great deal of stress on your body.

Each summer, personnel from the Van Buren Public Safety Department respond to a number of heart attacks or other heat-related illnesses caused by people overdoing it. Since the leading cause of death in the United States is cardiovascular (heart and arteries) you need to recognize the signs that your body is overworked and in need of a break.

As the heat increases the body's defenses decrease and an overworked heart may cause severe chest pain created by a narrowing of the heart's blood vessels. These pains are often a warning sign of something serious and require the immediate interaction by emergency medical personnel and a hospital/doctor. A person experiencing these symptoms may be having a heart attack and will often have the following symptoms: Excessive sweating, difficulty breathing, nausea or vomiting, and the feeling of impending doom or death.

In addition to the usual precautions of stopping cigarette smoking, lowering your cholesterol intake, weight control, and getting more exercise to reduce the risk of a heart attack, we also recommend the following preventive suggestions for the summertime:

- Keep your body well hydrated and avoid caffeine. When you begin to feel thirsty, dehydration has already set in.
- Avoid extended exposure to the sun especially in the early afternoon when temperatures are at their hottest points.
- Take frequent breaks and avoid overexertion. Know your limits!

The entire Public Safety family wishes you a happy and safe summer!

Lieutenant Daniel C. Besson
Van Buren Fire Department

HELP US HELP YOU WITH A CLEARLY MARKED ADDRESS

More often than necessary, members of the Van Buren Public Safety Department are delayed providing immediate emergency care or services because of one reason: we have a hard time finding the ones needing our help. We often find that addresses aren't posted anywhere near the street or they aren't marked clearly. The frustration is compounded where seconds may mean the difference between life and death.

Please help us help you (in the event of an emergency) by taking a few moments of your day and determine:

- Whether your address is visible from the street or not.
- If addresses posted on the mailbox are large enough to be read from a long distance and are complete on both sides. We often find mailboxes that are either missing a digit(s) or are posted only on the side from which the mail person approaches.
- The address is mounted in a conspicuous spot in contrasting colors. We have a really difficult time finding addresses affixed to a tree trunk in the middle of the night. We also find beige numbers attached to a tan exterior wall, which may look pleasing to the eye plays a toll on our ability to locate it quickly.

We offer the following methods of addressing:

- Paint four (4) inch numbers on the curbing in front of your home.
- Place numbers that are at least four inches tall near the front entrance (or a location easily visible from the street) in a color contrasted by your home's finish. For an example, light letters on a dark background.
- For apartments and other buildings with multiple occupancies, mark each occupant's number on the exterior of the building, as well as the individual apartment/condo door.
- For driveways that sit 150 feet or more off the roadway we request that you post your address near the entrance to your driveway.
- For single driveways that eventually lead to two (or multiple) driveways post each address at the roadway.

Remember that the emergency may be yours! Proper addressing will assist your public safety department in promptly dealing with your emergencies. Please contact Captain David McInally (Public Education Officer) at (734) 699-8930 or dmcinally@vanburen-mi.org if you need any further assistance.

Please call 9-1-1 **ONLY** if there
is an **EMERGENCY!!**

For all non-emergencies,
please call (734) 699-8930.

NEW RECRUITS



Officer Ryan McCormick receiving congratulations from Public Safety Director Jerry Champagne

The Van Buren Township Public Safety Department would like to announce the hiring of a new police officer. On March 6, 2006 Ryan McCormick officially began his training process as a police officer with the Public Safety Department. Ryan McCormick was a police officer with the Metro Parks. The hiring process consisted of a written examination, oral interviews, background investigation, physical examination and a psychological examination. Ryan placed in the top positions of the hiring process and was subsequently hired as a police officer. Ryan has prior police experience as well as numerous hours of police related training.

Ryan has begun an intensive 17 week field training program and will be assigned to road patrol. He will be under the direct supervision of a certified Field Training Officer who will train, instruct, and mentor him in the field of law enforcement. Within the 17 week field training program he will be required to work with three different Field Training Officers. The Field Training Officers are responsible for providing new officers with on the job training as well as evaluating their performance.

All new officers must additionally complete all in-service training such as defensive tactics, firearms, first aid, policy and procedures, and computer systems. After successful completion of the 17 week field training program, Ryan will be assigned to road patrol and will work as a solo police officer. For the first year of employment he will be a "probationary employee" and will be under close and constant supervision and mentoring. The Van Buren Public Safety Department would like to congratulate Ryan on his appointment as a police officer, and wish him well in his training process and future employment.

Sergeant M. Buckberry
Field Training Unit Supervisor

BOATING

Being a responsible boat operator means understanding the rules and knowing how to keep yourself and your passengers safe during a day of fishing, water skiing or pleasure boating. We encourage all boaters to review Michigan's boating rules before the season, and if possible, attend a Boater's Safety Class. The Van Buren Township Police Department has already held two boater safety classes and one more is scheduled on May 20th. These classes offer information on how to have a fun and safe time on the water. For registration information on Boater's Safety Classes, please call the Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department at (734) 699-8921.

The class is for those 12 years old and up. The class is mandatory for persons operating a personal watercraft (PWC) who were born after December 31, 1978. So...yes, you have to be 28 to operate a PWC without a boater safety certificate. With a boater safety certificate you can operate a PWC at 14 years of age.

Who must wear a PFD (life jacket)?

- Children less than 6 years of age must wear a Type I or Type II PFD when riding in the open deck area of a boat.
- Each person 12 years of age or older operating, riding on or being towed behind a personal watercraft must wear a Type I, Type II or Type III PFD (that is not an inflatable device). Those persons under 12 riding on or being towed behind a personal watercraft must wear a Type I or Type II PFD.
- Each person less than 12 years of age riding or being towed, behind a personal watercraft must wear a Type I or Type II PFD.

Environmental Considerations

When operating your PWC always be considerate of the effect you may have on the environment.

- Do not operate a PWC in shallow water (less than 24 inches deep). Bottom sediments or aquatic vegetation can be sucked into the water pump and damage your PWC and the environment.
- Avoid creating a wake, which can cause erosion when operating near shore or in narrow streams or rivers.
- Do not dock or beach your PWC in reeds and grasses, this could damage fragile environments.
- Take extra care when fueling your PWC in or near the water. Oil and gasoline spills are very detrimental to the aquatic environment. Fuel on land if possible.
- Never use your PWC to chase wildlife such as birds feeding near shore, water fowl, or other animals.

Michigan waters are threatened by non-native aquatic invasive plants and animals such as zebra mussels, round goby, sea lamprey, Eurasian ruffe, Eurasian watermilfoil, rusty crayfish, and spiny water flea. These species and others are harmful to recreational boating and can cause extensive economic and natural resource damage.

Boaters should learn to identify non-native species that they may encounter and take precautions to prevent the spread of these species.

These actions include:

- Removing all visible aquatic plants and animals from your boat, motor, trailer, and accessory equipment before leaving the access area.
- Disposing of live bait and aquatic animals in the trash. Do not release live bait into the water.
- Draining live wells and all water from boats before leaving the access area.
- Power washing boats and trailers wherever possible or drying all equipment thoroughly.
- Allowing boat to dry for at least 10 days before launching into a different water body.

Please have a fun and safe summer boating on Belleville Lake.

Seargent Mike Moening
Marine Division

COMPUTER FRAUD PREVENTION (Part 2 of a 4 part series)

For the second part of this ongoing series, we are going to briefly discuss another very popular and effective form of fraud called "The Nigerian Scam Letters" or "419 Scams."

As discussed with "Phishing Scams", this is nothing particularly new, just the form of how the act is carried out is. The obvious new form comes in through e-mail at an alarming rate. The scams have been active since the early 80's and have netted over \$5 billion dollars for the perpetrators and is the third largest industry in Nigeria. Traditional methods include delivery via mail and fax, both of which are still very active along with the increasing e-mail delivery.

The scam comes in several forms and they all have similar characteristics. They are basically a proposal for the victim to receive a large sum of money if they follow through with varied procedures set by the sender. Typically the sender will cite "over invoiced oil commodities" worth several millions

of dollars. The sender entices the would be victim by sharing the proceeds of the sale with them if they help get the money out of Nigeria by allowing access to their accounts. Some of the more familiar letters will also refer to a deceased relative of the victim and claim that the deceased has left behind a very large estate and the victim is the only living heir to the deceased. They make claims that if the monies are not claimed by the victim, the Nigerian Government would assume the estate. The sender claims to be an official from the government and wants to assist the victim in getting what is rightfully theirs. All of these scams are followed with a request for the victim to pay an advanced fee to facilitate the transaction. Once the first payment has been made, the sender continues to contact the victim with more steps in the process, citing unforeseen complications which require more money be transferred or sent to them. This continues until the victim quits communicating or runs out of money. The sender ALWAYS insists upon complete confidentiality, advising that if the American or Nigerian Governments learn of the transaction, it will be immediately halted and all monies seized.

These scams can escalate to more than just financial ruin. Some of the more aggressive actors insist that the victim travel to the foreign countries to complete the transactions. The scammer advises them that they have made the proper arrangements for the victim to travel without a visa and they are then permitted to enter the country illegally by border agents that are bribed. Once the victim is in the country they use the illegal entry and physical abuse to extort more money and account access out of the victim. There have been several documented deaths related to such incidents as well as many other "missing person" cases where these scams are involved.

Not all of these letters come from Nigeria; however, the original scams were started there. To this date most of the letters are still associated with or directly sent from Nigeria. The name "419 Letter" was derived from the criminal code for fraud in Nigeria. The United States Secret Service established "Operation 419" in attempts to combat the large number of victims affected in the late 80's to early 90's. The Financial Crimes Division of the Secret Service receives approximately 100 telephone calls per day and 300-500 pieces of related correspondence per day from potential and actual victims.

Due to the vast amount of correspondence received by the Secret Service, they no longer accept the items if there is no "financial loss", they have built a full database of varied scams. They do, however, still accept cases for which a financial loss has occurred. Due to the jurisdictional issues coupled

COMPUTER FRAUD PREVENTION

Continued on Page 10

COMPUTER FRAUD PREVENTION

Continued from Page 9

with the government of Nigeria's involvement in several of the scams, prosecution and restitution is very unlikely and almost never collected upon. If you do fall victim to the scam, you can forward the corresponding documents to the US Secret Service Task Force handling scam matters, by faxing the documents to (202) 435-5031, be sure to include your contact information and write the following on the fax cover sheet: "**Financial Loss - Contact me ASAP**". Again, they will make attempts to assist you but keep in mind that very few of these cases are prosecuted and even fewer see monies recovered.

Your best defense is to use common sense and follow the 5 rules of doing business with Nigeria, as suggested by the US Secret Service.

1. **NEVER** pay anything up front for **ANY** reason.
2. **NEVER** extend credit for **ANY** reason.
3. **NEVER** do **ANYTHING** until the check clears.
4. **NEVER** accept **ANY** help from the Nigerian Government.
5. **NEVER** rely on **YOUR** Government to bail you out.

As with the previously discussed "Phishing" scams, the best avoidance is to remember the old adage, "If it sounds too good to be true, it most certainly is!" These scams are successful because the actors prey upon the "get rich quick" dream we all share. Be smart and don't get caught in these pitfalls. If you receive a 419 letter by mail, fax, or email, immediately discard it without any response at all to the sender. They typically are generic in nature and sent out in mass mailings, not to individually identifiable targets. Your best defense is to simply not respond in any way; responding may make you a specific target and compromise the security of your identity.

Detective Louis J. Keele
Van Buren Public Safety

AUTOMATIC BILL PAYMENT FOR YOUR WATER BILL

Van Buren Township is now offering our water customers the option to enroll in the Automatic Bill Payment Program. The Automatic Bill Payment Program makes it easier to pay your water bill by automatically withdrawing funds from your checking or savings account.

For additional information or questions, please visit our website at www.vanburen-mi.org, call the Water Billing Office at (734) 699-8925, or e-mail ksmith@vanburen-mi.org.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Spring and Summer are upon us, and everyone will be outside enjoying the warm days. I'd like to share with you a few reminders for those of us that have pets.

1. Make sure your pets are wearing some type of identification, preferably a dog license, which is required by Township Ordinance. It helps Animal Control return your pet back to you faster if we pick them up;
2. Keep all toxic chemicals such as weed killers, automotive fluids and pool chemicals up and out of reach of animals;
3. If you leave your pets outside during the day, make sure they have access to water and shelter, especially if you're going away for a while;
4. For those of you who enjoy taking your pets for a ride in the car, don't let your pet's head stick out the window. Remember in a car traveling at 45 mph, if something hits your pet's eye it could cause serious damage;
5. Last but not least, be conscientious of your neighbor. Keep your dog's barking to a minimum. As much as you have the right to own a dog, your neighbors have just as much of a right to enjoy a reasonably quiet neighborhood. Also, clean up after your dog on a daily basis. No one enjoys odors coming from an unkempt yard.

If everyone follows these 5 basic steps, Pets, Owners and Neighbors will have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Important Phone Numbers

Van Buren Soccer Association
(734) 480-3966 or www.vanburensoccer.com
You must register with the Association for soccer.

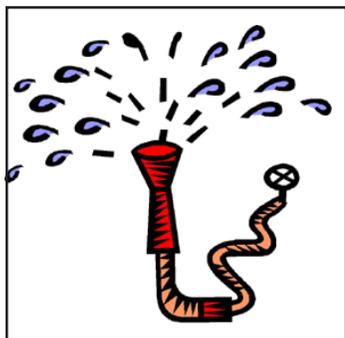
Belleville Cougars
(734) 697-0440
You must register with Belleville Cougars.

Belleville Area Little League
(734) 487-9335
www.eteamz.com/BellevilleAreaLL
You must register with Belleville Little League.

Belleville Tiger Swim Club
(734) 697-9494
You must register with Tiger Swim Club.

**All of the above groups are parent-run organizations.
Groups use recreation department's facilities only.**

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS WATER SAVINGS



Homes with automatic sprinkler systems use more than twice as much water on average than homes that manually irrigate with a hose and sprinkler (Mayer, et. al. 1999).

An automatic sprinkler system is almost always the largest use of water in a home. If you're looking for a way to

save water it makes sense to focus on the big uses. It doesn't get any bigger than the sprinkler system. Over-irrigation costs you money in two primary ways.

- Over-irrigation unnecessarily drives up your water & sewer bill and is a waste of resources.
- Over-irrigation stresses the water distribution system, which can lead to low water pressures which require costly upgrades to meet the peak demand.

From a horticultural standpoint, over-irrigation occurs much too often. However, it is most prevalent in rainy periods when irrigation schedules have not been revised to meet the current weather conditions. Over-irrigation causes two problems with your lawn and garden:

- Over-irrigation pushes water beyond the root zone and is wasted. This occurs most notably in the case of turf grass.
- Over-irrigation, in general, degrades plant health by keeping the roots too wet.

Over-irrigation also causes excess run-off, which contributes to environmental pollution. As the water runs off your lawn it carries pollutants with it such as soils, fertilizers, and pesticides. This run-off is not treated and runs through the storm water system, directly into nearby lakes and streams. The following environmental problems have been documented as a result of excessive run-off from residential lawns:

- Sediments from soil erosion can clog storm sewers, fill in storm water detention ponds, cause sedimentation and flow disruptions in streams, and smother fish and other aquatic creature habitat.
- Excess nutrients from fertilizers can cause algae blooms and other aquatic plants to grow out of control.
- Pesticides in the run-off can lead to health problems in wildlife that live in and around our waterways and can also lead to pollution of public drinking water supplies.

There are a number of ways to reduce outdoor water use and automatic irrigation.

- Convert turf grass to low-water use landscaping.
- Improve your irrigation schedule by reducing the run times.
- Adjust your sprinkler head to avoid hard surfaces like driveways and sidewalks.
- Install a rain shutoff device.
- Harvest rainwater in a rain barrel.

Below is a form that will help you calculate how much water you are applying to your lawn. This process may take a little while, but it will give you a good idea how much water you are using and how much that is costing you on your water & sewer bill.

1. Locate your water meter (typically in the basement) and record the current meter reading. Enter this number in space A below.
2. Run your lawn irrigation system through one complete cycle.
3. Record the new meter reading and enter this number in space B below.
4. Complete the calculations as indicated to determine your cost of lawn irrigation.

B Meter reading AFTER watering	-	A Meter reading BEFORE watering	=	Water Consumption (May be in gallons or thousands of gallons - check your meter)	/	Only if your meter reads in gallons
						1000

	Thousands of Gallons Used	X	Cost per 1000 gal.	=	
=		X	\$4.09	=	

Cost of 1 day of lawn irrigation	X	Days in Billing Cycle (Assumes you water every day)	=	Total (3-month) cost of lawn irrigation
\$		90		\$

Improving irrigation efficiency is a win-win situation all around. You save money on your water bill and your landscape gets the water it needs without waste. What could be better?

For more information, we recommend the following website:
<http://www.h2ouse.org>

Recreation Program - Spring/Summer 2005

Jazzercise

A 60-65 minute dance exercise class that includes warmup, 30-35 minute aerobic workout, weight training and stretching. Now with fresh new moves and new music it's pure motivation. **\$25.00 sign up fee.** Please call Patti Rukkila for class information at (734) 476-1218.

Ongoing, Mondays & Wednesdays

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (Regular) **
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. (Regular)
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Regular)

Ongoing, Tuesdays (Step)**

4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Ongoing, Thursdays (Regular) **

4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Ongoing, Fridays (Step)

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Ongoing, Saturdays (Circuit)

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Ongoing, Sundays

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

** Child care available - \$2.00 per child.

4 week EFT (electronic funds transfer) = \$36.00

8 week (cash or check) = \$88.00

Walk-in = \$10.00



Yogini Summer Camp

This class is designed specifically for young teens of 12-17 years of age as an opportunity to explore, share and grow together. Through the elegant system of Anusara Yoga, we will playfully celebrate the creative energy in life. Young folks under the age of 25 are also welcome.

No prior yoga experience required.

Please bring a yoga mat.

Yoga mats are also available for purchase.

Monday nights, June 5 - August 14 (no class July 3)

6:40 p.m. - 7:20 p.m.

5 class pass: \$35 (Non-Van Buren residents: \$50)

10 class pass: \$65 (Non-Van Buren residents: \$80)

Walk-in single class: \$10

Students receive a 5% discount on all yoga classes.

K-9 Obedience Class

Join dog trainer of 40 years experience, Lila Warner, for **six weeks** of one on one training. What to bring: your dog, a training collar and a six foot leash. **Dogs must be six months or older.**

We teach you to train your own pet under our supervision. Must bring proof of rabies, distemper, and a recent proof of negative fecal report to the first class. Your dog's tags must be up to date as well.

Only 18 and older can train.

7:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Tuesdays, June 6 - July 11 at Van Buren Park

Tuesdays, July 18 - August 22 at Van Buren Park

Tuesdays, August 29 - October 3 - First class at Van Buren Park

Van Buren Resident = \$35 Non-Resident = \$40

Get Up & Get Active

Saturdays, July 8 - August 12

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Ages: 7-15



Enjoy various activities such as miniature golf, Takin' it to the Streets (inflatable rides and games), roller skating, bowling, swimming, fishing, and develop techniques for exercising.

On the final day enjoy a free afternoon of "Get Active Family Fun Day" from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Van Buren Residents = \$45 Non-Residents = \$60

Van Buren Resident (per trip) = \$8

Non-Resident (per trip) = \$11

Healthy snacks provided

Must register week prior to class

Sizzlin' Summer Nights

The Van Buren Park Concert Series will take place at Van Buren Park, located on the South I-94 Service Drive between Belleville and Rawsonville Roads. Each week we'll feature a different type of music for the whole family. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and enjoy a variety of music. There is a \$3 park entry fee per car. Concerts start at 7:00 p.m. Performers subject to change.

Friday, July 14	<i>Rich Eddy's Rockin' Oldies Band</i>
Friday, July 21	<i>Belleville Community Band</i>
Friday, July 28	<i>COHORT</i> (Classic Rock)
Friday, Aug 4	<i>Twistin' Tarantulas</i>
Friday, Aug 11	<i>Crossroads</i> (Country)

Detroit Tigers Trips

Friday, July 21 at 7:05 p.m.
 Detroit Tigers Vs. Oakland A's
Comerica Park, Detroit MI
Fireworks display after the game

Friday, August 18 at 7:05 p.m.
 Detroit Tigers Vs. Texas Rangers
Comerica Park, Detroit MI
Fireworks display after the game

\$15 per person charge covers transportation, admission and bus parking (40 tickets available per game).

Bus will leave Belleville High School parking lot at 5:15 p.m. for the 7:05 p.m. game. (Ticket pick-up between 5:00-5:15 p.m.)

Takin' It To the Streets

(Mobile Rec Program)

Friday, June 23

Tyler Elementary School Parking Lot
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Experience the Videogame Mobile, inflatables, games, a "Street Smarts" demonstration from Paul. Lunch is provided.

Saturday, July 15

Willow Run Airport
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Venture on over and spend the day at the airport. Enjoy inflatables, games, crafts and of course the historic aircraft. Pilots will be on hand to answer your questions. Lunch is provided.

The "Takin' it to the Streets" program offers a safe environment for youth in low-income areas to participate in recreation activities without leaving their neighborhood. Building self-confidence, self-esteem and developing friendships are just a few of the benefits the kids will receive. All kids 1st grade and up. Children younger than 3rd grade are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Activities include outdoor games and sports, arts and crafts and much more!

Each child must have a completed registration card on file to participate in the activities offered and to use program equipment and materials. This is a drop-in program. Children and parents are responsible for their own arrival and departure time at each site, as well as length and level of participation. Recreation staff does not provide structured childcare or monitor attendance as children can come and go freely.

Free for all ages!!

Leisure Pursuits, Inc. Amusement Park Tickets Sold here...

Support your community: Purchase your discount amusement park tickets at your Recreation Department.



Cedar Point

Children 3 & under 48" and 60+	\$9.95
Adult 3-59, 48" and over	\$32.75
Adult 2-day ride & slide	\$64.50

Cash only for payment of discount tickets. Please no checks.

Beginning Conversational American Sign Language

Wednesdays, June 21 - August 9
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 Ages: 12 and older

Beginning Conversational American Sign Language will be taught by Valerie Johnson. Valerie is a Certified (Qualified) Interpreter with a B.A. degree in Sign Language Studies from Madonna University.

Have you ever seen a deaf person in a store, on the street, at the bus stop or even as you were eating in a restaurant and said to yourself, "I wish I could go sign to that person."

During this time, you will learn basic communication in ASL, the alphabet, numbers, days of the week and vocabulary. Come and be part of this exciting class! When you leave, you will be able to have everyday conversation with the deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (HOH) individuals.

Highly recommended book for the class "The American Sign Language Phrase Book" written by Lou Fant, can be purchased online or at discount bookstores.

Van Buren Residents = \$55 Non-Residents = \$70

Here fishy fishy The Spring Valley Trout Farm Outing

Saturday August 12
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Van Buren Township is partnering with the Western Wayne County Therapeutic Recreation Program to offer this exciting field trip. Open to all ages and abilities. Meet at the Van Buren Township Recreation Department Saturday, August 12 at 11:00 a.m. From there we will head to the Spring Valley Trout Farm in Dexter.

Fishing equipment and lunch will be provided.

Have fun fishing from Spring-fed, pollution free ponds that are stocked weekly with fish grown right on the farm. Fish range from Farm-Raised Channel Trout to Rainbow Trout. A children's pond is provided for little anglers under 10 years old.

Pre-Registration is necessary!!!

Wayne County Residents = \$13.50
 Non-Wayne County Residents = \$17.55

The Big Smash

Friday, June 30
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Clifford the Big Red Dog invites you out for an evening of big fun!

Respecting, sharing, truthfulness, being kind and a good friend are just some of the things Clifford would like to teach you. Leave your parents at home and spend an evening at the recreation department watching Clifford the Big Red Dog movies, playing games and eating big food.

Ages: 4 - 8

Van Buren Residents = \$20.00
 Non-Residents = \$35.00

Youth Cheerleading

Instructor, Laura Abney, former Eastern Michigan University Cheerleader, will teach students the basic fundamentals of cheerleading including sidelines, cheers, jumps and routines.

Mondays, June 5 - July 10

5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	6-10 years	R = \$50.00 NR = \$65.00
6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	11-14 years	R = \$50.00 NR = \$65.00
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	15 and up	R = \$55.00 (Includes gymnastics and tumbling) NR = \$70.00

Cheer Clinic

Monday, August 7 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 Van Buren Residents = \$25 Non-Residents = \$40

Tumbling Clinic

Tuesday, August 15 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 Van Buren Residents = \$25 Non-Residents = \$40

Registration/Waiver Form

Participant's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Age, if under 18 _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Health conditions, allergies, special precautions, necessary accommodations, or anything staff should be aware of (such as wheelchair use, seizures, diabetes, etc.) _____

In case of Emergency - person should be available during program hours.

Name	Relationship	Phone
------	--------------	-------

Activity	Day and Time of Class	Fee

of classes _____ **Amount Paid** _____ **Receipt #** _____

I hereby accept all responsibility for and will not hold the Charter Township of Van Buren, Van Buren Township Board of Trustees and/or Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department or its employees liable for any loss, damage, or injury to property or any person as a result of involvement in Van Buren Township's recreation classes or programs.

In the event of sudden illness, accident, or injury which may occur while myself or my child is participating in an activity supervised by Van Buren Township employees, when neither the parents or guardian can be contacted, I hereby give my consent for emergency medical treatment as shall be necessary under the circumstances by any physician licensed under the laws of the State of Michigan.

I understand that the Township may take photographs for use in Township publications and news releases without my written consent. It is my intention that this release be as broad as Michigan law allows releases to be. I understand that, without this document, the cost of participation would necessarily be greater, and I also acknowledge that I may obtain insurance to protect myself if I so choose.

Signature (Parent or Guardian, if not over 18)

Date

Please Mail to: Van Buren Recreation Department, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Twp., MI 48111

HOME IRRIGATION SAFETY

Don't let your Irrigation System Contaminate the Water you Drink**BACKFLOW PREVENTION ALTERNATIVES FOR HOME IRRIGATION SYSTEMS**

Irrigation systems make watering lawns and gardens easier and save time, **BUT**, water that may be contaminated by weed killers and/or fertilizers can be backsiphoned (backflow) into your drinking water. Irrigation systems not protected by approved backflow prevention assemblies could endanger the health of a household, neighborhood or community.

ALL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, new or existing...**MUST BE EQUIPPED** with an approved backflow prevention assembly. Only properly installed, state-approved backflow prevention assemblies that meet the plumbing code and provide health protection for your family and neighbors. Your local water utility can give you a free list of state-approved assemblies and certified testers.

Please Note: **ALL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS** supplied by public water systems **REQUIRE A PLUMBING PERMIT** before installation. All piping and materials upstream of (before)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SEWER BACKUPS OR BASEMENT FLOODING CLAIMS

Michigan statute, Act 222 Public Acts of 2001*, clarifies municipal liability for sewer backups. A key provision of the statute requires that a person seeking compensation for property damage or physical injury must file a written claim within 45 days of the event.

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, you must file a written claim with the Van Buren Township Water Department within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered. Notice must be mailed to Van Buren Township Water Department, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren, MI 48111. Failure to provide the required notice will prevent recovery of damages.

Contact the Van Buren Water Department at (734) 699-8925 immediately upon discovery of an overflow or backup. Like you, the Water Department considers a sewer backup or basement flooding an emergency, and will respond to your call day or night, holidays and weekends.

*The full text P.A. 222 of 2001 is available on our web site: www.vanburen-mi.org under Departments, Water & Sewer or copies are available upon request by calling (734) 699-8925.

the backflow prevention assembly must be of a type which is approved by the **STANDARD PLUMBING CODE**.

THREE TYPES OF BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLIES:**1. PRESSURE VACUUM BREAKER (PVB)**

- Sophisticated
- Versatile
- Requires annual testing by a certified tester

**2. DOUBLE CHECK VALVE ASSEMBLY (DCVA)**

- Highly versatile
- Requires annual testing by a certified tester
- Low or non-health hazard systems only.

**3. REDUCED PRESSURE BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY (RPBA)**

- Usually most expensive
- Most complex
- Allows for application of fertilizer or other chemicals into irrigation system. (No other type has this approval).
- Requires annual testing by a certified tester.

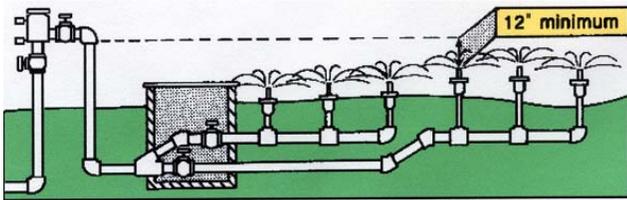
**FREEZE PROTECTION**

All backflow prevention assemblies need to be protected from freezing. Here are three methods used to protect backflow preventers:

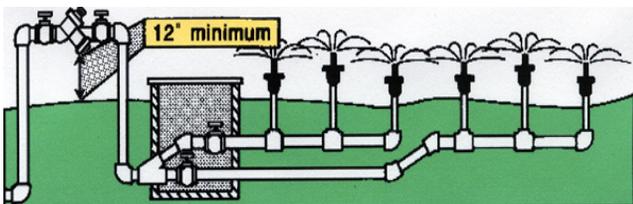
- Shut off water supply to backflow preventer. Open both inlet and outlet valves. Open all test cocks. (This method only works on those systems that are not being used in winter months.)
- Leave your water running continuously.
- Wrap your backflow preventer with insulation. Usually wrapping alone does not protect the assembly unless some type of heat is provided. (Heat tape, light bulb, etc.)

PVB...PRESSURE VACUUM BREAKER ASSEMBLY

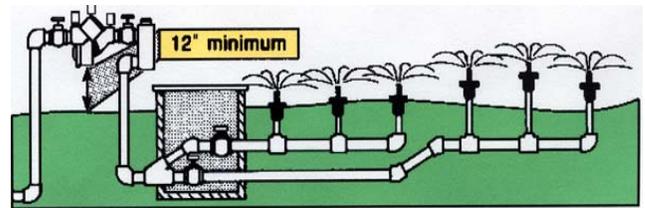
- Only one PVB required to serve the whole system; control valves can be located downstream of (after) the PVB. (Maximum size = 2").
- PVB's must be installed a minimum of 1 foot (12") above the highest point of water they serve.
- PVB's must be tested by a Certified Backflow Assembly Tester...at the time of installation...annually...when moved or repaired.
- No chemical or fertilizer may be introduced into an irrigation system equipped with PVB's.
- No pumps or back pressure on downstream side of (after) a PVB.

**DCVA...DOUBLE CHECK VALVE ASSEMBLY**

- Only one DCVA required to serve the whole system; control valves can be located downstream of the DCVA.
- DCVA should be installed a minimum of one foot (12") above ground level.
- Some water suppliers may allow the DCVA to be installed below ground, check for proper clearance on all sides of the assembly.
- DCVA must be tested by a Certified Backflow Assembly Tester...when installed...annually...when moved or repaired.
- No chemical or fertilizers may be introduced into an irrigation system equipped with DCVA's.

**RPBA...REDUCED PRESSURE BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY**

- Only one RPBA required to serve the whole system; control valves can be located downstream of the RPBA.
- RPBA's must be installed a minimum of one foot (12") above ground level.
- RPBA's must be tested by a Certified Backflow Assembly Tester...when installed...annually...when moved or repaired.
- In an RPBA equipped system, fertilizer and other agricultural chemicals may be introduced downstream of (after) the RPBA.

**Important Information for Do-It-Yourself Irrigation System Installers**

Installation of lawn irrigation systems and backflow prevention devices require a plumbing permit. Testing of the backflow prevention devices must be performed by a State-certified backflow prevention tester. Please contact the Van Buren Water Department at (734) 699-8925 for further information.

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T'ai Chi Chaun & Meditation

T'ai Chi Chaun is the traditional Chinese Martial art practiced for self defense. T'ai Chi improves balance, flexibility, muscle strength, and cardiovascular to release tension by exercising all muscle groups and emphasizing breathing.

Fridays, June 30 - August 11 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Van Buren Residents = \$15 Non-Residents = \$20

Fridays, Sept. 15 - November 17 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Van Buren Residents = \$25 Non-Residents = \$30

All levels of Tai Chi are encouraged to sign up.

VBTV 12

Although summer is our busiest, it is also our most enjoyable season of the year! You'll see us outdoors with our cameras catching what we can, so we can bring you shows that you might have missed going to or just so you can see the great things Van Buren has to offer.

This summer we will continue with our regular line-up to bring you shows like the Belleville Chamber Report with Janet Millard, and the Museum Historical Society Program. If you wish to own a copy of a program you've seen on VBTV 12, give us a call at (734) 699-8900 ext. 9322.

At VBTV 12, we pride ourselves in keeping our community informed and entertained with an information bulletin board which runs twenty-four hours each day whenever a program is not airing; programs highlighting the classes and activities around the township; and live broadcast of the Township Board Meetings. You can also check us out at our website, www.vanburen-mi.org, for program dates and times and other information regarding our community.

Don't forget to tune in to VBTV channel 12, to catch our exciting programs, and for up to date township information so that you can participate in all of the exciting opportunities our community has to offer.

Ally Acosta
Cable Operations Manager

Medical Transportation

September Days has a new Transportation Program for Senior Adults in Van Buren Township. The program will assist seniors in getting to their doctors' appointments.

Transportation is available Mondays and Wednesdays to St. Joseph, U of M, and Veteran's Hospitals. Transportation is available Thursdays to local doctors' offices and Oakwood Annapolis. Doctors' appointments must be scheduled between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Reservations must be made 48 hours in advance by calling Mindy Waddle in the Senior Center Office at (734) 699-8918. Mindy will be coordinating the ride schedules. Rides will be scheduled as calls are received. When making a reservation, you must provide your name, address, phone number, and the destination address and phone number.

Suggested donation of \$2 each way for local trips and \$5 each way for trips to Washtenaw County. Copies of full transportation policy are available in the Senior Center Office.

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

Continued from Page 5

good will and financial contributions from township residents, with increased marketing of their objective of being a valued, charitable 501 (c) (3) organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for Van Buren Township residents and whose objective is to reduce the burden of providing municipal services to Van Buren residents.

The Parks Department hosted their Sizzlin' Summer Concert series in Van Buren Park during Fridays in July and August. Better attended this year, perhaps because of the change in concert dates from Wednesdays to Fridays, this was an opportunity to enjoy very talented local entertainers in beautiful Van Buren Park. Clerk Payne is a loyal concert supporter and she liked seeing you at the concerts. We plan to host the concerts again this summer, but improved attendance must occur if we are to continue the series. If you enjoy the concerts, please talk to your friends and neighbors and encourage them to join you during summer evenings in 2006.

The Public Safety Department held their free Camp with a Cop weekend again this summer with 80 Belleville and Van Buren children spending a late summer weekend at Van Buren Park. Together with police officers and fire fighters, they spent time playing games, learning personal safety tips and listening to the sounds of QTMC, a local hip hop group whose songs incorporate messages about staying away from drugs and alcohol.

In September, the Belleville Area Historical Society hosted their Home Tour, a major fundraiser for the Society and an opportunity for 260 visitors to view some very beautiful homes in our community. Once again, Treasurer Budd and I volunteered as docents which gave us the opportunity to spend an enjoyable afternoon with you. Participating in the Home Tour is a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon and to show your support for the Belleville Area Museum.

The Tri-Community Library Committee completed work on a strategic plan for the future of the Fred C. Fischer Library. Developed with your input, the strategic plan includes as one objective a larger, more modern building. Other objectives highlighted library governance and the need for an expanded collection. Related to the Plan, the communities of Belleville and Sumpter have adopted resolutions in support of forming a district library. In March 2006, the Board approved a resolution to form a District Library Planning Committee and appointed Treasurer Budd and Trustee Jahr as Township Representatives to the Committee.

Both the Library and Museum were busy throughout 2005 preparing for Harvest Fest held October 8 that this year coincided with Belleville's Centennial celebration. Over 300 children participated in the crafts of yesteryear, petting farm and pony rides provided free by the Friends of the Library. The

Museum raffled a quilt created by the women crafters of Threads 'n Treasures, earning \$1,235 for the Museum. The Museum also published a Centennial booklet as a keepsake of the City's 100th anniversary. The booklet includes 56 pages of vintage photos and historical facts and along with a reprint of the City's 50th anniversary booklet can be purchased, if any remain, for \$10. Funds go toward Museum operations as do funds generated by the sale of the Historical Society's annual calendar and the engraved bricks you see placed around the Museum.

Treasurer Budd and I attended several of the Belleville Centennial events including the Doane's Landing dedication and Centennial dinner, and we were proud to present the City with a proclamation recognizing their 100 years of existence and the spirit of camaraderie that exists between Belleville and Van Buren today. If you did not see the play produced and written by township resident Jane Millett, the grand finale to the Centennial celebration, you missed a very special and one-time only performance by several talented Belleville Area residents.

Also in October, the township held our fourth annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. Sponsored by the Environmental Quality Company and thus, free to township residents, the HHW Day is a means by which about 300 residents properly disposed of household hazardous waste. Residents simply loaded their cars and drove to the EQ site on the N. I-94 Service Drive where EQ staffers unloaded and properly disposed of this waste. Being able to host this HHW Day annually is one way of preventing hazardous waste from being disposed of into a non-hazardous waste landfill.

In December, the September Days Senior Center hosted their, what is likely to become an annual event, Ladies Christmas Tea. The Senior Dining Room was an amazing sight, with the ladies beautifully decorating their individual tables in a variety of festive and holiday-themed ways. Every table was exquisite and a work of art. The ladies brought a dish to pass and perhaps a special treat for their table guests, and enjoyed socializing and engaging in singing Christmas songs. Attendees told me they had an absolutely grand time so if you weren't there, plan to attend this year's Tea.

Have you heard of Denver Jackson? A young area resident, Denver has been named by the Belleville Enterprise as "Newsmaker of the Year." That is indeed a fitting tribute, as six year old Denver is an author, artist, student and fund raiser, having raised and donated over \$12,000 to the Van Buren Fire Department. Denver did all of this while fighting leukemia.

The Fire Department first learned about Denver through the Make a Wish Foundation. While his initial wish was a trip to

Disney World, after he met our fire fighters, he decided he wanted to raise funds for the department. We are humbled by Denver's acts of generosity and kindness and he is an inspiration to all of us. After the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Denver is now focusing his efforts toward the South, but all of us in Van Buren will be forever grateful for his love of fire fighting and his efforts on our behalf, and we were pleased to recognize his efforts at a recent Board meeting.

Several township officials and staff lend expertise and knowledge to benefit a wider arena. Clerk Payne serves on the Michigan Public Risk Management Association Board, a group whose purpose is to educate governmental, educational and non-profit entities about reducing liability and risk while providing services. Recreation & Facilities Director Ross is President-elect of the Michigan Recreation & Park Association. He will assume the presidency in 2007. Public Safety Director Champagne is President of the Michigan Association of Hostage Negotiators, on the Board of the National Council of Hostage Negotiators and teaches, as time permits, at local police training academies. Lt. Ken Brooks, as with Administrative Assistant Fleming, is active with the Belleville Area Goodfellows and he is also involved with several youth based organizations. Trustee Rochowiak is Chair of the federally supported Farm Service Agency and along with his wife Joyce, is a recipient of the Chamber of Commerce 2005 Ted Kuckelman Community Service Award. Treasurer Budd is past-President of the Michigan Municipal Finance Administrators and I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Association, the township's general liability insurance provider. Yes, this means more work for us, but also a chance to make new contacts and gather knowledge for the benefit of the township. Serving in these capacities enhances Van Buren's image and demonstrates the level of professionalism that one finds here and the commitment we have to our chosen professions.

In 2005, several employees participated in training to improve their skills or maintain various certifications, all of which is reflected in the quality of work they perform for you. Sgt. Greg Laurain graduated from the prestigious 10 week FBI National Academy. Sgt. Kenneth Floro and Sgt. Jeffrey Gueli graduated from Eastern Michigan University School of Staff & Command, a rigorous, ten-week course. Lt. Brooks attended training related to supervising public safety organizations. Water Worker Noah Caincross earned his S-4 certification in water distribution systems. Executive Assistant Ireland and Assessment Coordinator Stevenson attended training required for maintaining various State assessor certifications, as did the code enforcement officers in the Developmental

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STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

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Services Department. Clerk Payne and Treasurer Budd also continued with required training to maintain professional certifications both hold. Several Board members attended the Michigan Townships Association's Governance Academy.

In 2005, new faces could be found at Township Hall. In January, Jerry Champagne started work as the township's Director of Public Safety. After a lengthy and grueling hiring process, competing against 63 other candidates, Jerry was selected to fill this important position. He immediately began making improvements in areas such as departmental organization and management, policies and procedures, modifications to the department's physical environment and re-searching service enhancements. In addition, four officers, Mike Moening, Mark Buckberry, Bart DeVos and Charles Bazy were promoted to the rank of Sergeant. In the Fire Department promotions occurred with Anthony Karver and David McNally being promoted to the rank of Captain. Dan Besson, Bill Gage, David Tozer and David Traskos were promoted to Lieutenants.

Lynette Jordan was hired as an account clerk in the Developmental Services Department. A township resident, Lynette has also served on the Board of Review, a position from which she, unfortunately, was required to resign now that she is a township employee. Alexander Schultz was hired as a police officer and Julie Jones was hired as a dispatcher. Charles Esch was hired full-time in the Water & Sewer Department, after working for the township in a seasonal capacity.

Another "new face" one saw regularly in fall 2005, was that of Charles McKenna. An Eastern Michigan University senior and township resident, Charles worked as an intern in my office. Because development is the number one issue facing Van Buren, Charles spent time working with Planning & Economic Development Director Kelley. Charles worked hard, learning quickly the challenges we face as the community continues to develop. His understanding of how our actions must be in keeping with the law yet also achieve a balance that reflects the community's needs and wants was appreciated. Charles joined me at a Downriver Sewer System meeting, a meeting with Detroit Water & Sewerage representatives and a Conference of Western Wayne meeting. He also attended a meeting at Growth Works, a youth assistance organization, as well as several Board study sessions and regular meetings. Charles successfully completed his internship, earning an "A" from his professor, and we wish him well in future endeavors.

In 2005, we saw the departures of Special Events Coordinator Meghan Mutch who resigned to take a new position, Account Clerk Mary Jean Steinmetz who relocated out of state and Animal Control Officer Al Ostrowski who resigned in August.

In late December 2005, Deputy Recreation and Facilities Director Vince Averill gave notice of his intent to resign to accept a similar position with the City of New York. We wish all of these individuals well in future endeavors and thank them for their service.

What can we expect in 2006? Certainly, financial oversight will be critical given the state of our economy and we will be monitoring finances on a regular and routine basis ensuring costs are in line with the Board-approved budgets and to determine whether revenue projections are on target. Once again, we are forecasting a lower number of housing permits, a number that has continued to decrease over the past three years, a result of the economic climate we have been experiencing.

You will see an increased police presence on our streets with the traffic unit going into service in 2006. You will see the Belleville Road fire station being built, and work starting on Fire Station #1 to be located at the corner of Sumpter and Hull Roads. The township will likely finance the cost of this building and a land acquisition over several years in order to preserve cash flow during these uncertain economic times. In early 2006, the Board intends to complete the 42.2 acre land purchase at the southwest corner of Tyler and Quirk Roads. While there are no immediate plans for the use of this land, our intent is that this will be the site of future public facilities to be used by you.

For several months, Management has been engaged in collective bargaining talks with three of the township's four unions, the command and patrol/dispatch Police Officers Labor Council units, and AFSCME Local 236 who for 30 years has represented the clerical, code enforcement and laborers/field crew employees. While sometimes challenging and emotional, talks have nevertheless continued and hopefully, new contracts will be ratified in 2006.

Environmental Director Swallow held a Lake Expo geared for lakeshore residents on February 18. This year's Expo focus was on dock maintenance and a proposed lakeshore ordinance. The Expo was being held early in the year so residents can provide feedback on the proposed ordinance and put to use during the spring, the information obtained at the Expo.

Currently, we are addressing a change from our current water meter system which requires manual meter reading to an automated meter reading system to perform meter reading more cost effectively and to ensure water is being accurately metered. The original bids the township received were rejected as we decided that perhaps a different technology for automatic meter reading would better serve the township. Our plans are to complete bidding this system in 2006.

HOMEOWNER'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION

Perhaps of greatest significance to the future of Van Buren, the Planning Commission commenced work on Land Use Master Plan revisions with attention given to southern Van Buren. This focus on the south side is based upon requests the township has received for developing land there, where if approved, would alter the landscape you see today. Perhaps this is what we want, perhaps not. If you're a landowner, you may have envisioned selling land as that is your 401k. If you like the more rural atmosphere, you may want it to stay that way and you may be willing to forego infrastructure such as sewers and paved roads in return for less development. Are you willing to drive a distance to the grocer or a restaurant so as to guard against the loss of open space? It is for these varied reasons that your input is sought as we work together to develop a Master Plan that reflects what the community wants. This process will take six months to complete and we realize this is a long time for you to devote to the Plan. However, if the Plan is to be thoughtful and appropriately reflect our vision for the future of Van Buren, time must be devoted to study various scenarios, to obtain information and to weigh competing opinions to achieve consensus on a Plan that reflects a studied approach to the future development of Van Buren. This is a tough, complex and emotional task but we need and want to hear from you. Please get involved.

Van Buren is a premier community, having earned an A rating from Standard & Poors, a positive commentary on the township's financial stability. As a lifelong resident, I do "remember when." I am also mindful of the oath each Board member took when assuming the mantle of elected official and that is to perform our responsibilities in keeping with the laws of the United States and the State of Michigan and to perform our duties to the best of our abilities. Being responsible stewards of the township, ensuring financial oversight and accountability while providing valued, cost effective services today and planning well for the future is what we are expected to do and what you deserve. It is a responsibility the entire Board takes very seriously. Like you, we live here, work here and are or have raised children here. Like you, we are invested in Van Buren. The community positively impacts upon our quality of life and we care about its future.

In closing, best wishes for a 2006 that is filled with joy and prosperity. Van Buren is a community in which people get involved and you are encouraged to do the same whether it's by serving on a commission, volunteering in the Senior Center, responding to our monthly web poll or attending meetings and public hearings. Visit us online at www.vanburen-mi.org and tune in to VBTB 12, our governmental access channel. For all you do, we thank you.

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

If you **own and occupy** your principal residence, more than likely it is exempt from a portion (18 mills) of local school operating taxes. In order to receive this exemption, you must complete a Homeowner's Principal Residence Exemption Affidavit. This form can be obtained from the Van Buren Township Assessing Department or more likely it was provided to you by your closing agent when you purchased your new home. To claim this exemption, this affidavit must be filed with the township by May 1st of the year of the claim. Please note however, this is an exemption from part of the property taxes and does not have an affect on your assessment.

Owning means you hold legal title to the principal residence or that you are currently buying the property on a notarized or recorded land contract. **Occupying means** that this is your principal residence, the place you intend to return to whenever you go away and this address appears on your driver's license. You may have only one principal residence at a time. A vacation home and/or income property that you do not occupy as your principal residence is not entitled to the 18 mills tax exemption.

If you have claimed an exemption and you stop using the property as your principal residence, you must notify the Township within 90 days and file a **Request to Rescind Homeowner's Principle Residence Exemption**. Failure to do so may subject you to additional taxes plus penalty and interest in accordance with State Law under the Property Tax Act.

PROPERTY TRANSFER AFFIDAVITS

Whenever ownership in real estate, or some types of personal property are transferred, even if the document (deed) is not recorded, state law requires that a Property Transfer Affidavit be filed with the local assessing department. This is used to ensure the property is assessed properly and receives the correct taxable value.

This form is available at the township's assessing department; however, it is often supplied by a closing agent when the property transfers ownership. The new owner must file the Property Transfer Affidavit with the township assessor **within 45 days of the transfer**. If it is not filed within 45 days, a **penalty of \$5 per day up to a maximum of \$200** will be imposed as a fine. A Property Transfer Affidavit is NOT CONFIDENTIAL. It should also be noted that in accordance with State Law, if the local assessor discovers that a transfer of ownership has occurred but this transfer of ownership was not timely reported to the local assessor, additional taxes, penalties and interest could result.

If you have any questions on the Homeowner's Principal Residence Exemption Affidavit or Property Transfer Affidavit, please contact the Van Buren Township Assessing Department at (734) 699-8946.

*Bloom at your library!*167 Fourth St • Belleville, MI 48111
734.699.3291 • 734.699.6352 fax

Fred C. Fischer Library LIBRARY

Hours: Mon - Thurs 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Fri & Sat 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

www.belleville.lib.mi.us

New Library Computers

Thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the Van Buren Civic Fund, the library was able to add five new public Internet computers, six new children's computers, and new computer tables and chairs. The computers provide valuable access to our residents. The educational, cultural, social, and economic improvement of the community are among the goals of the Civic Fund.

The Civic Fund was created in 2004, upon receipt of an initial contribution from the Visteon Corporation. The Civic Fund's mission is to enhance the quality of life for Van Buren Township residents.

The additional computers will help meet the ever increasing demand for this popular service. The library's Internet use statistics have seen nothing but double digit increases for the past five years.

The library's Internet stations are widely used for many purposes including e-mail access, job searching, consumer affairs, government information, and homework assistance to name but a few. In addition, the children's computers provide filtered Internet access as well as educational software to younger patrons.

District Library Planning Committee

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees approved a resolution at their March 21 meeting to form a District Library Planning Committee. Trustees Sharry Budd and Jeff Jahr were appointed to the committee. The establishment of a district library will be cost effective, provide more local control, better serve the needs of a growing community, and give residents more bang for their buck.

A Bricks and Mortar Committee will be formed soon to look at building needs, possible locations, architects, site plans, etc. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Director Debra Green (699-3291, or dgreen@belleville.mi.us).



Belleville Area Garden Walk

Spend a leisurely Sunday afternoon touring six lovely and unique gardens in the Belleville Area. The library courtyard and five private gardens will be featured on the Belleville Area Garden Walk, July 30, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Friends of the Fred C. Fischer Library, and local garden related businesses will be sponsoring this event.

Tickets will be on sale at the library, Antiques on Main, the Chamber office and local florists: \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 the day of the event. For more information call 699-8929. Proceeds will benefit the library.

The Friends of the Library will also be holding its Annual Perennial Plant Swap on May 6. Bring your perennials in pots to the library courtyard 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. to exchange. Be sure to label the plants and include growing instructions.

Programs for Everyone

Book Discussion Group Ages 18 and up
Meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Check our website for each month's title.

Friends of the Library Used Book Sale

Saturday, May 6, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 5, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 4, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Friends of the Library Perennial Plant Swap

Saturday, May 6, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Friends of the Library Belleville Area Garden Walk

Sunday, July 30, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Summer Reading Program Registration Begins

Monday, June 12

Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales!

Get your paws on some great books this summer at the Fred C. Fischer Library's Summer Reading Program. The 2006 Summer Reading Program is open to young people, ages 3-18, with entertaining age appropriate programs, prizes, reading incentives, and more. Enjoy programs for preschoolers, school-age children, teens and the whole family beginning the week of June 12th and continuing until the last week in July. Registration begins on Monday, June 12, with a kickoff program at 7:00 p.m. A full calendar of events will be available at the library.

Creature Feature @ Your Library

Teens, keep busy this summer by reading the books you want to read, attending fun programs at the library, and picking up prizes along the way. More details will be available at the library before registration begins on June 12th. This program is open to middle school and high school students (participants must have completed the sixth grade).



Connect, Click, & Listen

Download and listen to Audiobooks from NetLibrary and Recorded Books through the Internet anytime. You may play them on your computer's desktop or on any portable device that supports Windows Media Player (version 9.0 or above).

PLEASE NOTE: You must register for your free account at the library. After registering, you may log-in and download Audiobooks from any computer with Internet access.

The collection is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Up to 6 titles may be "checked out" at one time and will be available to you for 21 days with one renewal period allowed. After 21 days, they will "return" to the library automatically.

Stained Glass Memorial



Family, friends, and colleagues of Patricia Jahr joined together on March 2, to view the unveiling of a stained glass window dedicated in her memory. Pat, who passed away last October, had been a valued member of the library staff for 17 1/2 years.

Prior to being the adult services librarian, Pat was the children's librarian for many years. The stained glass window, created by local artist Diane Eissinger, shows Pat reading a story to famous children's book characters. The window was made possible by contributions from the staff of the Wayne County Librarians and can be seen in the hallway entering the children's room.

Genealogy Project Volunteers!

Are you interested in local history and genealogy? Looking for an easy project you can do at home? We have the perfect project for you!

The library is undertaking an extensive project to compile and index death notices and obituaries from our local papers. This project will be a great resource for individuals researching genealogy information.

We need volunteers to cut obituaries and death notices out of nearly 65 years worth of local newspapers.

Contact Amy Jordan at ajordan@belleville.lib.mi.us or via phone at 699-3291 for more information on how you can help!

Mark your calendars for the:

Belleville City-Wide Yard Sale

September 23 & 24

The Belleville Area Museum & Historical Society will be taking part in the Yard Sale.

We will be asking for donations of used items for the sale. When you're cleaning your garage, attic, basement, etc...this spring and summer, please set aside your used treasures for us! We will begin accepting donations at the beginning of September.

For further information, call the museum at (734) 697-1944.

Patches and Patterns: A Celebration of Quilts



During the month of March, the Belleville Area Museum presented an exhibit entitled "Patches and Patterns: A Celebration of Quilts." 109 quilts were displayed throughout the museum.

Honor and Preserve Your Family Name at the Belleville Area Museum

Over the past few summers, we have added 124 etched bricks to the museum sidewalks, commemorating family names, events, and milestones. We will be adding more bricks this summer.

If you have not yet purchased a brick, this is your opportunity to preserve your name or that of a loved one at our historical museum.

A brick can also be engraved to mark the date of a significant event in your life, such as a wedding, birth of a baby, graduation, etc.

The purchase of a brick is a perfect gift for family and friends. At your request, we can send a gift certificate of purchase to the person you are honoring.

Cost per brick: \$50

Your message must fit within the spaces provided
(Two lines at 12 spaces each)

If you would like to preserve your name in Belleville area history, please call the Belleville Area Museum for an order form at (734) 697-1944.

Funds raised from this endeavor will be used to support the projects and programs of the museum.

Belleville Area Museum 405 Main Street

Summer Hours:

May 1 through Labor Day
Monday through Friday, Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Hours Subject To Change

Closed Holiday Weekends

Admission:

Adults = \$1.00 Children = \$0.50 Family = \$3.00

Tours by Appointment: (734) 697-1944
Director: Diane Wilson

Looking for an outing for your school class, club, church group, or scout troop?

Call the Belleville Area Museum to arrange a guided tour at (734) 697-1944.

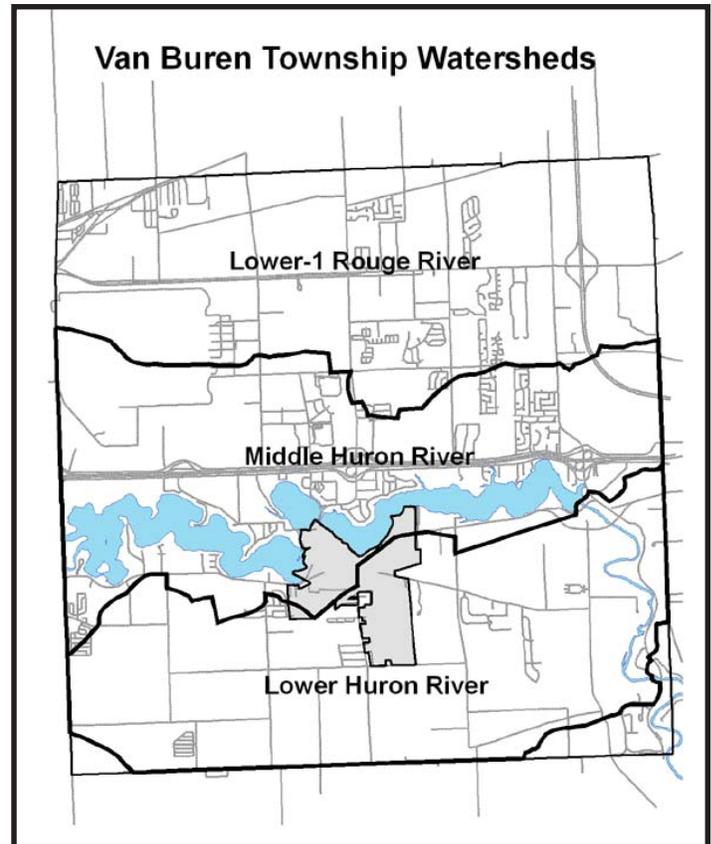
TOWNSHIP'S ROLE IN WATERSHED PLANNING

How would you define a watershed? When residents of our area were asked this question in a recent survey by the Southeast Michigan Council of Government (SEMCOG), only 1/2 were familiar with the term watershed and over 1/3 of those surveyed believed they did NOT live in a watershed. In fact, everyone lives in a watershed. And in case you are wondering, if you live in Van Buren Township, you live in one of two major watersheds - the Rouge River Watershed or the Huron River Watershed.

In Van Buren's case the watershed boundary roughly follows Tyler Road. If you live north of Tyler Road, you are most likely in the Rouge River Watershed, and if you live south of Tyler Road, you are probably in the Huron River Watershed. You can break these watersheds down further into smaller sub-watershed areas. Van Buren falls into three sub-watersheds, the Lower-1 Rouge River Sub-watershed, the Middle Huron River Sub-watershed, and the Lower Huron River Sub-watershed.

The Township has been working cooperatively with other local governments in our area on a watershed basis to improve water quality. Van Buren contributes financially and has a representative to the Alliance of Rouge Committees (ARC). Over the past several years, the ARC communities have paid for water quality monitoring and with federal grant assistance have installed major sewer system improvements to reduce pollutants entering the Rouge River and its tributaries.

The Township also belongs to the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) and has supported the Middle Huron Initiative, which is an effort to reduce algae blooms and nutrient problems on Ford and Belleville Lakes. The HRWC recently coordinated an effort to complete a watershed management plan for the Lower Huron River Watershed. These efforts and plans are all designed to protect, rehabilitate and sustain healthy Rivers and Streams. If you have more questions about watershed management and Van Buren Township's role, please visit the Township's website (www.vanburen-mi.org), click on "Departments" and then click on "Environmental." Some other watershed resources can be found at the Rouge River website (www.rougeriver.com) and the Huron River Watershed Council's website (www.hrwc.org).



Super Sports

Learn the basic skills of soccer, basketball, and T-ball. The Western Wayne County Therapeutic Recreation program offers this program with children in mind, all ages and abilities are welcome. A recreation therapist will be on hand to assist those with special needs. You must pre-register for this event.

This program will increase social interaction, self confidence, independence, stimulation and coordination, increase functioning of the mind and body, just to name a few benefits.

The Western Wayne County Therapeutic Recreation Program has been developed to offer all ages and disabilities a chance to recreate. Everyone needs to be able to have fun in a safe environment.

If you or your child has a special need, please call us and we will be happy to accommodate any recreation class. Advance notice is recommended.

Saturdays, June 3 - 24
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wayne County Resident = \$30.00
Non-Wayne County Resident = \$39.00

**Classes held in the Van Buren Township
Recreation Department Gymnasium**

TRASH GUIDELINES:

Homeowners of Brand New Homes:

Please call the Community Services Department at (734) 699-8926 to order your garbage container (toter) and recycle bin. You should receive both within 2-3 weeks following your call.

Please use a 32 gallon or smaller container until you receive your toter. Boxes are not acceptable rubbish containers.

Toters and additional containers:

Please bag all items placed in toters or additional containers. Bagging the trash keeps your toters/containers cleaner and does not allow items to stick or freeze to the bottom. **Please DO NOT place LOOSE TRASH in toters/containers or they will not be picked up.**

Additional containers must not exceed 32 gallons and must not weigh more than 50 lbs.

Please write your address on all containers!

Damaged Containers:

Broken or damaged containers supplied by Waste Management may be replaced or repaired if necessary. Please call (734) 699-8926 to notify us if your container needs to be replaced or repaired.

Waste Management will only provide maintenance or replacement of cart due to normal wear and tear including broken wheels, worn out bottom, broken or bent front bar or lid damage.

Stolen Containers:

If your Waste Management toter is stolen or missing, you will need to contact Waste Management at (800) 796-9696 to acquire a new one at a cost of \$85.00. If you do not wish to purchase this container, you may use a 32 gallon or smaller container at the curbside.

Holiday Pickup Schedule:

If your trash day falls on a holiday, please still place your trash at the curb for removal.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS:

**Yard Waste Pickup ENDS
the last full week of November.**

All Homeowners:

Your trash must be set out the night prior to pickup day. Waste Management starts rubbish removal early and there is not a set schedule for the starting point of each route. Trash that is missed due to late set out will not be picked up until the following week - **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

Please write your address on all containers!

Special Pickups:

Refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners are the only items that need to be called in ahead for special pickups due to Freon. These items will be picked up by a different truck than the normal trash truck. Doors on refrigerators/freezers must be removed and the shelving units from inside must also be removed and properly disposed of in a rubbish container.

To schedule a special pickup, please call the Community Services Department at (734) 699-8926 **one day prior to pickup day.**

If you are moving:

Please leave the rubbish container and recycle bin that were provided by Waste Management on the property for the next homeowner as they remain the property of Waste Management.

Large Quantities of Trash:

All remodeling material or large amounts of rubbish must be taken to the landfill directly. As a Van Buren Township resident you have the option to utilize the landfill (Woodland Meadows) free of charge. This is a courtesy that is passed on to our homeowners. Please keep in mind that this **privilege cannot be extended to contractors. Commercialized vehicles and/or commercialized jobs are prohibited.** In order to utilize the above privilege you must provide a driver's license that reflects a Van Buren Township address when you enter the landfill. Yard waste and household waste must be kept separate.

Attention Mobile Home/Manufactured Home and Apartment residents:

If you wish to recycle, you may take your recycleables to the Woodland Meadows Recycling Center.

Woodland Meadows is located on the south side of Van Born Road just west of Hannan Road. The landfill is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. To contact Woodland Meadows please call (734) 326-0993.

YARD WASTE GUIDELINES:

Brush



Bundle all brush that is less than 6" in diameter. Bundles must not weigh more than 50 lbs. Bundles must be no longer than 4 feet in length and 18" around. Brush larger than 6" in diameter must still be bundled, however, it is considered trash and will be picked up as such.

If your trash, yard waste, or recycling is not picked up by 4:00 p.m. on your regularly scheduled day, please call (734) 699-8926.

Compost season ends **the last full week in November** - no compost will be taken at the landfill or at curbside after that date.

Please be sure that all yard waste is set out at the curb tied and bundled, in the appropriate container, and properly labeled.

If you have any questions, please contact the Community Services Department at (734) 699-8926.

Yard Waste Season

Yard Waste pickup **ENDS the last full week of November** and will **RESUME the first full week of April**.

Leaves and Grass Clippings

Leaves and grass clippings may either be placed in paper compost bags purchased at your local grocery store, or placed in a trash can with a compost sticker. Compost sticker must face the road.

Do not overload compost bags, and be sure to fold down the tops for easier lifting.

Do not use plastic bags!!



If you are using a can, it must have a yard waste sticker. Face the sticker toward the street and place the container 10 feet from your garbage. It should not be any larger than a 32 gallon can. 50 lb. limit.

RECYCLE GUIDELINES:

Plastic

Bottles and Containers: Must be marked on the bottom with a 1 or 2 symbol. Butter tubs and trays from microwaveable foods are not acceptable.
Rinse and remove all caps.



Please Recycle!



Tin



Tin Cans: Remove all labels and rinse them out before placing in bin.
Aluminum: Containers and foil.

Paper



Newspapers: Including all inserts, advertisements, and magazines that are delivered with them.
White Paper: Including office paper, computer paper, and envelopes.
Brown Paper Bags: Keep them separate from your paper.

Glass

Bottles and Jars: Any color except brown. You do not have to peel the labels off or remove the little plastic rings that remain from twist off caps.
Rinse and remove all caps.

Cardboard

Cardboard: All cardboard boxes must be broken down (including moving boxes) into 2' x 2' bundles. Cardboard boxes are not acceptable rubbish containers.
****No pizza boxes****



Fireworks Show!



Saturday, June 24

Rain-out Date: June 25

Show starts at Dusk, Beck Ball Fields

Dj and gloworks!!

Any questions, please call Van Buren Parks and Recreation at (734) 699-8921.



MOVIE AT THE AIRPORT

Come see "Shrek 2" on the BIG SCREEN at Willow Run Airport (Rated PG)

Saturday, August 19

Movie starts at dusk

FREE! FREE! FREE!

Remember the days of getting together with your family, grabbing your blanket and popcorn and heading out the drive-in theatre? What a great way to bring the entire family and community closer. So this summer load up the family and friends, don't forget the blankets and munchies and drive over to the Willow Run Airport. Lay under the stars and in the mix of historic aircraft while watching "Shrek 2" on the BIG screen. It'll be a fun summer night to remember.

Township Meetings

Board Meetings:

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.

Work Study Meetings:

1st & 3rd Mondays 4:00 p.m.

Environmental Commission:

2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission:

2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

Water/Sewer Commission:

4th Monday 7:00 p.m.

Downtown Devel. Authority:

2nd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.

Open Space Committee:

4th Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Cable Commission:

No longer meets regularly.

Endowment Committee:

2nd Tuesday 1:00 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals:

2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee:

2nd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.

Recreation Committee:

2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m. (Meets February, April, June, August, October & Dec, changes will be posted)

LDFA:

2nd Tuesday 2:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees

Cindy C. King (cking@vanburen-mi.org)

Supervisor. 699-8910

Joannie D. Payne (jpayne@vanburen-mi.org)

Clerk. 699-8909

Sharry A. Budd (sbudd@vanburen-mi.org)

Treasurer. 699-8903

Phillip Hart

Jeffrey Jahr

Walter Rochowiak

Trustees. 699-8910

Township Departments

Public Safety

Jerry Champagne, Director of Public Safety. . 699-8930

Police, Fire, Dispatch. 699-8930

Animal Control. 699-8930

Emergencies. 9-1-1

Developmental Services

Bryce Kelley, Planning &

Economic Development Director. 699-8913

Patti Duha, Director of Water & Sewer. 699-8944

Ordinance Enforcement. 699-8913

Dan Swallow, Environmental Director. 699-8913

Community Services

Bruce Ross, Director of Recreation & Facilities. . 699-8926

Cable. 699-8926

Parks & Recreation. 699-8921

Linda Combs, Senior Director. 699-8918

September Days Senior Center. 699-8918

Lake Ledger

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Editor:

Christina Harman

Community Services Department

Charter Township of Van Buren

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