



Charter Township of Van Buren

Lake Ledger

Visions of Van Buren

F a l l 2 0 0 5



ADA walkway to the beach at Van Buren Park



A view of the beach at Van Buren Park



A beautiful view of Belleville Lake from Van Buren Park

Inside Info

Computer Fraud Prevention	Pg. 6
Recreation Program	Pg. 11-15
Museum Information	Pg. 16
Automatic Water Bill Payment	Pg. 19
Trash & Recycle Info	Pg. 22-23

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

It's hard to believe that Fall is nearly upon us and Summer almost a memory. The kids are back in school and life almost overnight has gotten busier with time management skills being essential. As in your busy lives, activity at Township Hall continues at a brisk pace.

A reception hosted by the Van Buren Civic Fund at the Visteon headquarters effectively kicked-off the summer season. The reception was held on a warm June evening. Highlights were a variety of ethnic-inspired cuisine, tours of the Village, conversation with friends and the Blue Skies Trio entertaining everyone with great music. The Civic Fund received some very generous contributions from area residents and businesses.

It is through contributions such as those received that night that this 501(c) (3) charitable organization was able to fund the electronic speed limit signs you now see on Tyler Road near Tyler Elementary School. The Civic Fund also financed a portable audio system for the Museum to improve upon activities held there. The Civic Fund Board of Directors, nearly all of whom are township residents - your friends and neighbors - are sincere in their desire to fund worthy projects throughout the community that improve upon the quality of life in Van Buren and reduce the burden of providing municipal service in the township. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible contribution to the Van Buren Civic Fund, the Civic Fund may be contacted at P.O. Box 904, Belleville, MI 48112. Applications to request funding may also be obtained by writing to this address.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) continued working on matters related to the construction of a new fire station, Station #2, to be built on the east side of Belleville Road just south of Ecorse Road. Recently, the Township Board approved a resolution indicating their support for the project and formal acceptance of the \$3.8 million station once its construction is complete. Site work has started with construction slated to be complete in 2006. This facility will replace our current Fire Station #2, a building over 40 years old and not suitable for housing the apparatus and other equipment needed by today's fire fighters to provide service to you. In addition to housing fire equipment, ladder trucks and the like, the station will also include a community room for use as a poor weather shelter, for neighborhood meetings, meetings of homeowners associations and for use as a voting precinct.

The funds to build the station are made possible by the capture of taxes generated within the DDA district boundaries that would otherwise leave Van Buren Township. Your taxes were not increased to construct this new fire station.

Similarly, work continues relative to the construction of a new Fire Station #1, to be located at the northeast corner of Sumpter and Hull Roads. The smaller fire station will be paid for with

Landfill Funds, again with no increase in taxes being needed to pay for this facility. As with new Fire Station #2, this station will have public meeting space in the southern part of Van Buren to use for neighborhood meetings, as an inclement weather shelter and for use as a voting precinct. It will replace our current fire station located across the street from the Fred C. Fischer Library in the City of Belleville that is over 60 years old and as with existing Fire Station #2 cannot properly house fire equipment to meet the demands of a modern fire department. Being located south of the railroad tracks, the station will also be better located to respond more quickly to calls for help.

During these past few months, the Board approved a number of development-related projects including O'Charley's Restaurant to be built near the Belleville Road Meijer, a Fifth Third Bank to be constructed in front of WalMart and a Progressive Claims Center to be located south of Ecorse Road on Haggerty Road. This facility will process vehicles brought in for insurance claims and in need of repair due to accidents, etc. It will in essence be a "one stop shop" for those insured by Progressive Insurance. The insured will bring his/her damaged car to the claims center in order to obtain an estimate for repair work and to have the insurance carrier secure the company that will make said repairs. Once repaired, the insurer will return to the claims center to pick up his/her newly repaired vehicle.

The Board also approved a residential development to be built where Pine Creek Golf Course now exists as well as the township's sixth Planned Residential Development (PRD). Bedford Cove, a 201 single-family detached residential development will be built on West Huron River Drive and will abut the Briarwood Estates neighborhood off of Elwell Road. As a PRD, several amenities have been planned for the nearly 100 acres of land. Among these are a 17-acre nature preserve, a 4-acre park, a soccer field, and a 10' asphalt walking path along West Huron River Drive that will ultimately connect with other developments and provide pedestrians not only in Bedford Cove but throughout the township the ability to walk along a beautiful thoroughfare. Further, there are sizable viewsheds (setbacks from the road to preserve natural features) and tree preservation in Bedford Cove that addresses our need for preserving natural aesthetics.

As you may be aware, the Board has struggled with the concept of PRD's. While the rules set forth in the township's six-year old ordinance have been followed, no PRD is completely finished to provide a means for evaluating the effectiveness of the ordinance. PRD's were created to counter rapidly diminishing undeveloped land with the thought that preserving at least some portion of the land that would otherwise be built upon was preferable to all of a site's natural features being lost. In years past, developers often eliminated virtually

all of a property's natural features such as trees to build what we now call "cookie cutter" neighborhoods. These developments typically did not provide for open space, park areas or other amenities such as walking paths. I am sure you can find examples of such developments in Van Buren and surrounding communities. The rationale of the Planning Commission and Township Board was that preserving some portion of the previously undeveloped land had value, even if that meant entering into a PRD Agreement that may provide for more units being built on those 100 acres. For example, a zoning classification might permit 150 homes to be built on 100 acres of land with the result being the use of every bit of those 100 acres for the 150 lots. While individual lots may be larger, no wooded areas are left intact; no pedestrian pathways are built other than sidewalks internal to the development, no parks or playing fields are provided. A PRD may permit more houses but would require those lots to be "clustered," built on only part of the 100 acres, thus resulting in smaller lots, but also preserving wooded areas, providing for the building of a park, etc. The intent behind approving a PRD is to create a neighborhood that is aesthetically pleasing not only to the new home buyers who will move into the neighborhood, but also for the entire community that might enjoy the walking paths, the scenic viewsheds that include natural features and the like.

Some of you may argue that if preserving open space is important, why not deny a developer's request to build a neighborhood. As I have said many times before, your Township Board is vested with carrying out our responsibilities in accordance with the laws of the State, the township's ordinances and other rules. We must follow all laws and ordinances, not just those we favor. Property owners in Michigan enjoy laws giving them sizable rights, legal rights, to use and develop the property they own and for which they pay taxes. These same legal rights apply to both the profit-driven developer and to you and me. Provided the developer, and you and I follow these laws, ordinances and rules, we can develop and use our property. We must recognize that the various ways in which property may be used may not appeal to us in the same way it does to the owner of the property, but again, provided the property owner has complied with the laws, (s)he has the right to develop and use his/her property. Addressing the considerable development that has taken place and continues to occur is perhaps the most challenging task your Township Board faces and is one we take very seriously. We know that taking a "just say no" approach to development is not responsible and perhaps even contrary to law.

Because the PRD ordinance has generated such attention, the Board has begun reviewing the ordinance and has been asked to give comments and recommendations to Planning & Economic Development Director Kelley and me about revisions they might like to see. Those suggestions should be

given to us by the end of September at which time we will forward those comments on to the Planning Commission who will be asked to give the PRD ordinance a thorough review. Any recommendations the Planning Commission has may come back to the Board by way of an ordinance revising the current PRD ordinance with a continued objective of putting in place rules that enhance development and provide for the future of our community.

Equally daunting, the administrative officials and department directors have begun preparing amended 2005 and proposed 2006 General Fund Budgets. The Township Board will critically assess all service areas to determine need and effectiveness. Frankly, we will likely again be faced with drawing down reserves, and/or raising fees and creatively approaching the delivery of service to ensure a balanced budget as required by law. Budget preparation meetings are scheduled for the last week in September. These meetings are open to the public.

Van Buren is a one-mill township with one mill being collected on the property taxes you pay being used to provide municipal services. This one mill, coupled with the voter-approved 3 mills for public safety provides about \$3.3 million in operating revenue to fund General Fund operations. Of this nearly \$3.3 million dollars generated by these 3.9 mills of property taxes, about \$3 million is earmarked for use within the Department of Public Safety (police, fire, emergency dispatch, emergency management and animal control), with the remainder being used for necessary municipal services. These operations include those statutory (legal) duties required of the Clerk's, Treasurer's and my offices and those of the Developmental Services Department, along with services provided by Parks and Recreation, Seniors, and the Environmental Department. Considering the 2005 General Fund Budget is just under \$12 million, less than 30% of the township's operating revenues come from property taxes. Landfill Funds (reserves) comprise about 30% of the revenue with the remaining revenues derived from fees, state shared revenue, etc. With state shared revenue being cut annually for the past several years and other revenues declining, balancing the General Fund Budget has become increasingly more difficult. One would think that in a rapidly growing community like Van Buren taxes would be keeping pace with the cost of providing service. That is not the case. The dual impacts of the Headlee Act and Proposal A limit growth of the tax base, and that limit in tax base growth, along with ever rising costs such as health care and diminishing revenues result in Van Buren facing the same financial difficulties as many other Michigan municipalities and those challenges you personally face.

Supervisor's Office

Continued on Page 4

Supervisor's Office

Continued from Page 3

On a lighter note, Van Buren Park is open year round. Now is the time to visit the Park and enjoy the beautiful colors of Fall as well as a view of scenic Belleville Lake. With all that is going on around us - in the world, our state and our community, we know that your lives are every bit as challenging as the activities at Township Hall. Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

VBTV 12

As the fall season begins Van Buren Government Access Cable is going strong. We have worked very hard this summer to bring programs to our community such as Takin' It To The Streets, Senior Jamboree, and the Senior Olympics. These and other programs will air each week throughout the fall on Van Buren Channel 12.

This fall we will continue with our regular line-up to bring you shows like the Belleville Area Chamber Report with Janet Millard, the Belleville Historical Society meetings and, of course, the Van Buren Township Board Meetings that are broadcast live every first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. In addition, we will also cover many of the upcoming events sponsored by the Recreation Department, and the September Days Senior Center.

Watch our bulletin board which runs twenty-four hours each day whenever a program is not airing or check us out on the Van Buren website (www.vanburen-mi.org) for program dates and times and other information regarding our community.

Ally Acosta
Cable Operations Manager

Visit the:

Belleville Area Museum

405 Main Street

Open 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday through Saturday

Admission:

Adults: \$1.00 **Children:** \$0.50 **Family:** \$3.00

Tours By Appointment

(734) 697-1944

PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR THANKS COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORT

I received a warm welcome to the community of Van Buren Township as the new Director of Public Safety on January 3, 2005 and the experience has been very rewarding. The level of support for Public Safety in Van Buren is the highest level I have ever witnessed in any community.

I am extremely impressed with the support from the Township Supervisor, Board of Trustees, local businesses and all of you. The various Department Directors meet on a regular basis to problem solve the challenges we face and make Van Buren Township a Premier Community in which to live, work and play.

The problem solving sessions required by our elected officials have been instrumental in preparing Public Safety responses for the present and future. The Public Safety Department has worked hard to analyze the emergency management operations and prepare for unforeseen emergency events. The various Department Directors have a unified sense of the resources we can all provide to bring an event to a successful and safe resolution for the community.

The challenge we face in Public Safety for 2006 and beyond is to continue the level of service the community has become accustomed to and which it deserves with less financial resources. Our community population continues to grow as does the demand on public safety. This became evident when we compared our reported crime complaints from 2003 to 2004. The comparative analysis indicates an average increase of 230.4% in total reported incidents. In addition, the increase in volume of residents and employees in the community places demands on our resources to assist with traffic related complaints and crashes. During the same time period the Fire Department experienced a 40% increase in demand for service.

Unfortunately, the Federal Government has eliminated almost all grant programs that were used to help supplement local law enforcement. The States have also made revenue sharing cuts that impacted the budget of local municipalities.

The Department of Public Safety has taken several innovative measures in an effort to be fiscally responsible while meeting the demands of a growing community. We at the Public Safety Department pledge to continue to prepare for the future and find ways to be cost effective in the delivery of service to those that live in and visit our premier community.

From all the members of the Public Safety Department, we thank everyone for the level of support and teamwork involved in providing a safe community.

Gerald Champagne
Director of Public Safety

**AUTOMATED EXTERNAL
DEFIBRILLATOR (AED):
\$2,750.00**

**CLASS "A" FIRE ENGINE:
\$400,000.00**

**SAVING A LIFE AND PROTECT-
ING PROPERTY: PRICELESS!!**

Van Buren's fire fighters wish we never would have to use an AED to restore a normal rhythm to a person's heart-beat or rush a fire engine to someone's burning home. However, in reality we do these things on a regular basis. We are blessed to have this essential equipment to help our neighbors.

The title of this article may mimic the storyline from a popular ad campaign, but it does bring home the message that providing adequate emergency services is a very costly undertaking! The Fire Department has an extensive inventory of "tools" to assist fire fighters in protecting you, your family, and our community. Van Buren's fire fighters constantly train to provide the best possible outcome when an emergency strikes. Putting a dollar value on the tools and training is an effective way to manage emergency services but if you've ever dialed 911 to request help, you know that we are there to "make a positive difference" in your situation and cost is never an issue.

Your fire fighters are grateful to have a community and local government committed to providing tools and training necessary for adequate emergency services. We, in turn, have vowed to protect you and your families, to manage risks and minimize your insurance costs, and be there to lend a helping hand! Thank you for your continued support!

Allen Smolen
Van Buren Fire Chief

HAZ-MAT TEAM



Western Wayne County Fire Department Mutual Aid Association's
Hazardous Incident Response Team

In a society heavily dependent on numerous chemicals for everyday use, there is always a possibility that an accident can occur where specialized help is required. In Van Buren, we receive this support from the Western Wayne County Fire Department Mutual Aid Association's Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT). HIRT is a cooperative initiative of seventeen member departments from Western Wayne County and two fire departments each from Oakland and Washtenaw counties. This Haz-Mat Team responds to many types of calls, including oil and fuel spills and releases of any type of unknown chemical or substance that poses the threat. Our role as a team is to identify the substance or chemical and to contain it in an area for proper cleanup and disposal. The team also performs on-site lab testing and air monitoring.

The team is lead by Shadd Whitehead (Livonia Fire Department) and meets once per month for training and once per quarter for mock-up drills to remain current with new technology and EPA standards. With an array of vehicles and a large inventory of sophisticated equipment, the team is on call 24 hours/day, 365 days/year. This team is one of the many resources provided to ensure the safety of our community.

Curtis Lundsford, HIRT Member
Van Buren Fire Fighter

FIRE FIGHTERS WANTED!!

The Van Buren Fire Department is looking for men and women who would enjoy the challenge of serving our community as on-call (part-time) fire fighters. If you are:

- Over the age of eighteen
- A High School graduate
- Possess a valid Driver's License
- Applicants with Michigan Fire Fighting and EMS Licenses preferred

Please stop by the Public Safety Department's Records window and pick up an application.
For more information, please call (734) 699-8930.

POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING UPDATE

With the summer winding down, the Van Buren Police Department has been hard at work training to better serve you. This year, the police officers have been trained and certified in the following areas:

- **Defensive Tactics** (for both stand up encounters and ground fighting)
- **Firearms** (including the Glock pistol, M-16 rifle, 12 Gauge shotgun)
- **Taser**
- **Bean Bag** (less lethal shotgun)

During our training with the Taser, our officers not only learned what the Taser was capable of, but each officer volunteered to be shocked with the Taser so they would know what the actual effect on the subject would be. Our officers have also been trained in current law, first aid, computers, and much more. The Police Department takes great pride in its training that goes well above the state recommended training level. In addition to their regular work schedules, the men and women of the Van Buren Police Department participate in approximately fifty hours of specialized training each year.

I would like to remind all of our citizens that the Police Department's Training Section also trains civilians in the Carrying Concealed Weapons (CCW) laws that will provide you with the requirements to apply for a carry permit. All interested parties can e-mail me at dbrooks@vanburen-mi.org.

Our goal is to have the best-trained officers in the country and to maintain a safe community for all of our citizens and visitors.

Sergeant Dennis Brooks
Patrol and Training Supervisor

COMPUTER FRAUD PREVENTION *Part 1 of a 4 part series*

The term computer fraud covers a wide area of subjects. For the most part this type of crime is nothing new; it is more or less the age-old crime of one person using deceit to obtain monies or good from another. It varies only in the aspect that today's criminals are utilizing today's technology to commit the act. One of the most common and effective methods used today is called "PHISHING."

We hear a lot of talk about "Phishing" scams. This is a process in which the "scammer" sends an electronic transmission to an innocent party in an attempt to fraudulently acquire sensitive information such as passwords, usernames, and credit card information by masquerading as a trustworthy

person or business. This will typically come through an email message that appears to be from a financial institution or other trustworthy company. Within the email message will be a request for personal information regarding your identity, account information, or other pertinent information to hijack your finances. They use various tricks to get the receiver to divulge this information by stating that due to a computer malfunction your information was lost, or by claiming it is a standard records update, etc., you must provide them your personal information and/or usernames, passwords, credit card information, mother's maiden name, etc. The message will typically state that your failure to provide the information will result in a loss of membership, account access, services or monies, etc. This works because most of us do not want the goods and services interrupted or compromised. In today's society it is not at all uncommon for information to be exchanged via the internet, so we think nothing more of it. Scammers are very diligent in including graphics, logos and text very similar to, and in some cases identical to, those found and used by the actual business or company. So, by all outward appearances the email and request appear to be legitimate.

What happens after you enter the information and send the transmission to what you believe to be the legitimate business, is that information being forwarded to a server maintained by the scammer. In other words, the message does not go to the legitimate business but rather it gets forwarded straight to the bad guy who now has all the information he needs to hijack your finances. Some phishing scams are advanced enough that after the information is downloaded to his server and stored in his database, you are automatically forwarded to the actual business or company's website giving you the confidence and illusion that the message was legitimate and that you did provide the information to the proper place.

There are some things you can do to prevent falling victim to this type of fraud. Closely examine the entire message for misspelled words or obvious grammatical errors. A large number of perpetrators are from another country and not fluent in the English language. Another way to verify if the message is legitimate is to examine the "link" and or website listed in the message. Almost all major financial institutions and large companies operating within the United States will have and maintain a legitimate website. If the link or site listed in the message does not match what you know to be legitimate, do not click the link or respond to the message. The easiest and most fail proof way to avoid being a victim is to not respond to the message. No reputable financial institution

Computer Fraud Prevention

Continued on Page 8

Computer Fraud Prevention

Continued from Page 7

or business will ever ask you to provide them with personal or sensitive information through an email message or via telephone. If you have a question, contact the business or institution directly by calling a number you know to be valid and they will verify that they did not send the message and inform you of their process if they ever do need to obtain such information from you. Again, you can almost guarantee that it will not be in the form of an email. An obvious sign of a phishing attack would be if you receive the message from a company or bank that you do not maintain an account with. The best method of prevention would be to use common sense and be very skeptical of such requests contained in an email message, pop-up or instant message.

Some of the more common known Phishing scams include "E-bay", "Paypal", "Sun Trust Bank", "Charter One Bank", and "South Trust Bank." Be particularly skeptical of these. Ebay, Paypal, and Charter One have all attempted to safeguard against these and all state that they will never, under any circumstances, request such information through this means. If you get such an email from one of these institutions, it is undoubtedly a phishing scam and **DO NOT RESPOND** or follow the link contained in the message.

If you do fall victim to one of these scams, the first step should be to contact your financial institution and notify them immediately. In turn they will be able to investigate your account to see if it has been compromised and place some safeguards into the account to prevent future fraudulent activity. It is also a good idea to notify the Federal Trade Commission at spam@uce.gov who monitors, investigates and maintains a database of fraudulent internet activity for future prevention.

As mentioned at the beginning of the article, computer fraud is a wide area that entails several methods of deception and fraud. This is part one of an ongoing article to cover some of the more common frauds operating today. Keep an eye on the next few *Lake Ledger* issues as we will continue with other known scams and prevention tips as they relate to the internet.

Detective Louis J. Keele
Van Buren Public Safety

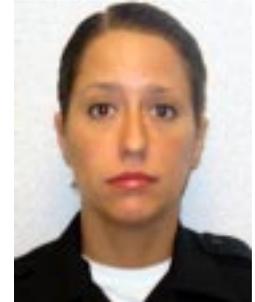
Please call 9-1-1 **ONLY** if there
is an **EMERGENCY!!**

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

PUBLIC SAFETY NEW HIRES



Alexander Schulz



Jennifer Derosia

The Van Buren Township Police Department is proud to announce the hiring of Alexander Schulz and Jennifer Derosia. On Monday, August 29, 2005 the Van Buren Township Police Department began a week long, in-house training session with two new officers who were hired to replace vacancies within the police department. The in-house training session consisted of administrative paperwork, department orientation, policy and procedure review, firearms training, defensive tactics, and first aid training. After completion of the in-house training, both officers entered a 17-week Field Training Program. The new officers are currently assigned to road patrol duties and will be assigned to 3 different Field Training Officers within the 17-week Field Training Program. The field training is an intensive program, which will test and evaluate the new officers, in real life situations, to ensure that they are ready to function as a solo police officer at the end of the 17-weeks. Every new officer who enters the Field Training Program will be evaluated and supervised by a certified Field Training Officer. The new officers are required to perform at a certain standard by the end of the 17-weeks in order to graduate the Field Training Program and continue employment with the police department. Once the new officers have graduated the Field Training Program they will be assigned to road patrol duties where they will function as a solo police officer. All new officers are placed on a one-year probationary period and are continuously supervised and evaluated.

Alexander Schulz is 25 years old and currently resides in Van Buren Township. Alexander was a member of the United States Air Force and attended Monroe Community College. Alexander has prior police dispatch experience where he was employed by the Dearborn Heights Police Department and also attended the Oakland County Police Academy.

Jennifer Derosia is 27 years old and currently resides Downriver. Jennifer attended Henry Ford Community College and was employed at Home Depot as a regional investigator. Jennifer has prior reserve police experience with the Inkster Police Department and attended the Washtenaw County Police Academy.

Sergeant M. Buckberry
Field Training Supervisor

**SENIOR ACTIVITY GARDEN
DEDICATED AT SENIOR OLYMPICS**



Standing L-R: Director Ross, County Commissioner Sullivan, County Executive Ficano and Supervisor King



Shaded bench at Shuffleboard Courts

On September 12, 2005 two new and exciting events occurred in Van Buren Township. Van Buren Township, as the host community, opened the first annual Western Wayne County Senior Olympics. Also the township officially opened the new Senior Activity Garden.

Thank you all for "Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs" in Van Buren Township.

Bruce J. Ross
Director of Recreation & Facilities



Wayne County CEO Robert Ficano welcomes Senior Olympians

A few years ago, the Township Board, Planning Commission, the Recreation Committee and the citizens of Van Buren developed plans for a park for the "young at heart." Thanks to a two million dollar Wayne County Parks Grant, these plans became a reality. The seniors of our community will be pleased to know about the wonderful amenities "their" park has to offer. A beautiful shuffle board court, versatile shade area, tables with chess and checker boards, and walking and seating areas have been provided for their enjoyment.

I would like to thank Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, Wayne County Commissioner John Sullivan, the Wayne County Commission, Van Buren Township Supervisor Cindy King, the Township Board and the citizens of Wayne County for making this park a reality.

**Faceless Horrors lay waiting for you in
the darkness of the**

Haunted Forest

**See the crazy mixed-up Dr. Evil and his
hair-raising mysteries of the mad
scientist's laboratory.**

**October 7 & 8, 14 & 15, 21 & 22, 28 &
29 (Closed Halloween night)**

7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Ticket sales 7:30 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.

\$8.00 per victim



Not recommended for small children

Located at Van Buren Park on the S. I-94 Service Drive
between Belleville and Rawsonville Roads.

Please call (734) 699-8921 in advance
for information.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

Since June of this year, all township department directors have been working on a six-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) that will eventually be forwarded to the Township Board of Trustees for consideration and adoption as part of the Township's annual budget process. A CIP is a very common and extremely valuable financial planning tool used in both the public and private sectors. City and Township governments rely on the CIP process to develop strategies and long range plans for the development of new public facilities, improvement of existing public assets to protect them from deterioration and extend their useful life, and to support and implement long-range goals.

The projects listed in a CIP are those projects the administration believes will be needed in the future for the improvement of municipal service in the community and to preserve existing municipal facilities. However, whether or not any of the projects identified in a CIP come to reality is dependent upon Township Board support, the ability to fund these projects and community need. Some items may never be implemented because they cannot be funded because others may have a greater benefit and priority, or the project is no longer a worthwhile endeavor. In other words, projects listed in a CIP are not cast in stone and are annually reevaluated as the Township Board assesses long-range capital needs.

A CIP is prepared and updated annually to add new items, delete others and maintain a project list that correctly identifies the needs and priorities of the community and administration. A well-crafted CIP forecasts capital needs and provides an ability to coordinate funding opportunities. The plan will match revenue resources with future needs and expenditures. A CIP will include projects approved for a current year and will provide estimates of future cash flow needed to implement projects for the upcoming five-year period.

Each year, every project in the CIP will be reviewed. Projects may be modified, added or deleted. Costs may be adjusted. A new year of programming is added each year and in general, future projects move one year closer to implementation with each annual plan.

The approved CIP will serve as a guide and forecast mechanism. Each project must either increase the Township's investment in its community or preserve the capital investments of the Township by addressing infrastructure development and/or ongoing maintenance, and directly benefit customer service demands and quality of life issues. The CIP should minimize inconvenience to the community by scheduling projects in logical sequence and in coordination with other adopted plans and long-range planning goals. This long-range financial planning and prioritizing enables the Township to coordinate funding efforts and establish multi-year capital projects. The CIP anticipates future expenditures and allows for the stabilization of user fees over time.

A comprehensive CIP demonstrates the Township's efforts to professionally approach capital projects.

Capital improvement projects are defined as major, non-recurring expenditures that include the construction of physical public improvements - buildings, water/sanitary lines, pedestrian/bicycle pathways, recreational facilities - that exceed \$25,000 in cost and have a useful life of three years or more. They also include the expansion or extension of existing improvements provided the cost is greater than \$25,000 and the useful life is three or more years. Other capital projects could include the purchase of major equipment such as fire apparatus again meeting the criteria of \$25,000 or more in cost and having a useful life of three or more years. Finally, eligible capital improvements could include the purchase of land for a public purpose, a professional service, or a planning, feasibility, engineering or design study related to a capital project with a cost great than \$25,000 and the results of such study having a useful life of three years or more.

The department directors have compiled an extensive list of projects for fiscal years 2005 through 2010. Among the many projects are those for which funding has been determined such as making ADA improvements to the beach at Van Buren Park, building restroom facilities at Van Buren and French Landing Parks and relocating the Van Buren Park entrance. All of these projects will be funded with the \$2 million Wayne County parks grant the township was awarded in 2004.

A number of other CIP projects relate to water and sewer needs such as sanitary sewer pump station upgrades, a wet weather equalization basin, major equipment purchases, water supply storage and sewer rehabilitation in certain parts of the township. The proposed CIP plan also includes such things as a community events reader board, digital imaging of permanent township records, improvements to French Landing Dam, playground equipment, open space acquisition and new carpet for Township Hall. While potential funding sources are identified for each project, that does not mean actual funding exists to see projects come to fruition.

Further, the previously described list of projects is only a recommendation for inclusion in the CIP. The Township Board may include all of these projects or may choose to delete projects they deem less worthwhile for the current six-year CIP or they may wish to add projects that were not included. It merits restating that the CIP is a planning tool to assist the Township Board in determining future community needs. The CIP is a dynamic document that can easily adapt to changing needs. It will always be dependent upon having the necessary funding to permit these projects to become a reality.

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

**WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY
SENIOR OLYMPICS**



2005 Western Wayne County Senior Olympians



Frances Quiney participating in the Ring Toss



Janet Oliver participating in the Ring Toss



Dan Michael participating in the Football Toss

community for this year and Northville and Northville Township will host the 2006 games.

Events were offered for all levels of physical ability, and the ages of competitors were from 54 to 87 years. Van Buren Township had 47 entrants who took home a total of 42 medals. Congratulations to all who took part!

Linda Combs
Senior Director

Hosted by State Representative
PHIL LAJOY

Monday, October 17, 2005 • 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Summit on the Park • 46000 Summit Parkway • Canton, MI

Save the Date for the
3RD ANNUAL SENIOR SUMMIT

*Seniors from Canton, Belleville and
Van Buren Township are welcome*

Monday, October 17, 2005
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Summit on the Park
46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, MI

Come and enjoy exhibits of Community Service Providers and Health Care Professionals. Free heart health, bone density and vision screenings provided by Oakwood Annapolis Hospital. The Summit will include keynote speakers discussing important topics that concern seniors. Free goodie bag for the first 400 attendants. Continental breakfast and boxed lunch provided. **There is no cost to you!!**

To get your tickets, stop by the September Days Senior Center

Van Buren Township
46425 Tyler Road
Van Buren Twp., MI 48111

If you have questions, feel free to contact the
September Days Senior Center at (734) 699-8918.

More than 200 seniors from 16 communities participated in the 1st Annual Western Wayne County Senior Olympics, September 12-16, 2005. Van Buren Township was the host

Recreation Program - Spring/Summer 2005

Tots of Fun

This program is designed for children to expand their motor and social skills in a nonstructural, safe and fun environment. Tots of Fun is simply a drop-in playtime for children ages 2-5.



Parent or guardian must accompany children at all times.

Mondays 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Van Buren Residents = \$1.00/child
Non-Residents = \$2.00/child

Youth Authority

Meets every other Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
September 21 - ongoing Ages: 13-18

Create cool new ideas for youth of 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.

Youth Cheerleading



Mondays, October 24 - December 5
(No class on Halloween)



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 NR = \$70.00

(Includes gymnastics and tumbling)

Cheerleading Clinic 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
November 2, December 14 (pay per clinic)

Tumbling Clinics 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. October 19,
November 1, December 7, December 19 (pay per clinic)

Van Buren Residents = \$25 Non-Residents = \$40

Creation Station Card Creating Class

Rubber Stamping - 6 card class - Ages: 12 & up
In this class you will create 6 cards for different occasions. Beginners are welcome!
Please bring adhesive and scissors.

Thursday, November 10
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Van Buren Residents = \$8 Non-Residents = \$11



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 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 persons 18 and older can train.
7:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Tuesdays, October 18 - November 22

Classes are held at Van Buren Park

Van Buren Resident = \$30 Non-Resident = \$35

Lights, Camera, Action... Friday Family Movie Night

Every Friday enjoy a G-PG family movie on the big screen.

FREE MOVIE!!
(All ages welcome)

Call for selection of the week or suggestions.

Snacks available or bring your own.
(please no alcoholic beverages)

Getting In The Spirit

Ages: 12 & up

This class will complete 6 Christmas cards to take home. We will be using several techniques and embellishments. Each session will be making different cards, so attend more than one for a variety of cards! Beginners are welcome.

Please bring adhesive and scissors.

Thursday, October 20
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 5
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 12
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Van Buren Residents = \$8 Non-Residents = \$11

Stamp it, Emboss it, Bleach it... Rubber Stamping - Teaching Class

This class will use different techniques to create cards and projects. Some of the techniques used, will be the 'kiss off', shaving cream, bleaching, and dry embossing. Projects will be simple enough for the beginner! Please bring scissors and adhesive.

Thursday, December 1
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Van Buren Residents = \$8 Non-Residents = \$11



Monet Mondays

Make It and Take It



**Mondays: October 17, November 7,
November 21, December 5**

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Make funky fun art projects, create diverse foods, use your imagination all while meeting new friends. The best part is that you can take your creations home.

Please sign up at least one week prior to each date so we can plan accordingly.

Van Buren Resident = \$50 Non-Resident = \$65

Snowmobile Safety

Who needs to take a snowmobile safety course?

- A person who is at least 12 but less than 17 years of age operating a snowmobile without direct supervision of a person 21 years of age or older must have in their immediate possession a valid snowmobile safety certificate.
- A person who is at least 12 but less than 17 years of age may not cross a highway or street without having a valid snowmobile safety certificate in their immediate possession.

Registration for the class starts Monday, November 28. Receive student reading material when you register. This information is for you to read and complete the exercises at the end of each chapter.

Come to the one time class for testing on **Tuesday, December 13, 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Van Buren Resident = \$15 Non-Resident = \$20
Non-Refundable Fee

(Next class January 17. Register January 3)

Holiday Helpers Workshop I, II, & III

Ages: 5 - 12

Workshop I - Monday, December 19

Workshop 2 - Tuesday, December 20

Workshop 3 - Wednesday, December 21

5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Van Buren Resident = \$10 per child/per day
Non-Resident = \$15 per child/per day

Children will make a selection of crafts to give to friends and family members, make a snack and watch a movie. This is a perfect opportunity for parents to do last minute shopping or baking for the holidays. Space is limited.



2005 Holiday Arts & Crafts Show

Saturday, December 3, 2005
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Van Buren Township Community Center
46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Twp, MI 48111

- **ALL CRAFTS MUST BE HANDMADE**
(Non-handmade items will not be allowed)
- Electricity is not provided
- Crafters must provide their own display setup
- Setup begins Friday, December 2, 2005,
 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday setup begins at 8:00 a.m.
- Crafters are expected to stay until 3:00 p.m.
- Call for space availability before sending in payment
- Send 2 pictures of your display
- Checks are payable to Van Buren Township
- Call (734) 699-8921 for more information

8'x 8' Space = \$20 bring your own table
 \$25 - 6 ft. table supplied

8'x 10' Space = \$25 bring your own table
 \$30 - 6 ft. table supplied

10'x 10' Space = \$30 bring your own table
 \$35 - 6 ft. table supplied

\$5.00 for each additional table

Turkey Tom's Treasure Hunt



Saturday, November 12



Turkey Tom has lost his treasure at Van Buren Park and he needs your help to find it. Come out to Van Buren Park and find as many gold coins as you can. Collect the coins and win a prize. One prize per person and prizes will vary.

Age Groups and times are as follows:

- Walking Toddlers - 4 years** = 10:00 - 10:10 a.m.
- 5 - 7 years** = 10:10 - 10:20 a.m.
- 8 - 10 years** = 10:20 - 10:30 a.m.

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



Trick-or-Treat Night at Township Hall



Thursday, October 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Wear your costumes and go trick or treating safely. Admission is free! Trick-or-Treat from room to room at Township Hall. Everyone must enter through the main door. If your business is interested in donating or passing out treats, please call (734) 699-8921.



Holiday Lights Contest



It's that time again to brighten the outside of your home for the holidays.

Deck your home with lights of many... "Fa La La La La - La La La La."

Registration forms due by **Wednesday, December 7**

Judging will take place **Thursday, December 15**
 We will be randomly visiting the outside of your home on this evening. Please have your holiday lights on display. Winner will be called the following day.

**** Must be a Van Buren Township resident****

**** Winner receives ****

Home photo in local paper and a \$50 gift certificate to Flowers by Katherine Rose.

Whooo Goes There?

Nature Programs

Presented by Wayne County Naturalist

Saturday, November 5
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Learn about Michigan owls and their special adaptations that allow them to be great hunters. Listen to and imitate owl calls, dissect owl pellets and create a unique owl craft to take home.

Ages: 6-10

Van Buren Resident = \$3 Non-Resident = \$5
Pre-Register for this event.
(more nature programs to come)

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. Please call Patti Rukkila for class information at (734) 476-1218.

Ongoing, Mondays & Wednesdays

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (Regular) (childcare \$2.00)
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. (Lite Jazzercise)
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Regular)

Ongoing, Tuesdays (Step)

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Ongoing, Thursdays (Regular)

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Ongoing, Fridays

6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. (Cardio-quick)

Ongoing, Saturdays

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. (Circuit)

4 week EFT (electronic funds transfer) = \$36.00
8 week (cash or check) = \$88.00
Walk-in = \$9.00



Register Early!

Register for a program at least one week prior to the start of class. This will help eliminate the need to cancel class due to low enrollment. Reserve your spot today!

Refund Policy

Patron satisfaction is our most important objective. Full refunds will be issued if the Recreation Department cancels a program. Refunds will be given **during the first week of the class/program ONLY.** **NO refunds** after one week of classes starting. A \$10.00 administrative fee per person, per program, per season, will be charged for all refunds requested by the participant. Credit vouchers are another opportunity for a refund. \$10.00 administrative fee is waived for credit vouchers. Refunds or reduction of fees will not be given for classes missed by the participant. Refunds will be received in the mail within 4-6 weeks. No refunds for one-day programs, community events, and trips.

"Making Work Pay" Employability Skills Workshop

Presented by Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department & Strategic Transitions Consulting LLC.

Program Goals: This program offers a unique blend of empowerment coaching and employability skills for individuals seeking to gain skills required to prepare for the workplace.

Topics May Include: Career Planning & Self Assessment, Job Search Techniques, Writing Winning Resumes and Cover Letters, and Effective Interviewing.

Wednesdays (4 week sessions)

November 2-23
November 30 - December 21

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Van Buren Resident = \$85 Non-Resident = \$100
(Fee includes workbook)

Saturday One Day Workshops

November 5 or 19

9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Van Buren Resident = \$85 Non-Resident = \$100
(Fee includes workbook)

American/Latin Combo Dance Lessons

Learn the basics of Beginning Ballroom Dancing.
American: Foxtrot, Waltz, Swing or Disco Hustle.
Latin: Cha-Cha, Tango, Mambo, Rumba, and others.

Wednesdays, November 9 - December 14
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

(6 week class) Couples Rates:

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

(6 week class) Singles Rates:

Van Buren Resident = \$30 Non-Resident = \$45

**** Partners are not required ****

Registration/Waiver Form

Participant's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Age, if under 18 _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

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

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Phone</i>
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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

Christmas Is Coming!

Belleville Area Museum

Festival of Holiday Trees

November 29 - December 29, 2005

December will bring the Museum's 10th Annual Festival of Holiday Trees. The museum will be filled with Christmas trees and wreaths decorated by individuals and community organizations such as churches, schools, businesses, and service groups. If you or your organization would like to take part, please call the museum at (734) 697-1944.

Upcoming Holiday Events

At the Belleville Area Museum

- Dec. 2 City of Belleville
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies
Museum Open 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Dec. 3 Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce
Christmas Parade
(Museum open for extended hours
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
- Dec. 17 **Children's Christmas Ornament Workshops**
10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

Centennial Booklet to Mark City's 100th Anniversary

The City of Belleville will celebrate its 100th anniversary at the Centennial Harvest Fest on Saturday, October 8. Events will include a morning parade, a park dedication, and day-long, old-fashioned activities at the Belleville Area Museum and Fred C. Fischer Library. The festivities will conclude at the Belleville First United Methodist Church with an evening Centennial Dinner and musical performance entitled "1900-1905: A Musical Newscast."

Also at the Centennial Harvest Fest, a commemorative booklet will be available for the first time. This keepsake booklet will contain a brief history of the communities of Belleville and Van Buren and Sumpter Townships, as well as sections on the history of community education, religion, and various civic organizations. Several vintage photographs, as well as current photos of the community, will be included.

The souvenir Centennial booklet will be for sale at the Belleville Area Museum.

Trick or Treat

**Monday, October 31
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

Main Street, Belleville

*Sponsored by the
Belleville Central Business Community*

You are invited to the October meeting of the Belleville Area Historical Society

A tour of the **Ypsilanti Fire Museum**
Michigan Antique Fire Equipment Preservation Group
110 W. Cross Street, Ypsilanti

**Thursday, October 20, 2005
Tour begins at 6:00 p.m.**

Built in 1898, the museum has a unique collection of fire trucks, equipment, and artifacts on display. We will have a guided tour of the original museum as well as the beautiful, new addition!

To join our tour, please call the Belleville Area Museum at (734) 697-1944.

November Lecture Series on

"Urban Art"

Co-sponsored by the
Belleville Area Council for the Arts
Belleville Area Historical Society
Friends of the Fred C. Fischer Library

- November 3 - **Art in the Stations**
- November 10 - **Preservation Wayne**
- November 17 - **Black Commercial Art**

All programs will take place at 7:00 p.m.
At the Belleville Area Museum
405 Main Street, Belleville

*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 - 9, Fri & Sat 10 - 5

Moving Forward

Since the library expanded in 1992, it has experienced many exciting changes - including extraordinary growth in the collection, in programs, in technology, in overall usage, and even in hours open to the public. Clearly, we have achieved and exceeded all our past goals. But the future beckons. Our population continues to grow, technology rushes forward, the very idea of what a library is continues to evolve. To continue our forward path, the Tri-Community Library Committee committed to a strategic planning process in the Fall of 2004. We wanted guidance in how to best make our popular and much-loved library a real focal point, a true community center, a place that all people can come to for reliable information. We knew we needed more space, but we also needed to find out exactly what kind of space our community needed.

The staff and Committee worked hard to develop a strategic plan for the next four years. A survey was conducted and focus groups sponsored. We received opinions, suggestions, wants, needs, and congratulatory comments. What we discovered is that people truly love this library, but are very aware of its shortcomings. As one person wrote on a questionnaire, "Love the library, but it needs more space."

The plan is the product of all that we undertook, discussed, and learned about our present library. It offers a glimpse of what the library could be. It sets realistic goals, with specific objectives and measurements for achieving them. We take seriously our new mission "to be our community's gateway to information" and are eagerly awaiting the implementation of the plan. Highlights include:

Goal 1: We will provide a library building that will embrace the 21st century needs of our community.

Objective 1-1: Provide an inviting and enriching atmosphere for our diverse community's pursuit of information.

Objective 1-2: Complete and publicize the results of a space needs assessment of the existing building.

Objective 1-3: Begin a campaign for a new or upgraded facility based on the recommendations of the needs assessment.

Goal 2: We will enhance and promote state of the art information technology that serves our diverse community.

Objective 2-1: Increase the number and maximize the use of the public access computers.

Objective 2-2: Explore Internet filtering systems and act on recommendations.

Objective 2-3: Improve the library's website.

Objective 2-4: Install computer peripherals/software to enhance use.

Goal 3: We will offer an extensive collection of materials that are current and accessible.

Objective 3-1: Increase the number and quality of materials in the collection.

Objective 3-2: Improve the selection and acquisitions processes.

Goal 4: We will hire and support our staff so that they can better meet the information needs of our customers.

Objective 4-1: Hire another professional librarian to assist in collection development and public services.

Objective 4-2: Hire an Internet technical support staff member.

Objective 4-3: Consider options for staffing the children's room during peak times.

Objective 4-4: Align existing personnel expectations with the goals and activities of the long-range plan.

Goal 5: We will tailor library services and programs to meet the current and future needs of our customers.

Objective 5-1: Sponsor programs and special events for each age group each year.

Objective 5-2: Explore need for delivery service for shut-ins.

Moving Forward

Continued on Page 18

Moving Forward

Continued from Page 17

Objective 5-3: Increase awareness by teachers and students of special library services, including class visits, reserve collections, teacher cards, and new reader incentives.

Objective 5-4: Install and implement a self-checkout system.

Goal 6: We will maintain a communication system that informs all community residents about our library services and programs.

Objective 6-1: Increase patron awareness of library services and programs.

Objective 6-2: Install a new telephone system with messaging capabilities.

Goal 7: We will implement library routines, policies, and procedures to accommodate the above goals and activities.

Objective 7-1: Reconsider the library's establishment and governance.

Objective 7-2: Review current sources of funding and explore alternatives or supplements.

Objective 7-3: Better align the library's budget with those of participating governmental units.

Objective 7-4: Review statewide standards for quality service for libraries annually.

The overwhelming conclusion of the strategic plan was that we need a much bigger library. We need more books, more audiobooks, more DVD's, more computers, more programming space, public meeting rooms, and some quiet areas. The community also wants a cafe. Our professional space needs assessment also shows the need for a much larger facility to meet current and future library needs. This document is also available online.

Much needs to be done before a new library will be built. The location will need to be determined, and community awareness will need to be raised. Please contact library director Debbie Green at (734) 699-3291 for further information.

Money Matters

The October 2005 - September 2006 budget, as recommended by the Tri-Community Library Committee, takes us further down the road toward the much-improved library that our community needs and desires.

This budget allows us to work on our mission as our *community's gateway to information*. It allows us to meet our stated values of providing diverse services and materials,

providing accurate information in a respectful and welcoming manner, providing equal access to our resources and collections, and providing a place for the enrichment of people of all ages.

Specific improvements include: a major increase in the books and materials budget, the addition of five more public Internet computers, a plan to increase public awareness of the many services we offer, more efficient and timely acquisition of new materials, a better maintained building, and the means to continue laying the groundwork for a new facility.

These improvements are necessary. We are currently in the bottom 25% nationally in terms of collection size for our population, and our recent *Space Needs Assessment* concluded that we need a building at least four times as large in the future while the new state standards require a building three times as big just for our current population. See our website at www.belleville.lib.mi.us for the full document.

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, November 5 from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Story Times: Ages 3 1/2 - 6
Nov. 14 - Dec. 12, Mondays at 6:00 p.m.
Nov. 14 - Dec. 12, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 15 - Dec. 13, Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Holiday Toddler Times: Ages 2 - 3 1/2
Nov. 16 - Dec. 14, Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
Nov. 16 - Dec. 14, Wednesdays at 11:15 a.m.

**Registration for story and toddler times begins
Monday, October 31.**

Genealogy Workshop
Nov. 2, Introduction to Genealogy, 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 9, Vital Records, 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 16, Internet Tools, 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 19, Tour of Burton Historical Library, Afternoon

**Registration for this free program begins
Monday, October 10.**

For further information, please contact the Fred C. Fischer Library at (734) 699-3291.

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) 699-0265

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.**

**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 account. Complete the attached form, return it, and start enjoying the following benefits:

- No checks to write
- No postage to pay
- No trip to Township Hall to pay your bill
- No late penalties

You will continue to receive a water billing statement 3 weeks before the payment is due. Your payment will be automatically withdrawn from your designated bank account on your regular bill due date.

You may withdraw from the Automatic Bill Payment Program at any time by giving the Water Department a written 2-week notice.

Please continue to make payments on your water bill until you receive a water bill marked with the words, "Auto Withdrawal-Do Not Pay."

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

Sharry A. Budd
Township Treasurer

(cut and mail form)

Customer Account Information

Last Name First Name

Mailing Address:

Phone(s) day: evening:

Banking Information

Name of Financial Institution:

Account Number:

Savings Checking

Water Account Information

Service Address(s):

Please attach a voided check or savings deposit slip that includes the financial institution name, routing number, and account number and mail it with this form to:

**Automatic Payment Plan
Van Buren Water Department
46425 Tyler Road
Van Buren Twp., MI 48111**

I authorize the Van Buren Township Water Department to deduct my payment from the designated account listed above. I understand that I can discontinue this payment service at any time by notifying the Van Buren Township Water Department in writing with a 2-week notice. I understand that if my account has been closed without advance written notice to the Water Department, my payment will be treated similarly to a check with insufficient funds and the payment will be reversed and late penalties will be applied to my account.

Customer Signature (This form cannot be processed without your signature)

Signature Date



**Belleville
Centennial
Harvest Fest
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8th**



Wear Your History Proudly!
Full-color Centennial buttons
available at the Chamber,
City Hall and Library.
\$2.00 Each
(Proceeds go to CBC programs)

**Start the day with a parade
down Main St. at 10am!**

Antique buggies, bands, farm equipment,
floats & more!

*See map on back for parade route.
Contact Janet Millard at 697-7151
if you would like to participate in the Harvest Fest Parade.*

**Bring the kids and enjoy
100 years of history,
a bountiful harvest,
a parade, music, dancing
& lots of old-time activities!**

Scheduled Activities

Farmer's Market	8:30am-4pm	4th St. Parking Lot
Brick Dedication	11am	Historical Museum
Nickel Dig	1-2pm	Lawn of Historical Museum
Pie Eating Contest	2-3pm	Lawn of Historical Museum
Fiddlers ReStrung & Dancing	2-4pm	4th St. in Front of Library
Park Dedication / Time Capsule	3pm	Doane's Landing
Centennial Dinner & Celebration	5:30pm	1st United Methodist Church
"1900-1905: A Musical Newscast"	7pm	1st United Methodist Church

**Ongoing Activities
from 11-4pm**

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Candle Dipping | Lace Making |
| Butter Churning | Petting Farm |
| Indian Corn Jewelry | Pony Rides |
| Apple Peeling | Corn Shelling |
| Face Painting | Felt Making |
| Scavenger Hunt | Quilting |
| Wood Carving | Spinning |
| Make & Take Craft | Quilt Raffle |

Lunch: soup, chili, hotdogs, desserts

**Centennial Dinner
& Celebration**



Live music, awards, recognition of community
residents, and mouth watering ham!

**5:30 pm at the
First United Methodist Church**
"1900-1905: A Musical Newscast"
will be presented upstairs following dinner

**ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY
\$15 per person**

Tickets available through September 30th
at Belleville City Hall, First United Methodist Church,
Fred C. Fischer Library, Belleville Area Museum, and
Chamber of Commerce.

MAINTAINING YOUR STORM WATER POND



Storm Water Pond

Storm water ponds are typically located where new residential, commercial, and industrial centers are developed. New development replaces open land and forest with impervious surfaces such as parking lots, roads and rooftops. As storm water runs off these impervious surfaces it enters streams and rivers at a much faster rate, causing stream bank erosion and possible flooding downstream. Storm water ponds help to control potential flooding and improve water quality by detaining the storm water before it enters our streams and rivers.

Homeowners' Associations and business owners are entirely responsible for maintaining their storm water ponds. The Township does not maintain these ponds, and does not have any funding to take over maintenance of these ponds. Nevertheless, the ponds require periodic maintenance to ensure that they function properly and look attractive. Poorly maintained basins, regardless of their design, lose their ability both to control flooding on private property and prevent pollutants like sediments, fertilizers and pesticides from entering the creeks and streams; and they can become an eyesore with uncontrolled plant growth and trash accumulation.

If you live in a newer residential development or own your own business, you should make sure you know how the storm water pond works and who is taking care of the maintenance. Some of the regular maintenance items that need to be conducted include:

- Inspect for debris (trash) and clean it out (2-3 times/year)
- Rake out dead vegetation (Annually)
- Inspect the inlets and outlets to ensure they are not obstructed (Annually)
- Inspect for erosion on banks and replant vegetation on eroded slopes (Annually)

- Remove undesirable plants such as reed grass and purple loosestrife (Annually)
- Inspect for sediment accumulation and dredge the pond as necessary (Every 5-10 years)

For more information about storm water ponds and maintenance requirements, you can contact the Environmental Department at (734) 699-8913 or dswallow@vanburen-mi.org.

Dan Swallow
Environmental Director

ANNUAL FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING PROGRAM

In addition to our year-round maintenance such as water main valve and hydrant repairs, sanitary sewer lift station preventative maintenance, sanitary sewer manhole inspections and sewer cleaning, customer service requests, meter reading, and inspections of installations of water and sewer taps, the Water & Sewer Department began its annual hydrant flushing and winterizing program in early September.

The hydrant flushing program is an important maintenance activity of the Department. Every fall, each of the approximately 1,520 hydrants in the township is operated to verify that the hydrant is in good operating condition. Minor preventative maintenance such as greasing the operating nut and making sure the fire hose nozzle caps can be removed easily in an emergency are also part of the program. Needed repairs are identified and scheduled for completion. We also make sure that the water in the barrel is pumped out so that the hydrant does not freeze and become inoperable in the winter.

We would like to remind our customers that a fire hydrant cannot be operated without a permit by any person other than Water Department or Fire Department personnel. It is extremely important that we know which hydrants have been opened so that we can re-check after it is used to be sure it is still operating properly.

Because fire hydrants and water mains are damaged by improper use of the hydrant, we also strictly limit the purposes for which we will issue a hydrant use permit. Therefore we do not issue hydrant use permits for lawn irrigation, filling pools, or fund-raising car washes. Any person or company opening a fire hydrant without a permit will be prosecuted.

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 3' x 3' bundles. Cardboard boxes are not acceptable rubbish containers.

****No pizza boxes****

Brunch with Santa

Sunday, December 18
11:00 a.m.



at
Van Buren Township Hall



Cost:

- Adults = \$10 (Must register in advance)
- Children 3 & up = \$5 (special kid's buffet)
- Seniors = \$5
- Children under 3 = FREE

Ho! Ho! Ho! Here comes Santa Claus and Ms. Claus to the Van Buren Township Hall. Brunch will be buffet style. After brunch Ms. Claus will read her favorite Christmas story for all the boys and girls.

Bring your letters to Santa. Pictures \$3.

There are a limited number of seats available. Must register in advance.

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

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

John Herman

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:

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Community Services Department

Charter Township of Van Buren

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