

Van Buren Lake Ledger

"Your link to recreational leisure activities and community news"

Volume III: Spring/Summer 2008

- *Recreation Programs*
- *Parks and Lake*
- *September Days Seniors*
- *Belleville Area Museum*
- *Fred C. Fischer Library*
- *Community News*
- *Trash and Recycle*
- *Public Safety*



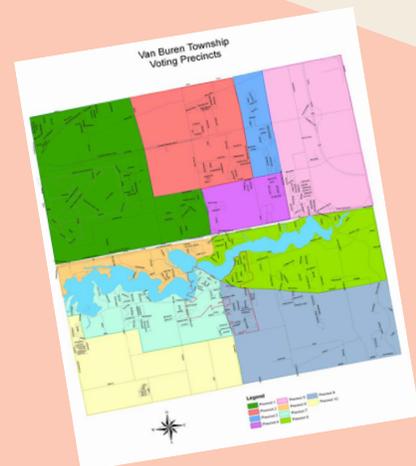
"Creating Community
in Van Buren Township"

CLERK'S OFFICE NEWS AND VOTING PRECINCT CHANGES

Last fall I discussed that I and my staff would be reviewing our precinct information and maps in preparation for changing precinct boundaries and locations for 2008 and beyond. The purpose of changing precinct boundaries is to achieve a better balance of voters per precinct based on growth in the last fifteen years. The maximum number of voters per precinct is 2,999.

I wanted to let you all know that the precinct changes have been completed. If you voted in the November 2007 Community College Election you had an opportunity to see the new precinct boundaries for the first time. At that time the changes were to be effective February 7, 2008, however, our changes were put on hold due by the Bureau of Elections due to the Presidential Primary Election in January 2008.

VOTING PRECINCT CHANGES
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Visit our website at: www.vanburen-mi.org



Van Buren Township Directory

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
Lianne Clair Phillip Hart Jeffrey Jahr Walter Rochowiak Trustees	699-8910

Township Departments

Public Safety

Jerry Champagne, Director of Public Safety	699-8930
Mark Nicholai, Fire Chief	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
Todd Knepper, Director of Public Works	699-8944
Ordinance Enforcement	699-8913

Community Services

Bruce Ross, Director of Parks & Recreation	699-8926
Parks & Recreation	699-8921
Cable	699-8926
Linda Combs, Senior Director	699-8918
September Days Senior Center	699-8918

Lake Ledger

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Editor:

Christina Harman
Community Services Department

Email Directory

To contact township departments via email please visit our website at www.vanburen-mi.org, go to "Departments" and select the department you desire to obtain the email directory.

Township Meetings

Board Meetings:

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

Work Study Meetings:

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

Board of Zoning Appeals:

2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Cable Commission:

No longer meets regularly

Downtown Development Authority:

2nd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.

Endowment Committee:

2nd Tuesday 1:00 p.m.

Environmental Commission:

2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

LDFA:

2nd Tuesday 2:00 p.m.

Planning Commission:

2nd & 4th Wednesdays 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 & December, changes will be posted)

Water/Sewer Commission:

4th Monday 7:00 p.m.

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Residents of Van Buren Township

Annual Drive-In Dog Clinic

Saturday, May 10, 2008 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Van Buren Township Water/Sewer Building, 46425 Tyler Road
Follow the signs from Tyler Road near Township Hall

Fees:

- One Year Rabies Vaccination = \$16
- One Year Distemper Vaccination = \$27
- One Year Dog License = \$5
- Senior Citizen Cost of Dog License = \$2.50

Dr. Graf and his staff from the Belleville Animal Hospital will be on site to administer all vaccines.

Please contact the Treasurer's Office if you have any questions at (734) 699-8903.

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

It is only appropriate to commence the 2007 State of the Township address with a heartfelt "thank you" to the voters in Van Buren who supported a one mill increase in public safety millage. Your support to pay more taxes for public safety services will mean improved emergency services. The Public Safety Director, men and women of the Public Safety Department and the Board of Trustees are dedicated to improving police, fire and emergency dispatch services and we will, over the next several months, quantify how the use of millage funding was used to achieve these advancements. Your support of the millage during this "one state recession" that continues to exist in Michigan is extraordinary and our debt of gratitude for your support is genuine.

In August, voters approved increasing public safety millage from the long standing three mills to four mills for a period of five years to commence with the 2007 tax collection which funds the 2008 calendar/fiscal year of department operations. The extra mill will provide the township approximately \$1.3 million in additional funding to be specifically used for public safety services. The Van Buren Public Safety Department is comprised of police, fire, emergency dispatch, emergency management and animal control services. The 2008 Public Safety Department budget totals \$8,605,940 of which millage revenues to support operations is \$4,277,690 with the remainder of funding coming from other General Fund revenues and transfers from Landfill Fund reserves.

In the course of the campaign you were told support for the millage would result in improved visibility of police officers throughout the community. We have hired four additional police officers so that more officers may be deployed in the township. We are expanding from our current two north/south zones system with a "floater" unit that generally patrols the Belleville Road/I-94 commercial corridor to four zones, northeast/west and southeast/west deployment supported by the "floater" unit. These four zone patrols, augmented by the traffic unit, will result in the officers of the Department being more visible and will permit law enforcement to proactively address crime with increased patrols instead of responding in a reactive manner in which we arrive at the scene after a crime has been committed. The formation of a Special Investigations Unit, for which four more officers are anticipated to be hired in early 2008, will provide another level of positive and proactive response.

During the campaign, we also said that instead of our historic use of "paid call" fire fighters who respond to an emergency from home to the station and then to the scene, we would add an additional duty crew to the current 20-hour crew that has been in place for the past few years. Today, the township has two 24-hour 7 day per week duty crews, one assigned to each fire station. Although only in service less than three weeks (as of the

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STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP
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writing of this narrative), the department has been able to reduce response times in the south end of the township from an average of eight minutes to 6.4 minutes, nearly a two minute reduction; and in the north side, response times have been reduced from an average 6.4 minutes to 5.3 minutes, a 1 minute reduction. If a reduction in response times by one or two minutes seems miniscule to you, try to imagine a loved one experiencing a heart attack, or your home being engulfed in flames. Every minute counts. We know that and we are working hard to further reduce the time it takes to get to an emergency scene.

We have hired four additional paid call fire fighters, will soon be acquiring a rescue engine and special operations vehicle at a cost of about \$853,000 and are researching other methods by which to further improve upon fire services; again improvements made possible because you said "yes."

In 2008, we anticipate hiring one additional full-time emergency dispatcher which means that Van Buren Dispatch should be staffed with at minimum two dispatchers on a 24/7 basis; something we have not been able to do on a routine basis in the past. Further, we will be using E-9-1-1 funds, a fee assessed on your telephone service, to pay for this position.

As you know, the township recently completed construction of new Fire Station #1 at the corner of Sumpter and Hull Roads. The location of the station, south of the rail tracks and outside Downtown Belleville, has also helped in improving response times in the south side of the township. The cost of this \$3.4 million, 12,000 square foot facility is being financed with a 15-year bond that was issued in 2006 to finance the cost of the station and the purchase of 42 acres of vacant property across from Township Hall. The two new fire stations, the DDA-financed Belleville Road Station #2 and Fire Station #1 in the south side should serve the township well for the next several years and completes our facilities improvements for the fire division of public safety.

In the Police Division, modest renovations were made to the Men's Locker Room and Squad Room to provide needed space for police personnel. At a cost of less than \$30,000 these improvements including new lockers for both male and female officers were made possible through Downtown Development Authority funding.

Currently, Van Buren Township is estimated to have a population of 27,359 residents (U.S. Census Bureau; Claritas, Inc. 2006), an increase of about 16% over the 2000 U.S. Biennial Census. The South Side Master Land Use Plan which was completed in late 2007 indicates approximately 18,759 of our residents live north of Belleville Lake and 8,600 live in the south side of Van Buren.

While there were several new faces at Township Hall in 2007, the only staffing increases that occurred were in the Public Safety Department, again, as a result of passage of the millage, with the township employing a total of 148 full time and part time employees, not including seasonal employees, representing just over 1/2% of the township's population. Of the township's 148

employees, 102 are assigned to the Public Safety Department with several police officers cross trained in fire fighting. Three positions, one in the Developmental Services and two in the DPW are vacant and will remain so for the time being.

Todd Knepper was hired as DPW Director, replacing Patti Duha who resigned to accept the position of Finance Director for the City of Taylor. Officer Michael Papin was promoted to Sergeant and Lynette Jordan was promoted from an account clerk's position in Developmental Services to Senior Coordinator for the September Days Senior Center. Noah Caincross was promoted from a Water Worker to Equipment Operator in the DPW Department and part-time employees Elizabeth Boyer, Dorothy Laurence, Paul Binert, Hannah Gatt, Tiffany Lynn, James O'Keefe and David Ebersole were hired in the Senior Center, Recreation and Cable Departments. New hires in the Public Safety Department included police officers Patrick Wehrman, Chris Herrick, Adam Lewis, Derek Perez and Jessica Shippe, dispatcher Dana Schaefer and fire fighters Ryan McCormick, Todd Sorrell, Timothy Queen, Richard Ringer and Bruce Van Gemert.

The Township Board is appreciative of our employee unions with whom we were able to ratify several collective bargaining agreements in 2007; among them the AFSCME contract and those of the Police Officers Labor Council for Command Officers as well as the contract for POLC Patrol Officers and Dispatchers. Management is in contract talks with the Michigan Association of Fire Fighters.

In May 2007, the Public Safety Department held its second annual Awards Ceremony which honored Detective Robert Greene as the Department's Officer of the Year, Firefighter Richard Hamill as Firefighter of the Year, and Robert Martin as Civilian Employee of the Year. This event also gave the Department the opportunity to unveil our Honor Guard and Public Safety Chaplains program. The Department also commenced the Citizens Fire Academy and Fire & Emergency Services Explorer Program in 2007.

Van Buren Township was the first of the three Belleville Area Communities to approve the Fred C. Fischer District Library Agreement which is a precursor to the library becoming a separate entity from Wayne County. The creation of a "district library" would provide the Fischer Library with an autonomous governing body separate from Wayne County and the communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren as well as a dedicated source of funding for operational and capital improvements. Support for this concept of library governance must be made by you, the voters, first in voting to elect a District Library Board and second, to vote for a dedicated source of funding, at minimum .7 mill as noted in the current proposed District Library Agreement. If Belleville and Sumpter approve the Library Agreement, a provisional board would be established with Van Buren appointing four individuals to serve, Belleville appointing one and Sumpter appointing two people to complete the 7-member provisional board. The appointed provisional board would remain in place until voters approved an elected 7-member District Library Board on a district-wide basis. The elected Board would remain in

place provided voters approve the dedicated millage for library operations. Lack of voter support would result in the elected Board disbanding and the Fred C. Fischer Library continuing to operate as it does today.

Why consider forming a District Library? A few years ago, library staff commenced a study to determine how the community views the services provided by the Fred C. Fischer Library. Not surprisingly, they found that residents value library services and believe improvements are necessary, and in some cases long overdue. Among the areas in need of enhancement are a larger materials (books, periodicals, audio/video materials, electronics, etc.) collection and an improved facility. It appears the most effective and expedient means to achieve these improvements is through the creation of a district library. Further, the study indicated other cost efficiencies may be realized if the Fischer Library is a separate entity from Wayne County and not subject to County administrative costs over which the local communities have no control. Finally, the thought is that a dedicated Library Board whose sole focus is the Fischer Library would be better poised to address operational and capital needs and communicate those needs to the community.

If voters support the formation of a district library with its elected board and voter-approved millage, Van Buren would no longer contribute from its General Fund monies for library operations as library revenues would come from the millage. Yes, this means the township would have those funds to use in other ways - parks/recreation, senior services, public safety, etc.; conversely it also means the library would operate as a separate entity from the communities with the ability to chart its own destiny. Again, when or if this comes to reality will be determined by the governing bodies of Belleville and Sumpter and you, the voting public.

Van Buren, after considerable deliberation about the economic benefit of belonging to yet another regional watershed, approved becoming a member of the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds and appointed Trustee Clair as the township's representative with Deputy Director of Planning & Economic Development Dan Swallow serving as an alternate. The goal of the Alliance is to foster regional cooperation in addressing mutual environmental issues facing the Downriver watershed, as well as communicating with one voice to the State of Michigan with regard to permitting and other requirements that may be imposed upon the communities.

Work continued on the township's equalization storage basin and Haggerty Road forced sewer main. This project started in 2007 and is expected to be complete in 2008. The purpose for constructing this 1.2 million gallon basin is to store wet weather flows during significant wet weather events to prevent basement flooding and to guard against the township exceeding its contractual capacities in the various sewer systems to which it belongs. The forced main will be used to transport flows to the basin for eventual discharge into the South Huron Valley Utility System. The cost for this almost \$16 million project is being financed with a State of Michigan "revolving fund" loan with a 1.625% interest rate.

The township continued to deploy the \$2.6 million automatic water meter reading system throughout the township. This project will replace approximately 7,000 industrial, commercial and residential water meters in the township with meters that can be read through wireless technology with a goal of achieving more accurate readings, to reduce manpower spent manually reading meters and to more quickly detect anomalies (leaks, etc.) in readings. The project is expected to be completed in 2008.

Economic development in Van Buren is similar to that of southeast Michigan. Growth has slowed considerably and in the opinion of this writer, that slow down has been a welcome respite from the past frenetic years. Staff has had an opportunity to address revisions to ordinances such as the Planned Residential Development Ordinance through which several developments were approved in the past few years. We have been able to devote effort toward a thoughtful, comprehensive revision of the township's Master Land Use Plan with an emphasis on the south side of the township and we've been able to devote attention to township projects such as improving upon the methods by which we track ordinance complaints, utilizing such tools as GIS and the placing of laptops in the field for use by employees who investigate these types of matters.

Mindful of the reality that economic growth often creates jobs, the Board approved three tax abatements in 2007; Wellington Industries, Hannan Road, received a 7-year, 50% abatement, NEAPCO, Haggerty Road, received an 11-year, 50% abatement and DieNamic, Haggerty Road, received a 4-year, 50% abatement. All of these abatements were for personal property, i.e. equipment these companies purchased, with no abatements being granted on real property, i.e. the land and buildings in which these companies will operate. These companies are expected to infuse money into the community with employees eating in local restaurants, shopping at area stores, etc., and equally important, add more than 300 new jobs to the community with our hope that many of them will be filled by township residents. Currently, the following companies have existing abatements: Visteon, 6 years remaining on a 12-year abatement; Ricardo, 1 year remaining on the abatement, Grand River Printing, 2008 is the last year in which the abatement would be made and Statewide Boring and Machine for which four years of a 6-year abatement remains. While some may argue the wisdom in granting abatements, we believe we have been wise to award abatements to these companies as they have improved upon our tax base and provided needed employment to Van Buren and the region.

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

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

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP
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In the retail sector development interest is active. Work did start on Culver's Restaurant and Fifth Third Bank and a new Taco Bell opened, all of these on Belleville Road. A State Farm insurance office opened on Rawsonville Road as did an AT&T store. Millennium Wireless Tech opened in the Belleville Road Murray's Plaza with Denso and Rita's Designs opening along Haggerty Road. Other new businesses include Maddgear, Belleville Road, Woodmaster Millworks, Savage Road and Stay Ready Design Studio on the S. I-94 Service Drive. Six new cell towers were erected in 2007.

Unfortunately, 2007 also saw the closing of the Farmer Jack with the former Taco Bell Restaurant on a Farmer Jack outlot also vacant. While the Board approved the special use application for Steeplechase, a residential development on Bog Road, and the development of the Bedford Cove residential subdivision on West Huron River Drive, no construction has occurred as yet and may not due to the dire Michigan economy. In Van Buren, there were 102 foreclosures in 2007 and one can find houses for sale throughout the township.

In 2001, 4,669 new house/condo, electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits were issued by the Developmental Services Department. In 2004, 4,889 permits were issued. In 2007, most likely as a result of Michigan's economy, only 2,046 permits were issued with 73 of those being for new houses/condos. General Fund revenues realized a corresponding downturn of about \$300,000 in 2007 as compared to 2005.

Improvements to Van Buren Parks include development of Riggs Heritage Park, East Huron River Drive at Martinsville Road, front entrance improvements to Van Buren Park on the South I-94 Service Drive and new play equipment being installed at Haggerty Subdivision Park. All of these improvements were made possible with the \$2 million Wayne County parks grant the township was awarded two years ago.

The Van Buren Civic Fund continued to demonstrate its community support by awarding the Fire Department \$18,350 for automatic external defibrillators with infant/child reduced energy electrodes with all fire apparatus being equipped with these life-saving devices and \$4,500 for new uneven bars for the Recreation Department. The Van Buren Civic Fund is a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit charitable organization and contributions to the Civic Fund are tax deductible.

Once again through the generosity of the Environmental Quality Company located on the North I-94 Service Drive, the township was able to host a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day with 290 cars/households properly disposing of some 1,360 gallons of motor oil, pesticides, corrosive and flammable liquids, batteries, mercury and oxidizing substances and 9 cubic feet of oil based paints and aerosols. Van Buren has been fortunate that through the sponsorship of this event by EQ, we have been able to hold this event free of charge annually for the past several years, with the collection day typically taking place in October.

On the southwest corner of Hannan and Van Born Roads, is Waste Management's Woodlands landfill, the subject of the Host Community Agreement (HCA) between the company and the township for which the community derives many benefits. Among them are free curbside garbage collection and disposal, recycling and compost pick up, tipping fees that usually amount to over a million dollars for township operations annually and yearly royalties in the amounts of \$200,000 for public safety, \$100,000 for recreation and \$50,000 for environmental-related services. Waste Management also sponsors the township's annual Independence Day fireworks display and every residence in the township is provided a free 65 gallon "toter" and recycling bin for placing trash and recyclables at the curb. The free garbage collection and disposal would likely cost the township about \$2 million annually and absent the Agreement is a cost that would need to be passed along to those in the community. Fortunately, the township was able to negotiate these significant benefits to the community through the HCA in return for Waste Management locating their landfill in Van Buren. Of the waste disposed of in WMI's landfill in Van Buren, 96% originated in Southeast Michigan.

Several of you called township hall this year to express your concerns about snow removal along township roads. All township roads, with the exception of private roads, are the responsibility of Wayne County. Wayne County receives federal funding, known as P.A. 51 road funds, to maintain roads including performing snow removal. Van Buren Township is simply not in a financial position to supplement or augment this County service. In the subdivisions of Belle Pointe, Country Pond, Country Walk I, II and the Villas, Greenbriar, Homestead, River Park, Stoneybrook, The Meadows and Village Place Estates snow removal is the responsibility of the Homeowners Associations. In the case of Arlene Arbors, Cobblestone Creek and Cobblestone Ridge, Country Walk III & IV, Hickory Woods, Kouza Lakeside Estates, Rolan Meadows, The Timbers, Victoria Place and Wildbrook, this responsibility rests with the developer/builder. In all other cases, snow removal is performed by Wayne County.

September Days Senior Center

- presents -

Pottery Class

12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Please contact the Senior Center
at (734) 699-8918 for dates.

Gather creativity, whether you are looking to make a masterpiece or just for fun come join this great group and learn together.

Class Fee: \$3.00 weekly

Lessons given by: Lindsey Butzin

**** You do not have to be a senior to take this class, unless it is already full. ****

The Downtown Development Authority is in the process of updating their Project list for making improvements within the DDA District boundaries, land that runs roughly along Belleville Road from Van Born Road south to the bridge leading into the City of Belleville and from Quirk Road west to Morton Taylor Road. Among the many projects being discussed are sidewalks, facade improvements, infrastructure rehabilitation, the demolition of old Fire Station #2, recreation, senior and police facility improvements, library improvements and an electronic public reader board. Any or all of these projects could be further revised, added to or deleted from as the list moves through the DDA's process for ranking projects based upon community value, however, the DDA remains dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the township.

The 2007 General Fund Budget of \$13.5 million was reduced almost 4% to \$13.2 million in late 2007. The most notable reduction was in the Developmental Services Department in which an account clerk position was left vacant and in the Parks and Recreation Departments in which printing and publishing expenses were lowered and capital projects were deferred to 2008. Overtime was kept to a minimum with the Developmental Services Department, not surprisingly realizing a 49.17% decrease in overtime costs.

Other improvements made in 2007 included new banners being displayed on the street lights along Belleville Road, a DDA funded project, a service truck with a crane for the DPW Department and the routine purchase of patrol vehicles and a K-9 unit for police operations. Lastly, the residents of Belle Harbour and Lake Crest Estates saw road improvements paid for through their participation in a special assessment district.



In 2007, the Public Safety Department's Traffic Unit, whose efforts resulted in 238 less accidents in 2006 as compared to 2005, received an award from the Department of Highway Safety and Planning for their efforts to improve upon motorists' safety. The award

was accompanied by a \$6,000 grant the Traffic Unit used to purchase new radar units. In 2007, traffic accidents were down by 78 accidents as compared to 2006 and just a few days ago, we learned this same organization was once again giving an award to our Traffic Unit for their continued efforts at improving upon motorists' safety although grant monies have been suspended for the time being. The Department also received \$2,000 from WalMart to outfit two police bicycles.

The Parks & Recreation Department received a \$2,000 grant from the Kellogg Foundation through the "Access to Recreation" grant and \$2,500 from Wayne County Mental Health for our "Get Up & Get Active" program. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were used for the "Takin' it to the Streets" program.

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

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VOTING PRECINCT CHANGES

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I have opted to illustrate the old precincts on one page and the new precincts on the opposing page to assist voters in locating their new precincts. Some of the questions I have received so far include: Why are some precincts so large geographically, while others are small? This has to do with the concentration of voters living in some of our subdivisions. Why do I have to pass another precinct to get to my precinct? This too, is based on where people live and the maximum number of voters allowed in a precinct as well as the location of facilities available for use as voting precincts. I have tried to keep people in their own neighborhoods where possible.

New voter identification cards were mailed to all registered voters in the Township in March. If you did not receive a new voter identification card, please contact my office at (734) 699-8909 to request we verify your registration and send you a new card. This will do two things, make sure you are registered to vote in Van Buren Township and confirm your voting location so you will be ready for the upcoming elections.

This brings me to my next item, which is adding election inspectors to our ranks. I am always looking for people to serve as precinct inspectors and should we get a large enough group of inspectors I would be able to offer half days should an inspector request it. So, if you have ever thought about serving your community in this capacity and being involved in the electoral process this is a great way to provide a valuable service to your community. Applications are available at the Clerk's Office and training is provided. For additional information and an application contact the Clerk's Office at (734) 699-8909.

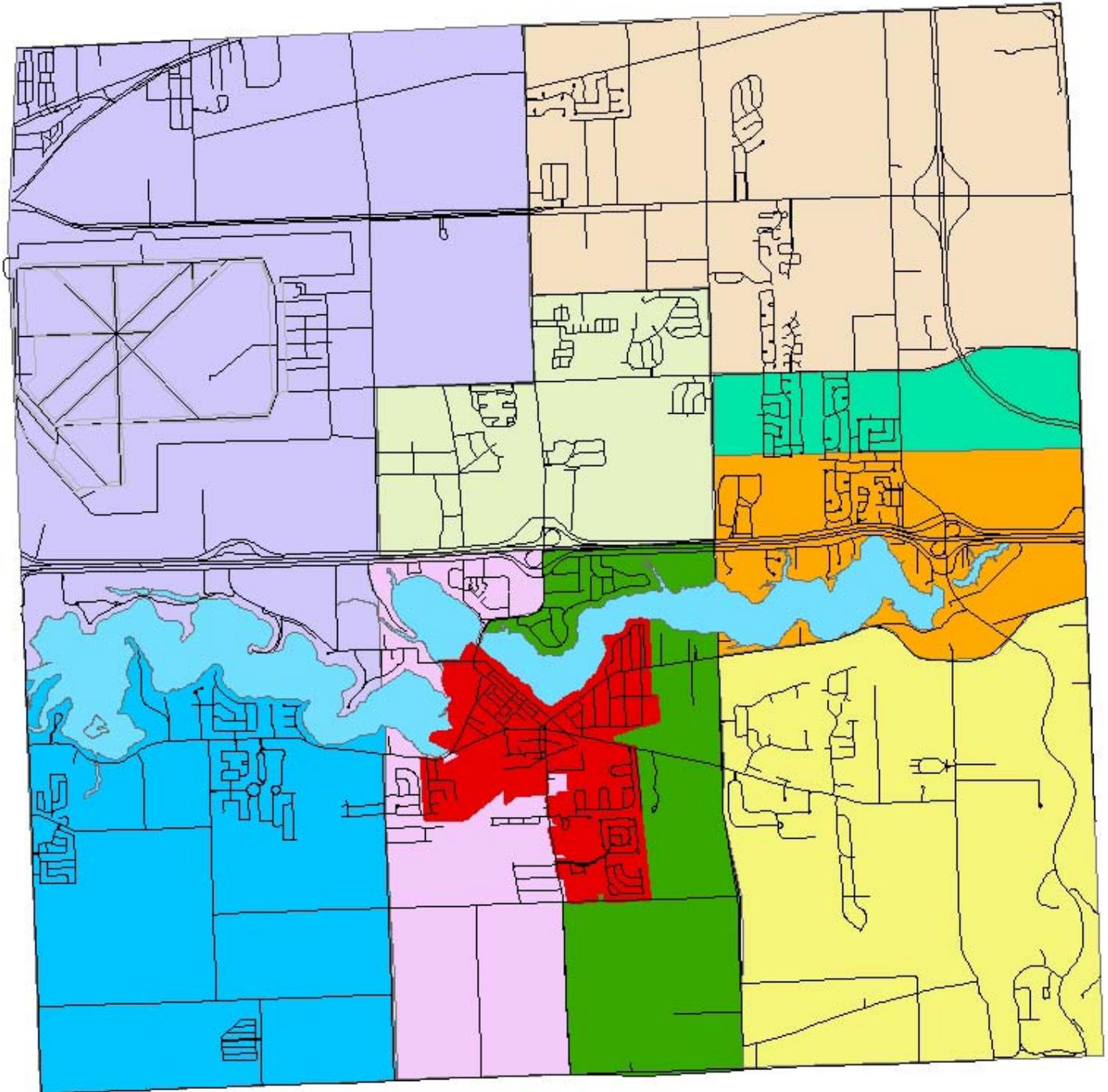
As always, information on voting equipment, voting locations and voter status may be found by going to www.vanburen-mi.org and clicking on "links" then to 'Secretary of State', then to 'Michigan voter information center'.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

DATES TO REMEMBER

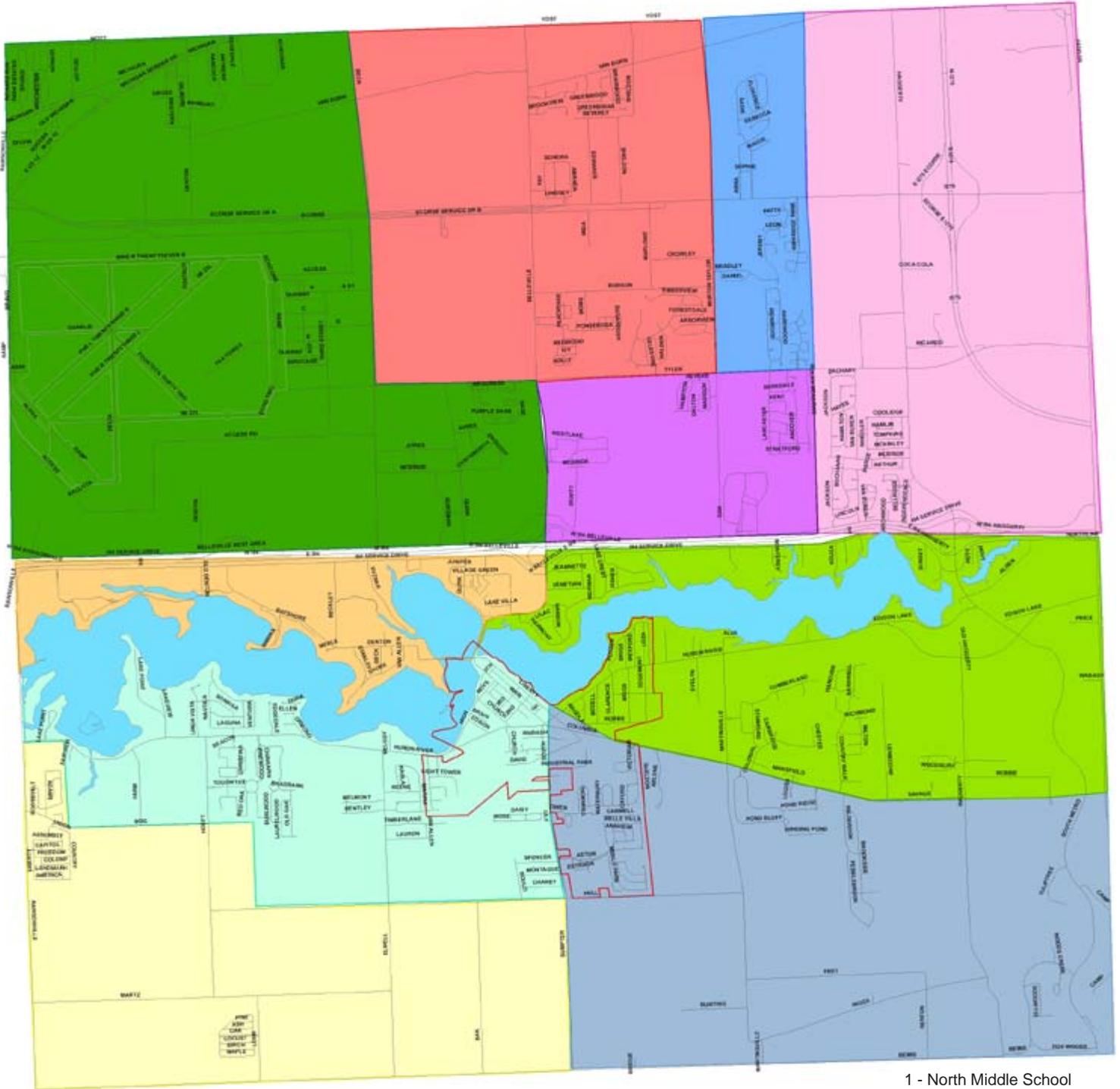
Monday, April 7	Last day to register for the Lincoln Consolidated School Election
Tuesday, May 6	Lincoln Consolidated School Election
Monday, May 26	Administrative offices closed in observance of Memorial Day
Friday, July 4	Administrative offices closed in observance of Independence Day
Monday, July 7	Last day to register for the August 5, 2008 Primary Election
Tuesday, August 5	Primary Election polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Monday, August 6	Last day to register for the November 4, 2008 General Election
Tuesday, November 4	General Election polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Township offices have employees who serve as notary publics. Documents may be notarized at most department counters during regular business hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. There is no charge for this service.

Voting Precincts
Before Redistricting**Legend**

Fire Hall #1	High School Auditorium	Van Buren Township Hall
Fire Hall #2	South Middle School	North Middle School
Tyler Elementary School	High School Auditorium	Haggerty Elementary School

Voting Precincts After Redistricting (Effective for 2008 Elections)



Legend

 Precinct 1	 Precinct 5	 Precinct 9
 Precinct 2	 Precinct 6	 Precinct 10
 Precinct 3	 Precinct 7	
 Precinct 4	 Precinct 8	

- 1 - North Middle School
- 2 - Fire Station #2
- 3 - Township Hall (Board Room)
- 4 - Township Hall (Gym)
- 5 - Tyler Elementary
- 6 - Fire Station #1
- 7 - Belleville High School (Auditorium)
- 8 - Haggerty Elementary School
- 9 - Savage Elementary School
- 10 - South Middle School

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP
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What's ahead for 2008? The 2008 General Fund Budget is balanced at \$15.2 million, a 15% increase over 2007, nearly all of it attributed to the passage of the public safety millage. The Police Department budget is 17% over that of 2007 with funds being used to hire additional officers, create a Special Investigations Unit and to purchase related equipment. The Fire Department budget reflects a sizable 52% increase which will fund two 24/7 duty crews and the purchase of new apparatus. Other than the Cable Department whose budget increased 20% to purchase new equipment, for those departments seeing increases in funding, percentage increases range from 2-7%. Many departments including the Supervisor's Office, Clerk's Office, Elections, Assessing and Information Technology reflect decreases over the 2007 allocations.

As with any service organization, wages and benefits are the largest expenditure and in Van Buren, they represent 67% of the General Fund operating costs. The Public Safety Department, the largest General Fund department in terms of amount of employees (mostly officers and fire fighters), and cost to operate, is 57% of the General Fund Budget. The Department's \$8.6 million budget for 2008 is funded by almost \$4.3 million in millage revenue with the remainder of funding coming from other sources. In other words, while voter support for the increase from 3 to 4 mills for public safety millage helped to realize improvements in service, the millage alone is insufficient to fund public safety services.

Among the many revenues that support operating costs, property taxes comprise roughly \$5.3 million and are about 30% of General Fund revenues (again nearly \$4.3 million allocated to public safety) with Landfill reserves also contributing 30% and the remainder coming from licenses, permits, service fees, fines, etc. At \$1.8 million, State Shared Revenue is less than 12% of the revenues supporting municipal operations. Since 2000, this source of revenue has been on a continual decline with the township receiving over \$1 million less than it should be receiving based upon the formulas in place when State Shared Revenue was first established by the Legislature.

Capital improvements scheduled for 2008 include completion of the previously mentioned EQ Basin and automated water meter reading project, new windows and repairs to the roof, soffits and the embankment of French Landing Dam on Haggerty Road, new apparatus for the Fire Department, a pick up truck for the Parks Department, Riggs Park construction, a new fueling station and engineering design work for water system improvements including a new water tower. Funding has also been approved to begin work on the North Side Master Land Use Plan which should be completed by year's end. The township has commenced design and engineering for a Drinking Water Revolving Fund Loan project to address nearly five miles of water main improvements and a new water tower which will allow for the storage of water which may help improve the rates we pay to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and to provide for a water supply should DWSD's system shut down for some reason.

Have you looked at our property tax bill lately and if so, do you realize 34% of the monies collected are allocated to the township

with the remaining 66% being sent to other taxing jurisdictions? Of your total property tax bill, 23% of the money collected is allocated to Wayne County and 42% is used for educational services provided by the Wayne County Community College District, Wayne County Intermediate School District and to retire Van Buren Public Schools' debt with 19% of this amount reflecting the State Education Tax. The remaining 1% of your property tax bill is funding earmarked for the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

In Van Buren, 63.01% of our tax base is residential properties, 15.2% commercial, 19.54% industrial and .30% is agricultural uses with the 1.95% remaining representing utilities. There are 10,725 tax parcels in Van Buren Township. Our 2007 Homestead millage levy was 31.7083 mills which compares favorably to neighboring communities such as Canton, 32.6413 mills, Belleville 39.1381 mills, Romulus 48.6007 mills and Sumpter 25.3222 mills using 2006 levy rates for these entities.

The largest taxpayers in Van Buren Township are: Visteon Corporation, Harbour Detroit Square, Inc., Ecorse-Belleville, LLC, Ashley Crossroads South, LLC, Bank One, Detroit Edison Co., and General Motors Corporation. The largest employers in Van Buren include: Visteon Corporation (2,400), Willow Run Airport (1,100), Van Buren Public Schools (780), L&W Engineering (749), Meijer (450), JP Morgan Chase (370), Ricardo (300), DTE Energy (277), Murray's Discount Auto Parts (264), and WalMart (240).

At our sole January 2008 Board of Trustees meeting, Clerk Payne was appointed Van Buren's representative to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments with DDA Director Bechtel being appointed alternate. Treasurer Budd represents the township on the South Huron Valley Utility Authority and Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce. Trustee Clair is the township's representative to the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds and in January 2008, I was sworn in as the Chairperson of the Conference of Western Wayne, a consortium of 18 Wayne County communities that represents 55% of Wayne County's taxable value, and an organization that has been in existence for over 25 years.

Director Ross completed his term as President of the Michigan Recreation & Park Association where he continues to serve on their Diverse Cultures Committee. Bruce is also involved with the National Recreation & Park Association Ethnic Minority Society. In 2007, the Parks and Recreation Department was awarded the MRPA Pinnacle Award for our efforts at marketing our recreational programs.

In 2007, DPW Director Knepper earned his S-1 water distribution system certification, the highest level of certification available in the State of Michigan. Deputy Planning & Economic Development Director Swallow earned his American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) designation. IT Director Rankin became a member of the Michigan Government Management Information Services organization and Senior Center Director Combs remained involved in the Michigan Association of Senior Centers where she serves on the Executive Board as its secretary. Director Combs is also the township's representative to The Senior Alliance.

For the past several years, Planning & Economic Development Director Bryce Kelley and I have been involved in the research and formation of an economic growth concept known as "Aerotropolis." During this time we have attended many meetings, witnessed many presentations and heard from any number of parties including Detroit Renaissance, a think tank of business and government leaders, interested in revitalizing the economic prosperity in the Metropolitan Detroit region that was once the envy of the country. I believe it is safe to say the shared goal of everyone involved is to do our part to help Michigan get out of this "one state recession" we have been in over the past several years.

At this stage, only a planning concept, the Detroit Region Aerotropolis has as its geographical boundaries land that starts in the City of Taylor and heads west to Ypsilanti Township in Washtenaw County, land in Huron Township north to Ecorse Road in Van Buren and Romulus, some 25,000 acres of which is vacant, developable land. The two anchors for the Aerotropolis "district" are Detroit Metropolitan Airport and Willow Run Airport. The logic behind attempting to coordinate development of this land; hence, the formation of an "aerotropolis," is that at some future point in time, this land will develop. The concern, though, is in what form this development will occur. Will it be haphazard, with incompatible uses

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP
Continued on Page 16

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Greetings from the Treasurer's Office. The 2008 summer tax bills are estimated to be mailed around July 1, 2008 with a due date of September 14, 2008. Just a reminder that it is very important that you update any changes to your tax information. As a service to our residents the Treasurer's Office coordinates payments from 42 different mortgage companies for roughly 3,500 parcels. Considering the numerous changes in ownership and refinancing with new mortgage providers, you can imagine how many changes occur throughout a tax season. Please help our staff assist you in ensuring your mortgage company information is accurate. Please examine your tax bill closely to assure accuracy. If you find any information that needs to be updated you can either contact the Treasurer's Office for assistance or simply fill out the section on the back side of the tax bill voucher that is submitted to the Treasurer's Office along with your payment.

On July 12, 2007, Governor Granholm signed into law the Michigan Business Tax Act (MBTA), which takes effect January 1, 2008. Public Acts 37-40, tie-barred to the MBTA, exempt Industrial Personal Property from the 6 mill State Education Tax (SET) and the 18 mills of local school district operating millage. In addition, Commercial Personal Property is exempt from 12 mills of local school district operating millage. Please refer to your assessment notice mailed out in February, 2008 in order to confirm your property classification. Upon receipt of your 2008 summer tax statement, please ensure your business is receiving the proper exemptions based on this new law.

On another note, 2008 dog licenses are now on sale at the Treasurer's Office. Please bring in a copy of your dog's proof of rabies vaccination in order for our staff to process the license. Van Buren Township will hold its annual dog clinic on May 10, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The dog clinic is held within the Township Water/Sewer garage, located on the South Side of the Township Hall next to the softball diamond at Quirk Park. The dog clinic is performed in conjunction with the Treasurer's Office staff and Dr. Gerald Graf of the Belleville Animal Hospital and his staff. Taking advantage of the dog clinic is a convenient way to get your dog vaccinated and obtain your dog license at the same time.

Our office is committed to serve the residents of this Township. Please do not hesitate to contact our staff regarding any Treasury related issues or concerns.

Sharry A. Budd, CPFA
Treasurer

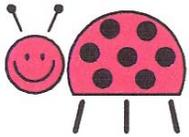
Sean Bellingham, CPFA, CMAE1
Deputy Treasurer

7 STEPS TO A SAFER SUMMER FOR YOUR DOG

1. Protect your dog from contact with toxic summertime chemicals: weed killers, lawn and garden treatments, insecticides, antifreeze, radiator fluid and pool additives.
2. Dogs with normally long coats that have been clipped for the summer and dog with pink noses may be subject to sunburn.
3. Hot pavement can blister paw pads, so if you jog or take your dog for a walk, go during cooler times of the day and check the paws from time to time.
4. If your dog swims, rinse off the dog with fresh water to get rid of sand and salt that can dry the dog's skin or irritate the eyes.
5. Avoid letting your dog hang its head out the car window. Particles can lodge in their eyes and ears.
6. Always make sure your dog has access to some type of shelter, shade and plenty of water, especially if you're going away for a while.

Also, be conscientious of your neighbor. As much as you have a right to own a dog, they also have a right to enjoy a quiet neighborhood. Now that warm weather is here, people have their windows open and are outside working around the house, try keeping your dog's barking to a minimum. Muzzling your dog is not a good idea, because it's hard for the dog to pant and cool off in hot weather. Purchase a citronella collar, which sprays a burst of citronella towards the dog's mouth area when it barks. They really don't like the taste and after a couple of times, the dog will quiet down. Citronella is harmless to dogs. They can be purchased at your local pet shop for around \$40 to \$90.

Fred C. Fischer Library Events



Catch the Reading Bug!

Kids, read with the butterflies, grasshoppers, and ladybugs this summer at the Fred C. Fischer Library's Summer Reading Program and enjoy fun events and prizes. See Animal Magic with Mark Rosenthal and visit Joel Tacey's Juggle Bug Comedy Show.

Read-To-Me Program (Preschoolers)

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., June 18 - July 23

Summer Reading Program (Elementary Schoolers)

Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m., June 17 - July 22

Register at the library beginning Monday, June 2.

Book Discussion Groups

Ages 18 and up

Evening Book Group, 1st Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

African American Book Group, Last Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Pollinate Your Mind

Adults! Summer reading is not just for kids. You too can get into the summer reading fun with a program just for you!



Between June 2 and August 1, fill out a ticket for each library book that you've read or audio book you've heard, and enter to win a gift basket of your choice. Join one of the library book discussion groups for an extra chance to win a basket.

Metamorphosis @ Your Library



Teens, keep busy this summer by reading books and picking up prizes along the way. Cool programs include a video game party. Middle and high school students can stop by the library beginning June 2, to register.

Friends of the Library Used Book Sale

Saturday, May 3, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 2, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 1, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Friends' Perennial Plant Swap

Saturday, May 3, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Garden Walk

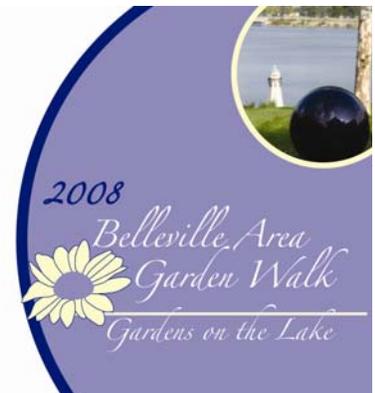
From cottage to formal, from shady retreat to full sun, five delightfully different Gardens on the Lake await you.

Sunday, July 27, 11-4

Advance tickets \$8.00

Tour day tickets \$10.00

All proceeds benefit the Library.



Hours: Monday - Thursday, 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Friday & Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Address: 167 Fourth Street, Belleville, MI 48111

Phone: (734) 699-3291

Website: www.belleville.lib.mi.us

PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES IMPROVE

With the passage of the millage, the Public Safety Department has been able to deliver improved services and faster response times.

The north and south fire stations are now staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In the first month of operation we have already realized a reduction in response time to the south end of the township by almost two minutes. The response times in the north have been reduced by over one minute. In addition, during the first month we only had to tone out the entire department five times as compared to the same time period last year when we had to tone out the entire department over 40 times.

The Special Investigations Unit (S.I.U.) has begun partial operation. In the first month of operation the SIU has conducted 19

narcotics related investigations. Seven search warrants have been authorized and executed, three arrest warrants have been made for felony charges and four for misdemeanor charges; eleven guns have been seized; (1 which was stolen, 1 was unregistered). The following narcotics have been seized; approximately 1/4 pound of marijuana, 20 grams of cocaine, 26 packets of heroin, 150 tabs of Vicodin and numerous blank prescription forms used to obtain fraudulent prescriptions. Four vehicles have been seized in connection with the narcotics investigations.

We have hired four new uniform police officers to add to the road patrol and help achieve the five zone patrol system. Four additional

PUBLIC SAFETY
Continued on Page 17

Belleville Area Museum Events

You Are Invited to Tour
Our Current Exhibit

Generation to Generation:

A History of Community Farms
(Until May 30, 2008)

Belleville Area Museum
405 Main Street, Belleville

Featuring:

The History of Local Farms:

Budd, Miller, Reynolds, and CoyKendall

&

The Farm Home:

Kitchen
Sewing Room
Laundry Area

For more information,
call the Museum at (734) 697-1944.

Coming Up:

Mark your calendars for the:

Belleville City-Wide Yard Sale

September 27 & 28

*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.

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

**Call the Belleville Area Museum
to arrange a guided tour.**

(734) 697-1944

Belleville Area Museum
405 Main Street

Open Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday through Saturday
Closed Holiday Weekends

Summer Hours:
May 1 through Labor Day
Monday through Friday
Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Hours are Subject to Change.

Admission:

Adults = \$1.00
Children = 50 cents
Family = \$3.00

Director, Diane Wilson
(734) 697-1944

Patches and Patterns:
A Celebration of Quilts



During the month of March, Belleville Area Museum presented its exhibit entitled "Patches and Patterns: A Celebration of Quilts." Over 150 quilts were displayed throughout the museum. The exhibit was co-sponsored by the Western Wayne County Quilting Guild and Threads & Treasures Quilt Shop.

MARINE AND DIVE TEAM NEWS

The Marine and Dive Team has made a purchase that will be a welcome relief for the residents on and near the lake. The purchase is a decibel meter that will allow us to enforce excessive noise from boats on the lake. The following is the state law for the noise permitted for boats on Michigan waters.

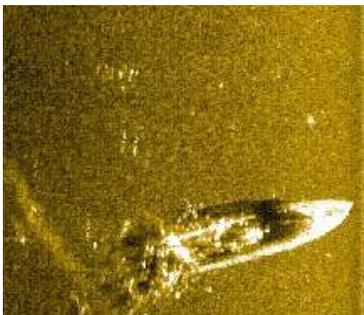
- A vessel's engine must have a factory-installed muffler or exhaust system for noise reduction, or another effective muffling system. Vessel operators may not hear sound signals or voices if the engine is not adequately muffled.
- Michigan law states that a vessel's muffler or exhaust system must prevent noise in excess of:
 - 90 decibels at idle from three feet away and...
 - 75 decibels measured from on shore

Being a responsible boat operator means understanding the rules and knowing how to keep yourself and your passengers safe during a day of 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 three boater safety classes scheduled on April 26th, June 16 & 18, and July 14 & 16 (Monday & Wednesday classes must attend both days). These classes offer information on how to have a fun and safe time on the water. To register for a class, visit the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department or for more information call (734) 699-8921.

This 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 29 to operate a PWC without a boater safety certificate. With a boater safety certificate you can operate a PWC at 14 years of age.

Another purchase made by the dive team was a sonar system. It will be used to locate objects that are under water. The sonar will make most underwater recoveries safer and quicker. The sonar was purchased this fall and quickly located an outboard motor that had been under water for two years. Most recently it was used to locate a boat that had sunk this winter.



This is an image taken from the sonar of the boat sitting on the bottom of Belleville Lake. The Dive team will remove this boat from the lake when the weather permits. The marine/dive team is very excited about what technology is doing to enhance safety and speed up recoveries on Belleville Lake.

BE PREPARED FOR SUMMER EMERGENCIES

Emergency preparedness is no longer the sole concern of the first responders (police and fire personnel). For all citizens, preparedness must now account for man-made disasters as well as natural ones. Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as making an emergency supply kit and developing a family communications plan, are the same for both a natural or man-made emergency.

However, there are important differences among potential emergencies that will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take. Learn more about the potential emergencies that could happen where you live and the appropriate way to respond to them by visiting the preparedness website at www.ready.gov.

Here is some helpful information obtained from the ready.gov website.

PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT

When preparing for a possible emergency situation, it's best to think first about the basics of survival: **fresh water, food, clean air and warmth.**

Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:



- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation.
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit.
- Whistle to signal for help.
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place.
- Moist towelettes or wipes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food).
- Local maps.

Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:



- Prescription medications and glasses.
- Infant formula and diapers.
- Pet food and extra water for your pet.
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a water-proof, portable container.
- Cash or traveler's checks and change.
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov.

- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper - When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire Extinguisher.
- Matches in a waterproof container.
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items.
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels.
- Paper and pencil.
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children.

- If shelter is not available, lie flat in a ditch or other low-lying area. Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
- Plan to stay in the shelter location until the danger has passed.
- Get a kit of emergency supplies. Store it in your shelter location.
- Visit NOAA Watch for more weather-related information.

Plan to Take Shelter

- If local authorities issue a tornado warning or if you see a funnel cloud, take shelter immediately.
- Local authorities may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should listen to NOAA Weather Radio, watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet often for official news and instructions as they become available.
- Stay in the shelter location until the danger has passed.

Stay Informed

- After a tornado be sure to remain out of damaged buildings and stay clear of downed power lines.
- Help injured or trapped people. Check on others who may require special assistance, such as the elderly, children and people with disabilities.
- Local authorities may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should listen to NOAA Weather Radio, watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet often for official news and instructions as they become available.

For more information on tornado risk areas and details on how to identify the safest place in your home to take shelter see "Are you Ready?" from the Federal Emergency Management Agency or Disaster Safety from the Red Cross.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it your single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with Federal, State, and Local Emergency Managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards - including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages).

NOAA WEATHER RADIO
Continued on Page 17

TORNADOES



Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. They can appear suddenly without warning and can be invisible until dust and debris are picked up or a funnel cloud appears. Planning and practicing specifically **how** and **where** you take shelter is a matter of survival. Be prepared to act quickly.

Keep in mind that while tornadoes are more common in the Midwest, Southeast and Southwest, they can occur in any state and at any time of the year, making advance preparation vitally important.

Prepare for a Tornado

- Familiarize yourself with the terms that are used to identify a tornado hazard.
 - A **tornado watch** means a tornado is possible in your area. You should monitor NOAA Weather Radio, local radio and television news outlets for the latest developments.
 - A **tornado warning** is when a tornado is actually occurring, take shelter immediately.
- Determine in advance where you will take shelter in case of a tornado warning.
 - Storm cellars or basements provide the best protection.
 - If underground shelter is not available, go into an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
 - In a high-rise building, go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
 - Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls. Go to the center of the room. Stay away from corners because they attract debris.
 - A vehicle, trailer or mobile home does not provide good protection. Plan to go quickly to a building with a strong foundation, if possible.

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP
Continued from Page 11

eventually being in close proximity to each other? Will this development make the best use of the infrastructure that currently exists or may be built in the future? Will it promote economic growth? These questions are the many that those involved in the Aerotropolis have spent considerable time and effort at answering. Currently, ten entities have signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding pledging to work collaboratively on development of this concept of coordinating land development and anticipated economic development. These entities are Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, the Wayne County Airport Authority, the cities of Belleville, Romulus, Taylor and Ypsilanti and the townships of Huron, Van Buren and Ypsilanti. The project, headed by Wayne County CEO Robert Ficano will continue to receive attention in 2008 and as our work progresses, the public will be kept informed.

Yes, although only January, 2008 is shaping up to be another busy year in Van Buren. Improved services will be unveiled in the Public Safety Department over the next several months. The Department will continue to work collaboratively with the City of Belleville, Van Buren Public Schools and the community to address the challenges the District has faced these past few months at Belleville High School. Fortunately, it appears the problems at the High School are not taking place in our neighborhoods but your are encouraged, as always, to be our eyes and ears in helping us protect the youth of our community. Township staff will continue to monitor the economy and the increase in foreclosures being experienced throughout Michigan. Efforts are underway to provide a variety

of information to our residents to help them find ways to remain in their homes and avoid the foreclosure process. New technology will be utilized whenever it makes sense - from both service enhancement and cost management perspectives - so that the work we perform is of high quality and delivers a valued service.

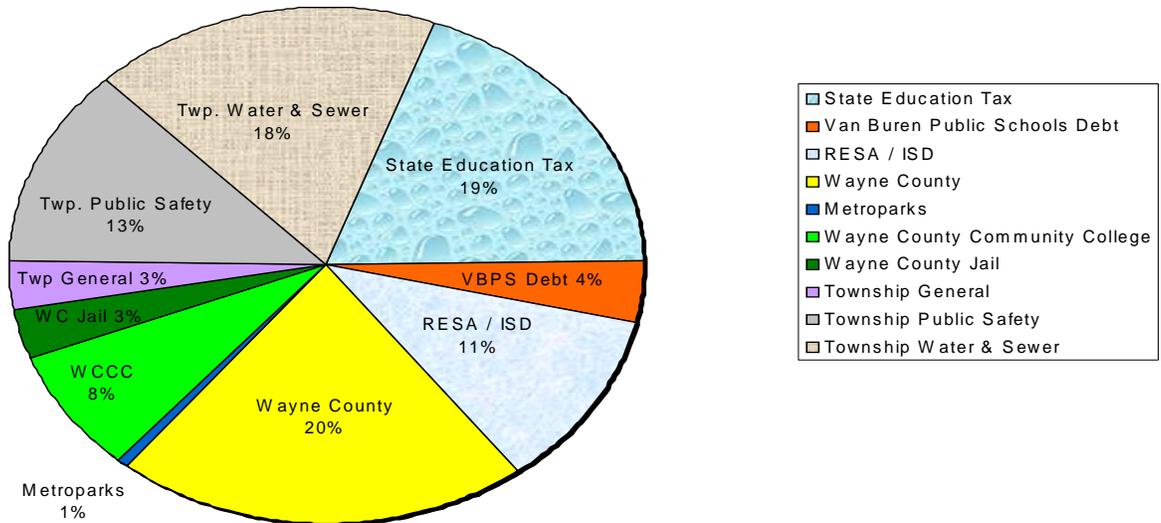
Yes, our community has changed over the years, yet the one constant is that the township remains a good place in which to live, work and raise a family. Our residents are our most valued asset. We value your involvement in the community; whether by serving on a commission, attending a meeting or calling or emailing us with your ideas and suggestions. We encourage you to visit our parks, enjoy a sunset on Belleville Lake, take a trip to the Belleville Area Museum or stop by September Days Senior Center Hidden Treasures Gift Shop. Sign up for a recreational class or a Museum program.

The A- bond rating the township has maintained for the past several years is but one tool you can use to measure the level of leadership, professionalism and commitment we have to monitoring our municipal assets responsibly. Quality service is another. The Board of Trustees is dedicated to serving you. Our best wishes for much happiness and prosperity in 2008.

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

Property Tax Distribution

Where do my tax dollars go?



PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 12

officers will be added to the road patrol as we continue the hiring process. The new officers pictured from left to right are Christopher Herrick, Derek Perez, Adam Lewis and Jessica Shippe.



Officer Michael Papin was promoted to the rank of sergeant to fill the vacancy on the road patrol created when a sergeant was transferred to supervise the Special Investigations Unit.



On behalf of the entire Public Safety Department and elected officials, I would like to thank all the citizens for the support in helping to improve the services we provide to the community. I look forward to reporting additional achievements as we progress throughout the year.

Gerald M. Champagne
Director of Public Safety

NOAA WEATHER RADIO

Continued from Page 15

Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), part of the Department of Commerce. NWR includes more than 985 transmitters, covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. NWR requires a special radio receiver or scanner capable of picking up the signal. Broadcasts are found in the VHF public service band at these seven frequencies (MHz):

162.400 162.425 162.450 162.475 162.500 162.525
162.550

Remember to make a list of vets or veterinary hospitals in other cities where you might need to temporarily shelter your pet if evacuating the area.

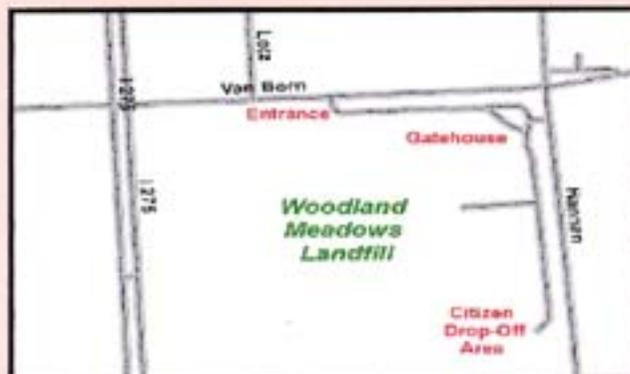
Gerald M. Champagne
Director of Public Safety

GUIDELINES FOR LARGE QUANTITIES OF TRASH:

Large quantities of trash or remodeling materials will **not** be picked up at curbside. As a Van Buren Township resident you have the option to utilize the Woodland Meadows Landfill located on the south side of Van Born Road, just west of Hannan Road (see map below). The citizen drop off area is located on the south side or back of the site. All vehicles entering the site must check-in at the gatehouse. Landfill hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

Guidelines for utilizing the Woodland Meadows Landfill under the Van Buren resident agreement with Waste Management are listed below:

- **Starting May 1, 2008, you must obtain a free disposal punch card from the Community Services Office, located in Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road.** To obtain a punch card you must provide proof of residency (i.e. current driver's license). The punch card entitles Van Buren residents to twenty-four (24) free trips per year. Only one card per address per year will be issued by the Township.
- A valid photo ID with matching address must be presented with the punch card at time of disposal.
- This free dumping privilege **cannot** be extended to contractors or commercial vendors. Commercial vehicles will be refused entry or must pay for disposal of waste.
- **The volume of waste per trip is limited to four (4) cubic yards.** To calculate cubic yards you can use the following formula: Length (ft.) x Width (ft.) x Height (ft.) divided by 27 = cubic yards. If you exceed 4 cubic yards per trip, you will be refused entry or you must pay for disposal of the additional waste.
- Yard waste (compost, leaves, etc.) **must** be separated from household waste.
- White goods will not be accepted at the Landfill. White goods are any appliance that does or once did contain Freon (A/C Units, Refrigerators and Dehumidifiers).
- Scrap tire disposal is limited to eight (8) tires annually.
- Recycling is also available at the citizen drop-off area.



IT ALL STARTS IN THE PARKS!



A beautiful view of Quirk Park

This spring and summer, come out and rediscover your Van Buren Township Parks. If you haven't heard, this year is going to be very exciting for the community. The park system is working on some new improvements and a new park will be introduced this year as well.

Keep your eyes open for the many improvements. We look forward to welcoming you to Van Buren Park with its newly renovated front entrance. Once inside the park, you may notice the remodeled Van Buren Park store that the Belleville High School Building and Trade students have been honing their skills on while providing the community with needed improvements. The former store will now be used as a visitor contact station and vending area that will provide park visitors with increased service and safety. We have also been working on improvements to welcome all members of the community by installing new accessible pathways and grill areas at park pavilions along with accessible picnic tables. This project was made possible through the Access to Recreation Grant that the park was awarded in 2007. Another improvement for accessibility to the park system amenities is the accessible pathway that is going to be constructed at the Van Buren Park Beach.

The improvements aren't just limited to Van Buren Park, but also include entrance improvements to French Landing Park, and a new playscape and site features in the Haggerty Neighborhood Park. The two projects, plus the front entrance and beach renovations, are all paid for through grant funding from Wayne County. In addition to funding all of those projects, the Wayne County money is also enabling the development of a new community park.

The parks department is excited to develop the new Riggs Heritage Park located at the farmstead on the corner of Huron River Drive and Martinsville Road. This new recreation and educational space will provide the community with a unique blend of modern facilities and historical design. The park has been designed utilizing environmentally friendly and cost efficient elements. The park will feature 12 acres of passive space including turf grass and prairie grass areas. A parking area and trailhead will be located off of Martinsville Road, and a pavilion with restrooms will be featured at this site as well. The pavilion has been designed by borrowing Victorian styling that is reminiscent of the original Belleville Train Depot. The site amenities will

also reflect a modern construction with Victorian flavor. This design concept is based on the Riggs Heritage Park Master Plan and represents just the first phase of a much larger complete park on the site. The aesthetic and natural details are meant to reflect on the time when the region was first settled and to compliment the historic house and barn located on the property. Further phases of development will work toward filling an appropriate use for these structures, and the house has begun to receive some environmental cleanup to make improvements possible. The new park should be open to the public by mid-summer.

So we look forward to all of these developments, and to serving the community's recreation needs. Just remember that you and your family don't have to travel for recreation, and that many great opportunities are right here in your own community. It all starts in the parks.

Anthony Mulkey
Parks Manager

BRUCE ROSS ELECTED CHAIR OF THE WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTORS COALITION

The Western Wayne County Directors held their first meeting of the year in Van Buren Township on Thursday, February 20th. At this meeting I was elected Chair of this Coalition.

The Western Wayne County Directors Coalition represents communities throughout Western Wayne County. Those communities represented are:

Van Buren Township	Wayne
Canton Township	Livonia
Northville	Dearborn Heights
Redford Township	Plymouth Township
Westland	Plymouth
Dearborn	Garden City

Some of the areas of focus for the Coalition are:

1. Administrative issues
2. Communication among Directors
3. Director professional development
4. Better promoting our departments and our region

Addressing these issues and others will help us take our profession to a higher level. During this critical time in our state's history in terms of the economic climate of the state, it is important that directors communicate with one another. This communication will assist with making our departments and our region better. Western Wayne County Parks and Recreation Directors are striving to "Create People, Parks and Programs throughout Western Wayne County." I am honored to serve as Chair of this Coalition.

Bruce J. Ross
Director of Recreation

VBTV 12

SEPTEMBER DAYS
SENIOR CENTER

Left to Right: Janet Millard and Marian Caldwell on Senior Spotlight

As VBTV 12 gears up for another exciting spring and summer, we would like to introduce to you our recent cable production. Senior Spotlight is our new monthly cable show where hosts Janet Millard and Marian Caldwell talk about upcoming events, programs, classes, trips and other information that pertains to our elder viewers. The program is twice a week, Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. and Thursdays at 9:00 p.m.

Tune to VBTV channel 12, to catch our exciting new programs, and for up to date programming and township information. Besides Senior Spotlight, we have new Museum Historical Society programs, Chamber report, Marshmallow Drop, and coverage of upcoming events such as the Strawberry Festival, Belleville Bridgewalk, Taste of Belleville, and many other Township activities including live broadcast of Township Board of Trustees meetings.

Keep an eye out for us, and give us a wave when you see us out and about with our video cameras and you might see yourself on our channel. Our aim is to inform, educate, entertain and show how Van Buren Township is a great place to live, work and play.

Have a great summer and see you out there!

Ally Acosta McCracken
Cable Operations Manager

September Days Senior Center

- Now Offering -

Personal Fitness Trainer

By: Shanna Syswerda

Shanna will customize individual workout plans to meet your needs and goals. Learn to use exercises safely and properly to get the most health benefit along with any nutrition needs.

6 week program

Group of 3: \$60 each for complete program

Group of 2: \$90 each for complete program

One on One: \$180 for complete program

Available by appointment only, please call (734) 699-8918.

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday
Fitness Room Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 8:50 p.m. Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:50 p.m., Saturday
12:00 p.m. - 5:50 p.m., Sunday

**** Seniors must be a member to utilize the Fitness Room ****

Becoming a Member

To become a member of September Days Senior Center, you must be 55 years of age or older. To join, visit the Senior Center front office window to fill out your information card, pay your dues and receive a membership card. Dues are as follows and are to be renewed on a yearly basis.

Van Buren Residents = \$10.00

Non-Residents = \$15.00

Alternative Health Series with Sissel Bridges

Meditation and Breathing Techniques for Relaxation

Relaxation techniques such as deep breathing, visualization and meditation, can help you activate this relaxation response. When practiced regularly, these activities lead to a reduction in your everyday stress levels. What's more, they also serve a protective quality by teaching you how to stay calm and collected in the face of life's curveballs.

Fee: \$15 **Time:** 2 hours

Aromatherapy

Although it has been practiced for thousands of years, Aromatherapy has only recently become popular in our culture. This is a result of a return to a holistic lifestyle, recognizing the importance of combining the mind, body and spirit to achieve optimum health and wellness. Learn how to use different essential oils and make home remedies like: Bath Salt, Body Oils, Linnet Water, Aromatherapy Sachets and a lot more.

Fee: \$20 **Time:** 2 hours

Healing Herbs

Revitalize your body & energize your life the natural way - with the power of healing herbs. Learn how herbs can boost energy, relieve stress and much more. We will go through herbs that can help with anxiety, arthritis, cholesterol, indigestion, insomnia, migraines, stress, diabetes, weight loss and much more.

Fee: \$15 **Time:** 2 hours

Journaling

Journaling, is a coin termed to describe the act of writing about one's thoughts and feelings (on paper or via computer). Journaling has many benefits that range from stress management to sharpened mental skills to health and wellness, and more.

Fee: \$35 **Time:** 2 hours x 4 days

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS WATERS 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 and save money, it makes sense to focus on the big issues. It doesn't get any bigger than the sprinkler system. Over-irrigation cost you money in two primary ways:

1. Over-irrigation unnecessarily drives up your water & sewer bill and is a waste of resources.
2. Over-irrigation stresses the water distribution system, which can lead to low water pressures which require costly up grades to meet the peak demand. This also increases our rates we pay to the Township water supplier, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.

From a horticulture 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:

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

Over-irrigation also causes excessive 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 sewer 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 and running the system overnight (off peak hours).
- Adjust your sprinkler heads so they don't spray on hard surfaces like driveways and sidewalks.
- Install an automatic rain shutoff device on the irrigation system.
- Collect rainwater in a rain barrel for manually watering plants.

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 and 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 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
--	---	---	---	--	---	--

=	Thou- sands of Gallons Used	X	Cost per 1000 gal. \$4.46	=	
---	--------------------------------------	---	--	---	--

Cost of 1 day of lawn irrigation	X	Days in Billing Cycle (Assumes you water every day) 90	=	Total (3-month) cost of lawn irrigation	\$
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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> or contact the Department of Public Works at (734) 699-8925.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day



What: FREE one day drop-off for Van Buren Township residents

When: October 11, 2008 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Where: The Environmental Quality Company east parking lot
49350 North I-94 Service Drive

Why: To dispose of household hazardous waste in a safe and environmentally friendly manner



Below is a list of both acceptable and unacceptable items for collection. All products should be tightly sealed to prevent spillage while transporting to the facility and all containers brought to the collection must be left at the collection. Products will not be accepted in milk jugs because the plastic is thin and punctures easily.

Acceptable Items

Kitchen/Bathroom

Bug Sprays
Floor Care Products
Furniture Polishes
Metal Polish w/Solvent
Medicines
Nail Polish
Cleaning Products

Miscellaneous

Household Batteries
Fluorescent Light Bulbs
Artist Paints/Mediums
Dry Cleaning Solvents
Fiberglass Epoxy
Solvents
Lighter Fluids
Pool Chemicals

Garage

Transmission Fluid
Auto Batteries
Battery Acid
Brake Fluids
Car Waxes
Diesel Fuel
Fuel Oil
Antifreeze
Gasoline
Kerosene
Motor Oil

Garden

Fungicides
Herbicides
Insecticides
Pesticides
Fertilizers
Rat Poison

Workshop

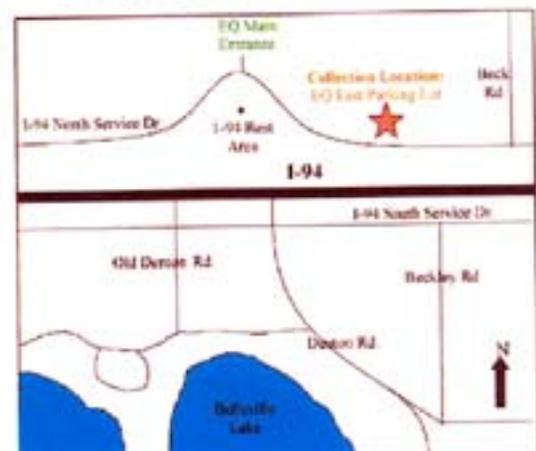
Paints (All)
Paint Thinners
Varnish & Stains
Wood Preservatives
Gun Cleaning
Cutting Oils
Turpentine
Aerosol Cans

Unacceptable Items

Explosives
Propane Tanks
Industrial Waste
Tires
Medical Waste
Smoke Alarms
Asbestos
Fire Extinguishers

**Put household
HAZARDOUS WASTE
where it belongs!**

Drop-off Site Directions



What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Many household products require special attention in their use, storage and disposal. A product is considered "hazardous" if it is:

- Toxic or Poisonous
- Ignitable/Flammable
- Corrosive
- Reactive (i.e., products that can explode if exposed to heat, air, water or shock)

Check the label to see if a product is hazardous. If it says **Warning, Caution, Danger, or Poison**, consider it hazardous.

Unwanted portions of hazardous products are considered to be hazardous wastes and should be treated in a careful manner to avoid accidents or polluting our environment.

For more information, please call VBT Developmental Services at (734 699-8913).



Sponsored by:

**The Environmental
Quality Company**

TRASH GUIDELINES

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!

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 and place 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 containers!

Special Pickups:

Pickups for refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners must be called in ahead of time for special collection 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.

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.

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.

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 continue to place your trash at the curb for removal on your regularly scheduled day.

Set Out and Removal:

Toters, additional containers and trash should not be set out more than 24-hours/1-day in advance of your scheduled pick up day; and should be removed within 24-hours/1-day of your scheduled pick up day. Failure to remove containers or excess trash from the curb within 24-hours/1-day of your scheduled pick up day could result in a notice of violation and/or issuance of a citation under the Property Maintenance Code.

Large Quantities of Trash:

(See page 19)

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS:

Yard Waste Pickup **RESUMES**
the first full week of April.

YARD WASTE GUIDELINES

Brush

Bundle all brush whose branches are 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 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.

Tin

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

Aluminum: Containers and foil.

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.

Please Recycle!

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.

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 ****



Tae Kwon Do



Ages: 8 to adult

Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
April 8 - June 26 July 8 - October 9
 (No class July 31 & August 5)

Tae Kwon Do is an ongoing class geared to anyone interested in the Korean martial art. Classes are comprised of a diverse group of individuals of all ages, backgrounds, goals, and athletic skill levels. Students learn and advance in rank at their own pace.

Emphasis is on self control, flexibility, coordination, and self defense. This class is taught by a three time national gold medalist with the assistance of skilled and knowledgeable blackbelts.

Testing dates will be announced throughout the class. Results of the test will be given during class time, if you are not present to receive the testing results, you may pick up results at our recreation office.

** Uniforms or loose clothing is recommended to wear during class. Uniforms can be purchased through the instructor. Karate shoes must be worn at all times except when sparring.

Van Buren Residents = \$55.00
 Non-Residents = \$70.00
Will Pro-rate Classes

Youth Floor Hockey Skills Program



Sundays, May 18 - June 22
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 Ages: 7-10

This is a non competitive program with emphasis on basic skills, team work and sportsmanship. No checking or high sticking will be allowed. Fundamentals will be taught the first hour; games will be played during the second hour. Hockey equipment is provided as well as mouth pieces which are required to be worn during play time.

Athletic wear is preferred clothing while playing. This program is held inside the gymnasium so gym shoes are required.

** This is a first time hockey program offered from the Van Buren Township Recreation Department. Future classes will include younger/older ages.

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

Youth Volleyball Skills Program

Friday, April 25 - May 23 (5 weeks)
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.



Ages: 7-12



This is a non competitive program with emphasis on basic skills, team work and sportsmanship. Fundamentals will be taught the first hour; games will be played during the second hour. Equipment provided. Athletic wear is preferred clothing while playing. This program is held inside the gymnasium so gym shoes are required.

Van Buren Resident = \$40 Non-Resident = \$55

Jitterbugs, Inc. Creative Movement

Our Creative Movement is specially designed to provide children between 6 months and 3 years of age with a strong foundation in dance, music and movement. It teaches the younger dancer the basic elements of movement and dance; space and how to relate to it, both as an individual and as a member of a group; the eight basic loco motor movements; music rhythm, beat and time; opposites and directions; and small and large motor skills.

Thursdays, Ongoing starting May 1
10:00 - 10:40 a.m.
\$5 daily drop-in
Please pay instructor.

Don't Leave Your Kids Home Alone Babysitter/CPR Certification Class

Make yourself more marketable in your community by becoming certified in American Heart Infant and Child as well as Babysitter Safety. This program will teach you how to handle emergency situations, rescue breathing, as well as how to hold infants.



Saturday, June 21
Saturday, August 16

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Ages 11 and up - pizza included.



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

Takin' it to the Streets Celebration!

"No Child/Adult Left Inside"



Friday, June 27

12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

FREE! Fun for all ages!

Inviting all children and adults to participate in this action packed day.



Featuring...

**The "High 5 Guys" - Michigan's ONLY Professional Stiltwalking Troupe!
Balloon Twisting/Meet & Greet/Comedy!!**

Inflatables; High Striker, Giant Slide, Obstacle Course and much more!



Games/Relays

Music

Popcorn

Food

Freebees



**** Wear your messy clothes because you might get wet
and a chance to paint on the Monster Art Mural!**

Youth Cheerleading

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

5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Ages: 6-14

**Mondays, May 5 - June 16 (6 weeks)
(No class May 26)**

Mondays, June 23 - July 28 (6 weeks)

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

Mondays, August 4 - August 25 (4 weeks)

Van Buren Residents = \$40 Non-Residents = \$55

Gymnastic Summer Workshop

Looking for more gymnastic skills to practice this summer? Join one or both workshops (depending on skill level). These workshops will concentrate on developing techniques and enhancing skill levels. Snacks provided for these workshops.

Session 1: Saturday, July 12

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Ages: 7 and up

Level: Beginners and advanced more for practice
Van Buren Resident = \$25 Non-Resident = \$40

Session 2: Saturday, July 19

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Ages: 7 and up

Level: Intermediate/Advanced
Van Buren Resident = \$25 Non-Resident = \$40

Anusara Inspired Yoga

Spring Schedule (6 week sessions)

This graceful, flowing practice blends the spirit and expression of the heart with the science of biomechanics and alignment. For more information about Anusara and the instructor, please go to:

<http://www.giqidasyoga.com>

Gentle Yoga: Mondays, 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

Good for beginners of all ages. Also suitable for people with injuries, physical limitations, and seniors. Emphasis on detailed instructions of basic alignment. Build strength and flexibility. Prevent injuries from happening, and learn therapeutic techniques.

Mixed Level: Mondays, 7:45 - 8:45 p.m.

Next step after Basic Level. Some yoga experience but new to Anusara Yoga. Introduction to the "universal principals of alignment." Exploration of a wider range of postures.

Level	Time	Dates
Session 1 Therapeutic Beginner	6:45-7:45 p.m. 7:45-8:45 p.m.	Mondays, April 28 - June 9 (no class May 26)
Session 2 Therapeutic Beginner	6:45-7:45 p.m. 7:45-8:45 p.m.	Mondays, June 23 - July 28

Class Fees:

Gentle Yoga: \$50/session (Non-Resident: \$65)

Mixed Level: \$50/session (Non-Resident: \$65)

Sign up for 2 sessions: \$90 (Non-Resident: \$105)

Drop-ins = \$10

Students receive a 5% discount with valid student ID.

Make up Policy: Missed classes can be made up during the current session. Missed classes may NOT be carried over to the next session. To set up a private lesson, please contact the instructor.

Please: Bring a yoga mat to class. As a courtesy to others, arrive 5 minutes early to the class. Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Do not eat a full meal at least 2 hours prior to the class.

Gym Walk

If it's too yucky outside, come inside the recreation department to walk that extra mile.

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. FREE!

Belly Dancing

Thursdays, April 3 - May 1

7:00 - 8:15 p.m.

Van Buren Resident = \$30 Non-Resident = \$40

Thursdays, May 22 - July 17 (no class July 3)

7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

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

Discover American Cabaret and Tribal Style Belly Dance, a mixture of modern, westernized belly dance and folkloric dances from around the world. Learn from a professional about the culture behind this exciting aerobic dance form while you shimmy and shake your way to a complete dance routine!

Adults only please, or youths accompanied by an adult.

Comfortable clothes recommended and yoga mat.

Summer Yoga

Summer Schedule (3 week session)

This graceful, flowing practice blends the spirit and expression of the heart with the science of biomechanics and alignment. For more information about Anusara and the instructor, please go to:

<http://www.giqidasyoga.com>

Yoga Alignment Basics

Good for beginners of all ages. Suitable for beginners as well as yoga practitioners. Emphasis on detailed instructions of basic alignment. Build strength and flexibility. No prior yoga experience required.

Mondays, August 4 - August 18

6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

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

Drop-ins: \$10.00

Seniors and students receive a discount with valid student ID.

Please:

Bring a yoga mat to the class. Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Do not eat a full meal at least 2 hours prior to the class. As a courtesy to others, arrive 5 minutes early to the class.

fresh moves | new music | pure motivation

jazzercise
it shows

Each 60 minute workout blends dance and muscle toning movements choreographed to today's hottest music, including Top 40, jazz, country, funk, and classics. Our instructors make all the routines fun and easy-to-follow. Every class includes a gentle warm-up, 30-minute aerobic workout, muscle toning and strengthening segment with weights, and a stretch finale.

Ongoing, Mondays & Wednesdays

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (Regular) (**free childcare)

5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. (Regular)

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Regular)

Ongoing, Tuesdays (Regular) 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

(Quick Cardio) 6:25 p.m. - 6:55 p.m.

Ongoing, Thursdays (Regular)** 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.**Ongoing, Fridays (Regular)**** 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

(Express) 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Ongoing, Saturdays (Circuit) 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**Ongoing, Sundays (Regular)** 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

\$25.00 joining fee

\$36.00/month Easy Fitness Ticket (EFT)

\$88/8 weeks (cash or check) Walk-in = \$10.00

cardio



strength



stretch



Tai Chi Chuan & Meditation

Tai Chi Chuan is the traditional Chinese martial art practiced for self defense. Tai Chi improves balance, flexibility, muscle strength, and cardiovascular to release tension by exercising all muscle groups and emphasizing breathing.

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (10 weeks)**Fridays, June 6 - August 15 (no class July 4)****Fridays, September 19 - November 21**

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

Mini-Session: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**Fridays, April 11 - May 16**

Van Buren Resident = \$25 Non-Resident = \$30

All levels of Tai Chi are encouraged to sign up.

MRPA Walk Michigan

Sponsored by: Blue Cross Blue Shield

This is a free statewide non-competitive walking and fitness program for all ages through MRPA (Michigan Recreation and Park Association).

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Starting every Wednesday, May 7 - August 6, you can simply walk your way to a healthier you while earning tickets. The more you walk, the more tickets you earn to put in a drawing to win an all expense paid trip to Mackinac Island. The trip to Mackinac Island will take place over Labor Day weekend for the annual walk across the "Big Mac."

Walk Michigan will be held **only at Quirk Park** in the morning from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and in the evening from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

- Participants will not be able to start walking until Van Buren Recreation staff is present. You must check in with staff prior to walking so we can keep track of how far you walked.
- Participants can only walk up to three miles every Wednesday to earn tickets.
- Walking the whole 3 miles each Wednesday will increase your opportunity to win the trip.
- Only one winner will be drawn.

Summer/Fall Softball League

 Registration for returning teams starts:
Monday, May 5

 New team registration starts:
Monday, May 12


Deadline to register July 15. A late fee of \$50 will be applied if league money is not turned in by July 15.

Tuesday "D" League = \$500 2 umpires
Friday Co-ed = \$490 1 umpire

Leagues start the week of July 28. Managers meeting will be held Monday, July 15 at 6:00 p.m. **Money must be turned in by this night.** League schedule will be completed by the end of this week.

Boaters Safety Class

This course is designed to provide the boater with a wide range of information.

- General information concerning boats and maintenance.
- How to make boating more comfortable and safer.
- How to be a courteous boat operator.
- Laws and regulations that you must adhere to.

Saturday, April 26 (lunch will be provided)
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Monday & Wednesday, June 16 & 18
Monday & Wednesday, July 14 & 16
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

(Monday & Wednesday classes must attend both days)

\$15.00 per person

Who must have this class?

- Persons born after December 31, 1978, if they wish to operate a personal watercraft.
- Those less than 16 years of age who wish to operate a boat may need this course.

Who should take this class?

- All persons who operate a boat or personal watercraft will find useful information.

Pre-registration is necessary!!!

Domestic Violence and Anger Management

Ongoing, Thursdays
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Join Social Worker Moses Boone on a weekly basis to discuss issues of domestic violence and steps to fulfill anger management. Moses has twenty four years of diverse work experience in human services. This is a free program to assist those who are looking for help and understanding. Participants must meet with Moses Boone prior to registering for the program.

If you are new and interested in attending class, come 15 minutes prior to start of the session to meet Mr. Boone.

K-9 Household Obedience Behavior Modification Class

Join 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 6 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.

18 or older to participate
Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.



**** Classes overlap so advanced dogs can show beginners their new skills ****

May 6 - June 10

(Classes held at Belleville High School Small Gymnasium)

June 10 - July 15

(First class held at BHS, remainder will be held at Van Buren Park, S. I-94 Service Drive)

July 15 - August 19

(Classes held at Van Buren Park, S. I-94 Service Drive)

No aggressive dogs allowed.

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

Community Dance Social

Looking for a place to show off your dance moves? Come on over to the Van Buren Community Center to have fun while dancing to great music.

Saturdays, April 19 & May 17

Dance Lessons: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Dancing: 8:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Dance Lessons = \$8 per person
Dancing = \$10 per person
Both Lessons and Dancing = \$15 per person

D.J. Terry B. plays a variety of music from salsa, big band, country to today's and yesterday's top 40's...

Light snacks provided or bring your own.

No alcoholic beverages.

**** Must pay at the door for lessons and/or dance social ****

Craftapalooza

Daddy Dearest

Don't know what to get dad for Father's Day? How about an altered clipboard with a picture of the family?

Classes taught by: Rebecca Mubaraz

Class Level: Beginner

Saturday, May 24

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Ages: 18 and up

Keepsake Recipes

Remember grandma's oatmeal raisin cookies? Create a recipe book filled with great family recipes that won't get forgotten.

Classes taught by: Rebecca Mubaraz

Class Level: Beginner

Saturday, June 21

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Ages: 18 and up



Fees for All Craftapalooza Classes

Van Buren Resident = \$8 per class

Non-Resident = \$10 per class

\$12 material fee to be paid to instructor at the start of each class. Please bring scissors and adhesive.

Mother May I?

Want to WOW mom this Mother's Day? How about a handmade gift. Three different classes will be offered each with unique gifts with coordinating packaging.

Classes taught by: Rebecca Mubaraz

Class Level: Beginner

Craft 1

Create beautiful tile coaster with matching glitter candle.



Saturday, April 12

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Ages: 18 and up



Craft 2

Create a beautiful picture frame.

Saturday, April 19

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Ages: 18 and up

Craft 3

Create a paper album featuring All in the Family theme.

Saturday, April 26

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Ages: 18 and up

Open Scrap

Do you have a scrapbook that you just can't find the time to finish or have you always wanted to make one but don't like to do it alone? This is a great opportunity to get away from the distractions at home and work on our projects at the lovely Van Buren Township building with "Scrappers" alike! Bring your supplies and work on your scrapbook album at your own pace.



Meets the last Friday of each month

5:00 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.

April 25, May 30, June 27, July 25, August 29

\$2 per person (pizza included)

Childcare = \$5 per child (must be potty trained)



**** Must pre-register at least one day in advance for us to properly plan ****

Card Making Technique Classes

In classes 1-10, create 10 cards, 2 of each design using various techniques. Some cards can be converted to 6x6 scrapbook pages. 50 projects in all, taught in 10 separate classes. (Classes 1-6 are repeats of classes taught already between January and April, Colors and Stamp sets may vary, techniques will stay the same).

In class 11, Create a Flip Book as a mini photo album/scrapbook using Stampin' Up's Simply Scrapping Kits.

In Class 12, create Boxes, Bag-a-lopers, and other containers using Stampin' Up papers and envelopes.

Sign up for the classes you want. Classes do not need to be taken in order. Samples will be posted on <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClassesByDarlene/> anyone can be a member of the group.

Instructor: Darlene Gerick **Level:** Beginners and above **Age:** 12+

Class Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. **Supplies Needed:** adhesive, scissors and 12 x 12 paper trimmer.

Van Buren Resident = \$14 per class Non-Resident = \$17 per class

Technique Class 1 (Repeat of January 14th class)

Split Negative, Thumping, Bleach Spritz, Emboss, Collage

Monday, April 7

Technique Class 6

Gel Card, Rock and Roll, Emerging Color, Masking, Coluzzle

Monday, April 21

Technique Class 2 (repeat of January 28th class)

Crimping, Bleached Out, Burned Batik, Dry Emboss, Marbles

Monday, May 5

Technique Class 7

Crystal Effects 5 ways to use it

Monday, May 19

Technique Class 8

Versamark 5 ways to use it

Monday, June 2

Technique Class 3 (repeat of February 18th class)

Reverse Spotlight, Metled Crayon, Cracked Glass, Baby Wipes, Saran Wrap

Monday, June 9

Technique Class 4 (repeat of March 17th class)

Magic Image, Tapestries, Crayon Resist, Bleach Stamping, Wheels

Monday, June 23

Technique Class 11

Note: There are 10 different Simply Scrappin' Kits if you would like to use a specific kit, you need to register by June 2, and specify the kit you want. All other registrants will be given what kit is available. Kits can be viewed on the Stampin' Up website, in the current catalog, or Instructor will have catalog at all workshops

Monday, June 30

Technique Class 5 (repeat of March 31st class)

Kissing, Spotlight, Dry Debossing, Masking Tape, Backgrounds

Monday, July 7

Technique Class 9

Punches, Spirelli

Monday, July 14

Technique Class 10

Vellum

Monday, August 4

Technique Class 12

Boxes, Bag-a-lopers

Monday, August 25

Technique Class 6 (repeat of April 21st class)

Gel Card, Rock and Roll, Emerging Color, Masking, Coluzzle

Monday, September 8

Relay for Life

May 17 & 18

**10:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. (24 hour event)
Wayne County Fairgrounds**

This event is organized to raise awareness and funds for the American Cancer Society. This is a community event with teams of walkers from schools, businesses, families, churches, clubs, etc. All you have to do is form a team of 10 or more. Try to earn money for the society using numerous fundraisers. The day of the event you and your team will take turns walking on the track for 24 hours.

Various activities for all ages will be available throughout this event.

Why get involved? "Because one in three Americans will get cancer in their lifetime." The Relay for Life gives everyone in our community an opportunity to fight back - together we will be able to make a difference in the battle against cancer.

For more information Email: Cheryl Gniewek at cheryl.gniewek@cancer.org or call us at (734) 699-8921.

Friday Family Fun Summer Music Nights

"No Child/Adult Left Inside"

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

FREE shows at Van Buren Park (S.I-94 Service Drive)

\$3.00 per car park entry fee



Friday, July 11: Little Davy & The Diplomats
(Jazz, Country, Swing, Oldies, etc...)



Friday, July 18: Belleville Community Band

Friday, July 25: "Happy Feet" on the Big Screen

Bring your blankets, pitch a tent and watch a movie under the stars.

In the case of heavy rain, movie will be shown at the Community Center (46425 Tyler Road).

Friday, August 1: MR. LARGEBEAT
(Dance Space Rock)



Friday, August 8: The Sun Messengers
(R&B, Big Band)



Friday, August 15: Back Beats tribute to the Beatles
Back by popular demand!

Friday, August 22: "High School Musical 2" on the big screen

Bring your blankets, pitch a tent and watch a movie under the stars.

In the case of heavy rain, movie will be shown at the Community Center (46425 Tyler Road).

Bring the family to enjoy an evening filled with live music or music on the big screen.

Kids and adults will enjoy the awesome Van Buren Park playground, making crafts,
and of course dancing to the music.

Concessions: popcorn, candy rings, chips, hot dogs, pop, water, etc...
Gloworks products will be sold.

In case of rain, please call (734) 699-8921 for more information. If a rainout occurs, music concerts will be moved to 555 W. Columbia Belleville High School Auditorium. Movie rainouts will be moved to 46425 Tyler Road Community Center.

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

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

Cedar Point

Adult (age 3-61 or 48" & over)	\$34.25
Child (age 3 under 48")	\$14.95

(Cash Only)



Mother/Son Cosmic Bowl Mega 80's



Friday, May 9
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Meet at Lodge Lanes
46255 S. I-94 Service Drive

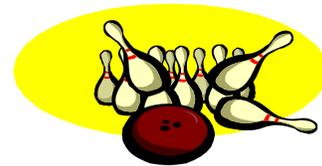


Moms and sons come dressed in your hippest 80's look. Spend the night bowling, eating pizza while having an ultimate retro time! Grandmothers, aunts, big sisters are invited too. Please register early space is limited.

When registering, please let us know who you would like on your lane so we can organize teams in advance.

Van Buren Residents = \$20 per couple
Non-Residents = \$25 per couple
\$5.00 for each additional child
\$10.00 for each additional adult

Price includes 2-3 games of bowling, shoes, pizza and pop.



Detroit Tiger Trips

Bring the family to Comerica Park, you do not have to worry about driving or parking.
Just enjoy the game!

Detroit Tigers
Vs.
Minnesota Twins
Thursday, July 10 at 1:05 p.m.
Comerica Park, Detroit

\$25 per person charges cover transportation, admission and bus parking (39 tickets available).

Bus will leave Van Buren Township Community Center parking lot at 11:15 a.m. for the 1:05 p.m. game. (Ticket pick-up between 11:00-11:15 a.m. the day of the game)

Detroit Tigers
Vs.
Cleveland Indians
Wednesday, August 27 at 7:05 p.m.
Comerica Park, Detroit

\$25 per person charges cover transportation, admission and bus parking (39 tickets available).

Bus will leave Van Buren Township Community Center parking lot at 5:15 p.m. for the 7:05 p.m. game. (Ticket pick-up between 5:00-5:15 p.m. the day of the game)

Tickets go on sale Tuesday, April 15

Please contact the Parks & Recreation Department if you have any questions at (734) 699-8921.



Open Registration for all Camps



First Session: June 16 - July 11 (4 weeks) No camp Friday, July 4

Second Session: July 14 - August 8 (4 weeks)

Registration for 1st session ends May 12 - Registration for 2nd session ends June 23

**** Please notice registration is based on grade level for the 2007-2008 school year, not age.**

Tot Camp: (Grades: K-2) Held at Van Buren Park
Van Buren Resident = \$340 Non-Resident = \$355

Day Camp: (Grades: 3-5) Held at Van Buren Park
Van Buren Resident = \$340 Non-Resident = \$355

Tween Camp: (Grades: 6-7) Held at Van Buren Park
Van Buren Resident = \$340 Non-Resident = \$355

Club Teen: (Grades: 8-10) Held at the Community Ctr.
Van Buren Resident = \$360 Non-Resident = \$375

Camps include: transportation for those who live in Van Buren Township and City of Belleville, one camp t-shirt, games, crafts, field trips, socialization with peers, supervision from highly trained counselors, and a chance for campers to just be a kid while enjoying the outdoors.

All Camps Run From: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Monday, June 2 Parent Orientation

It is highly recommended for parents/guardians to attend camp orientation. Camp packets and transportation times will be dispersed at the meeting. Plus meet and greet with your campers' counselors.

Tot Camp 6:00 p.m.
Day Camp 6:30 p.m.
Tween Camp 7:00 p.m.
Teen Camp 7:30 p.m.

Mother/Daughter Tea

Sunday, May 4
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Hello Kitty and Bear invite you to attend their tea party. Yummy treats and tea can be expected. It'll be a special day for all!

Mothers, daughters, grandmothers etc. are invited to our 7th annual Tea Party. Sample various teas, light refreshments and make crafts too.

Held at the Van Buren Community Center.
46425 Tyler Road

Van Buren Residents = \$20 per couple
Non-Resident = \$25 per couple

\$5.00 for each additional child
\$10.00 for each additional adult

Fireworks 2008

Saturday, June 28
Rain-out Date: June 29

Show starts at dusk, Beck Ball Fields

DJ and Gloworks!!

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

- Concessions Available
- Family Fun!

How to Register:

Walk In:

Register at the Recreation Department Desk, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:50 p.m., and Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. We are located at 46425 Tyler Road between Belleville and Beck Roads. Registration is taken on a first-come, first-served basis. We accept cash or check. Please make checks payable to Van Buren Township.

Mail In:

Print all information on registration form, be sure to include phone number and class name. Mail to the address on the registration form with check or money order. Please do not mail cash! All mail will be processed on a first-come basis.

Important Recreation 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 or www.bellevillecougars.com

You must register with the Belleville Cougars.

Belleville Area Little League

(734) 487-9335

www.eteamz.com/BellevilleAreaLL

You must register with Belleville Area 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.

Project Youth

This is a community participation outreach program. If you are looking to make a donation for a great cause, this is it. This program will give children who are from families of low to moderate income a chance to participate in the various recreation programs at our facility. Applicants seeking to apply for this Scholarship can call Recreation Deputy Director Jennifer Wright at (734) 699-8921. Scholarships will not be granted until the Recreation Department receives funds.

Applications are available at the Van Buren Recreation Department. Proof of your household income must be submitted with the application. All information is confidential. Children may qualify for one scholarship per season.

Volunteers

The Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department is looking for volunteers to assist with our community activities, events, and youth programs. There is something for everyone - ongoing volunteer programs or a few hours of activity helping others. Upcoming volunteer opportunities include: Takin' it to the Streets, any Therapeutic program, Relay for Life, SeaQuest Build-a-Boat program. For more information, please contact Jennifer Wright at (734) 699-8921 or jwright@vanburen-mi.org.



Having fun at Takin It to the Streets!

Check out our Gymnasium!



Many of our classes are held in our gymnasium, plus there are also open gym times when basketball or volleyball can be played, check out our gym schedule on page 38.

Backstop/Outfield Fencing Sponsorship

Here is your opportunity to showcase your business at the Gregg Brinkerhoff/Chuck Coleman Memorial Softball Field located behind Van Buren Township Recreation Department. Give your support to the community while advertising your business.

Sponsor a 4' x 10' Aluminite sign (any color) for \$550.

\$50 renewal fee each year to keep displayed.

Call Deputy Director of Recreation Jennifer Wright for more information and/or sponsorship form.



Gregg Brinkerhoff/Chuck Coleman Memorial Field

S.A.F.E

Students Advocating for Future Empowerment

Meets 1st & 4th Monday 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Valerie Bonner, Strategic Transitions Consultant, will train teens to be teen mentors. Help enhance your community and college application.

- Become a teen mentor to your peers (Such topics can include drug/alcohol abuse to teen suicide)
- Participate in community service projects/ special events
- Develop fun program ideas
- Learn about local decision making
- Travel to the annual Youth Symposium

Call (734) 699-8921 on how to get involved.



Event/Program Sponsor

If you are a business or person looking to sponsor a Van Buren Township recreational event or program, please call (734) 699-8921. With your help we can provide a child who may not otherwise be able to join a recreation class an opportunity to do so at no cost to them. Also sponsoring an event is a fun way to showcase your business name.



Fun times at Takin' it to the Streets

Abrakadoodle

In partnership with Crayola and based on child-centered learning principles, Abrakadoodle provides comprehensive, educationally sound art education to children ages 20 months to 12 years old. Each child will take home a framed piece of art after each class - labeled with information about key concepts and vocabulary introduced each lesson. For more information visit their website at www.abrakadoodle.com.

Green Kids in a Colorful World

Saturdays, May 31 - June 28

(Ages: 3-6) 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

(Ages: 7-12) 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Classes held at Van Buren Park Boat House,
Park entry fee waived.**

Green kids care about the environment and we do too at Abrakadoodle! In this new series of lessons we will create remarkable art using recycled items such as CD's, plastic bottles, packaging, paper tubes and more.

Our recyclers will learn about reusing common everyday items and turning them into masterpieces. There'll be lots of 3-D projects such as creating French Santons statues and fuzzy animals and puppies, as well as using reusable items for painting and drawing! Join our colorful world where we put emphasis on GREEN!

Van Buren Resident = \$125 Non-Resident = \$140
**\$15 material fee paid to
instructor on the first day of class.**

Anime Japanese Animation Camp

**August 11 - August 15 (Meets daily)
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Ages: 7-14

Join Abrakadoodle Anime and learn the Japanese art of animation. Learn about the basics of head and facial features plus body shapes, hands and feet, animal anime and more. Use the Abrakadoodle Anime Guide Book to help take you through the steps to creating your own anime characters. You will learn Japanese games and listen to Japanese folktales. At the end of the session take home your Abrakadoodle Anime Guide Book and your kit materials to further explore this unusual art form. So get ready for super fun at Abrakadoodle Anime!

Van Buren Resident = \$125 Non-Resident: 140
Camper Kits additional \$40

Western Wayne Therapeutic

The communities of Livonia, Canton, Westland, Northville, Dearborn, Wayne, Van Buren Township, Redford, Garden City, Romulus and Plymouth are pleased to enter into a partnership with Wayne County to provide recreation services for individuals with disabilities. A grant from Wayne County will allow these Western Wayne Communities to collaborate to provide additional therapeutic recreation programs. The Therapeutic Recreation (WWCTR) program seeks to coordinate the various programs of the participating communities, foster collaborations and a sharing of resources. Programs include respite nights for families, field trips, swimming and activities for all ages, martial arts, t-ball and cheerleading for children, dances, craft classes and more for adults. For more information on programs and events or to be included on a mailing list for these events, please go to www.wwctr.org.

Wayne Theatre Free Night

Tuesday, May 20

Non-Residents: 99 cents per person

Please call Wayne Parks & Recreation (734) 419-0139

A Night for Me

Wouldn't it be great to have a night meeting with friends while having fun? Each night there will be one area set aside for children ages 3-12 and a different area for adults ages 13 and up. Note to parents and support staff: these special nights are designed to provide you the opportunity to have an evening to do whatever you want. Snack provided.
Fees: \$2 for Wayne County residents, **\$3** for non-residents.

Westland Parks and Recreation (734) 722-7620

WWCTR Cheerleaders Performance

Spend an hour learning the most current hip hop dance moves! Then make a craft to take home

Friday, June 13 6:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Pre-register by June 12.

Westland Parks and Recreation (734) 722-7620

2nd Annual Extravaganza Picnic

Activities will include live performances, inflated games, carnival games and much more!

Thursday, August 21 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Nankin Mills Park, Westland

Free to Wayne County Residents

Please call Westland Parks & Recreation (734) 722-7620.

ADA Accessibility

The Van Buren Township Parks & Recreation Department is working toward making all our facilities, programs, services and activities accessible to everyone. Individuals requiring an auxiliary aid or accommodations should advise us of the requirements at the time of registration or a minimum of 72 hours prior to the start of the service. Every effort will be made to make the facilities accessible.



Van Buren Township Parks

- Van Buren Park
- Quirk Park
- French Landing Park

All Park Hours

8:00 a.m. until Dusk - Open all year round.



New to you...

Comfort Stations

Come visit

Van Buren Park Beach



Van Buren Park

Located on the S. I-94 Service Drive next to the Kmart Plaza
Entrance fee: \$3.00 per car

Activities

Van Buren Park offers numerous recreational activities. Picnics, swimming at the beach, volleyball, walking trails and three playgrounds are just a few of the activities to be enjoyed.

Haggerty Neighborhood Park

New this summer!

Pavilion Rentals

Please reserve pavilions in advance, dates fill up quickly. Pavilions can be reserved at the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department by filling out a contract form and making payment. Cash or check only!

Cost: Contact Van Buren Parks and Recreation for prices at (734) 699-8921.

Quirk Park

Located behind the Township Hall off of Tyler Road.

Activities

Quirk Park offers soccer fields, walking vita-course trail, picnic areas and a playground.

French Landing Park

Located on the West side of Haggerty Road just South of the S. I-94 Service Drive.

Activities

French Landing park offers fishing, picnic areas and a playground.

Riggs Heritage Park - soon to come!

Visit Van Buren Parks for a myriad of activities!

At all Van Buren Township Parks:

Keep dogs on leashes and always clean up after them.

For further information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at (734) 699-8921, the Park Office at (734) 484-3666 or visit our website:

www.vanburen-mi.org

Gym Summer Schedule

Sunday	Family Gym Jazzercise Open Gym Gym closes at 5:50 p.m.	12:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. 4:15 p.m. - 5:50 p.m.
Monday	Jazzercise Camp Jazzercise Open Adult Gym Gym closes at 8:50 p.m.	9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. - 7:35 p.m. 8:00 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.
Tuesday	Walking Camp Jazzercise Tae Kwon Do Gym closes at 8:50 p.m.	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. - 6:55 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.
Wednesday	Jazzercise Camp Jazzercise Open Adult Gym Gym closes at 8:50 p.m.	9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. - 7:35 p.m. 8:00 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.
Thursday	Walking Camp Jazzercise Tae Kwon Do Gym closes at 8:50 p.m.	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. - 6:55 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.
Friday	Jazzercise Camp Jazzercise Open Gym Gym closes at 8:50 p.m.	9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.
Saturday	Jazzercise Gymnastics Teen Open Gym	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. - 5:50 p.m. Gym closes at 5:50 p.m.

**** Children 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Parents/Guardians please make certain that you are here prior to closing to pick up your child. Times are subject to change. ****

If you have any questions or would like to verify gym times please call the Recreation Department at (734) 699-8921.

How to Register for Classes/Programs

Walk In:

Register at the Community Services Desk, Monday - Friday between 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:50 p.m., and Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. We are located at 46425 Tyler Road between Belleville and Beck Roads. Registration is taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. We accept cash or check. Please make checks payable to: Van Buren Township.

Mail In:

Print all information on registration form, be sure to include phone number and class name. Mail to the address on the registration form with check or money order. Please do not mail cash! All mail will be processed on a first-come basis.

Open Gym Participants

Patrons who show one of the following will pay:

Valid Driver's License showing current Van Buren Address

\$3.00

Current Van Buren School I.D.

\$2.00

Non-Residents

(Show current I.D.)

\$5.00

Everyone MUST HAVE a picture I.D.!!

**** Any disregard of gym rules can result in being banned from the gym. ****

Registration/Waiver Form

Participant's Name _____

Parent's Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Age, if under 18 _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Email Address (*recreation brochure will be sent electronically*): _____

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

Prospective Instructor Information & Proposal Packets... are now available at the Recreation Department front desk. If you are interested in joining our team by teaching a special interest class, you may stop by our office to pick up a proposal packet. Fill out the packet and return to the Recreation Department. These packets will be reviewed, and contact will be made with you regarding the next process.

Why teach a class for Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department? Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department's main concentration is providing our community of all ages and abilities quality recreational opportunities in a fun and safe environment. Programs that are offered to the community focus on health and wellness, social interaction, team building skills, as well as personal/professional/cultural enhancement. Hiring qualified instructors enables us to provide the highest standards we strive for when offering these programs.

We welcome your thoughts and new ideas to increase recreational opportunities in Van Buren Township!!

Program Cancellation or Modification

Van Buren Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel or modify a program due to low enrollment or other unforeseen circumstances. Registrants will be notified if changes occur to their respective programs.

Come visit our Parks!!
(for more info see page 37)



Pavilion at Van Buren Park

Refund & Registration Info

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.

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.

EMAIL Mailing Address List

We are now in the World of Technology, and receiving information via email is becoming more popular. Here at Van Buren Township Recreation Department we are in the early stages of developing an Email Mailing Address List. If you would like to receive our recreation brochure via email, please provide your email address on the registration form. The registration form is located on page 39. Once we receive your email address we will add this information to our database. This will allow you to obtain recreation information with the click of a button.

Charter Township of Van Buren
46425 Tyler Road
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111-1299

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