



Charter Township of Van Buren

Lake Ledger

Fire Station #2 Open House and You're Invited!



New Fire Station #2 located on Belleville Road

**Saturday, November 4, 2006
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Please join the men and women of the Van Buren Fire Department as we celebrate the grand opening of new Fire Station #2 at 7981 Belleville Road. Built with funding from the Downtown Development Authority, the 4-bay, 18,000 square foot facility will replace the Department's existing Station #2 located on Ecorse Road that was built over 40 years ago. In addition to serving as the Fire Department's headquarters, the facility also includes limited public meeting space and will serve as a voting precinct and severe weather shelter for residents.

Please join us at our Open House so you may tour the station and see the various fire apparatus used to protect you. Free hot dogs and beverages will be provided along with goodie bags for children.

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Fall / Winter 2006 - 2007

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

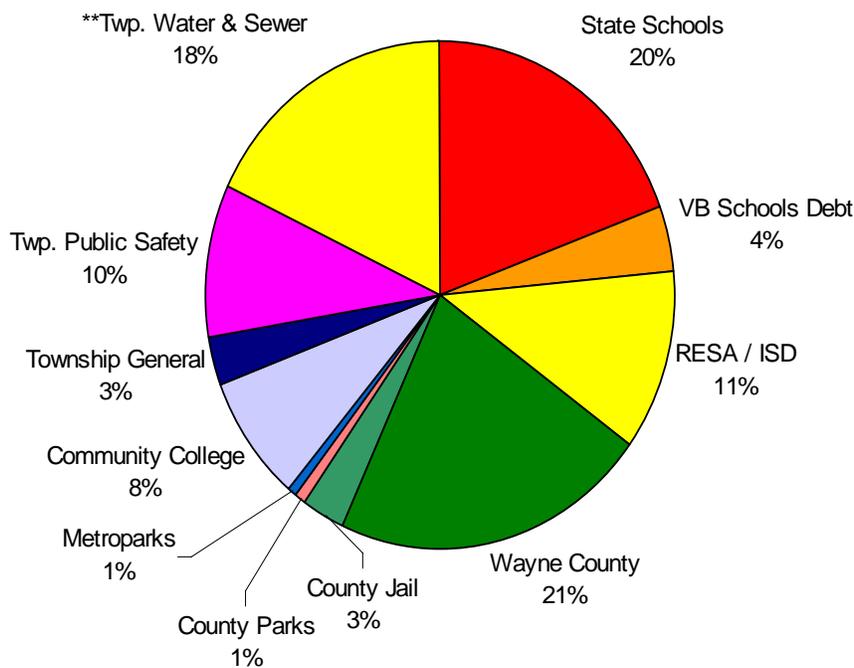
Recently, the Board of Trustees concluded two full days of budget preparation sessions to review proposed amendments to the 2006 General Fund budget and to deliberate proposals from department directors that will result in the 2007 General Fund budget.

By law, the township must adopt a balanced budget and the Board must approve the 2007 fiscal year budget by the end of 2006. While the 2006 Amended and 2007 Proposed General Fund budgets are yet to be completed, I thought it would be helpful to once again share in visual format information concerning how your tax dollars are spent.

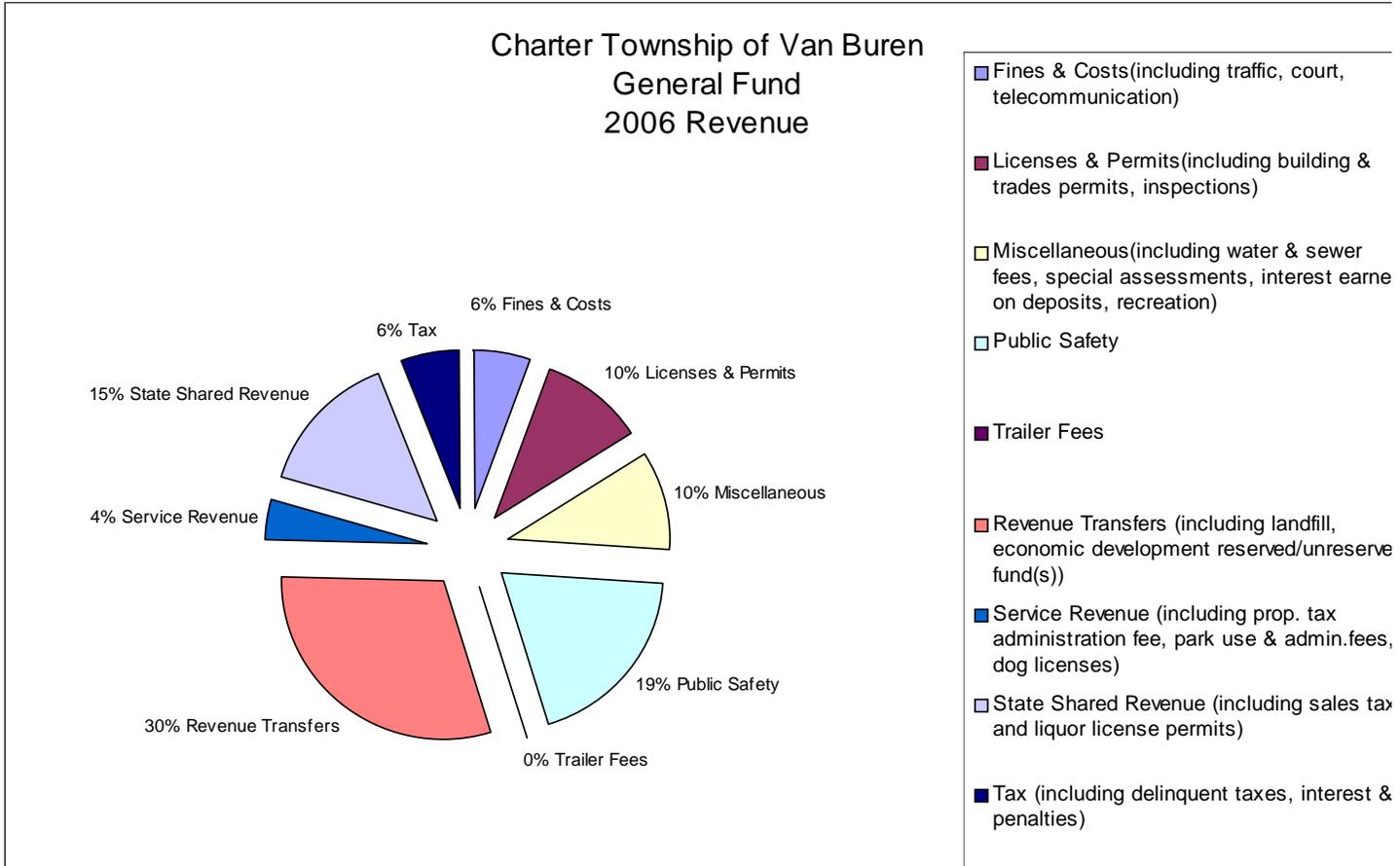
Three pie charts accompany this article. This first "Where Do Your Property Taxes Go?" provides a breakdown of the various taxes collected by the Treasurer's Office. As the chart indicates, less than 33% of the taxes you pay each year to the Treasurer are monies actually spent on township operations. More than 66% of the tax dollars you provide are sent to other taxing jurisdictions. For instance, 20% of your property tax bill reflects funding for the State Education Tax, 21% is allocated to Wayne County, 8% to the Wayne County Community College District and 31% for township operations.

The 31% of your property tax bill allocated for township operations includes three mills (10% of total property tax bill) allocated for Public Safety Department operations including police, fire, emergency dispatch and animal control; the six mill voter approved water and sewer millage allocated toward capital projects and debt repayment (18%), and the one mill for general operating costs (3%). The one mill collected by the township for general operating funds the services provided by the developmental services department including building/planning, ordinance enforcement and environmental, parks and recreation, senior services, community services including building/grounds and cemeteries and the services provided by the Board, Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer offices.

Where Do Your Property Taxes Go? Less than 1/3 comes back to the Township!



The remaining two pie charts depict annual revenue sources and expenditures of the township. With respect to revenue, the township relies on property tax revenue for 6% of its annual revenue stream. The single largest source of revenue for the township in 2006 is derived from "revenue transfers" which is funding provided by the Landfill Fund and the fund balance ("rainy day" savings) set aside in the General Fund. The township receives state shared revenue, a revenue source that has not been increased in the past several years, that provides 15% of the 2006 General Fund operating revenue.



As you might imagine, the Department of Public Safety comprises the bulk of General Fund expenditures, representing 49% of the General Fund budget. The Developmental Services Department reflects 12% of the township's expenditures and Community Services which includes parks and recreation and senior services reflects 8% of 2006 General Fund expenditures.

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

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VAN BUREN TECHNOLOGY

It may surprise you, but it's only been six short years since Van Buren entered the technology environment you enjoy today. Partly in response to "Y2K" fears, the township sought the advice of a local business to assist us in being prepared should any of the many catastrophes the media warned us about with respect to the changing from 1999 to 2000 occur. As you know, the many crises reported upon did not happen, much to everyone's relief. However, at Township Hall, Y2K fears did result in making many needed improvements with

regard to technology.

All software programs utilized at Township Hall were scrutinized to ensure we were properly licensed, the township established a website to promote communication with you and email was initiated for township staff. Other improvements included the implementation of a Geographical Information System, electronic payment of water bills and computer aided

VAN BUREN TECHNOLOGY

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SENIOR CENTER CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY



Members of September Days at their 30th Anniversary Celebration

The senior program was established in November 1976 as a "Food & Friendship" program, sponsored by Van Buren Township held in St. Paul's Lutheran Church and moved to the Township Hall later that winter. Under the leadership of Virginia Melcher the program expanded to become a community focal point and was eligible for funding from the state.

While Connie Brinkerhoff served as director, she facilitated an agreement with Van Buren Public Schools and the center moved to Quirk School and then finally to our present location in 1996.

The program continues to grow and change as members' needs grow and change. The next few years will be truly exciting as we "baby boomers" retire and seek new activities and challenges. I can honestly say that while other centers in the state are having difficulty attracting young seniors, our folks can't wait to be old enough to join September Days!

AUTOMATIC BILL PAYMENT FOR YOUR WATER BILL

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

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

VAN BUREN PARKS & RECREATION HOSTS ITS FIRST HEALTHY YOUTH TOUR



Director Bruce Ross and Deputy Director Jennifer Morris holding the Healthy Cities proclamation

The Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department in collaboration with the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance hosted the first ever Healthy Youth Tour on August 10, 2006 in Van Buren Township. The event took place at the Township Recreation Center, the Senior Activity Garden and Quirk Park. The traveling tour which was a first for Van Buren Township included: a teen forum with special guest speaker Fanchon Stinger, Fox 2 News reporter, members of the Detroit Pistons and Detroit Shock, Chad from 95.5 Mojo in the Morning, live entertainment by artist Suai, games hoops and a host of information. The central goal of the Healthy Youth Tour was to inspire families to lead healthy drug free lifestyles. On site health screens for hearing, vision, weight, cholesterol and diabetes were made available, free of charge. Michigan Surgeon General the honorable Kimberly Dawn Wisdom honored Van Buren Township with a "Healthy Cities" proclamation on behalf of Governor Jennifer M. Granholm.

This was a great day to "Create Community through People, Parks and Programs" in Van Buren Township.

Bruce J. Ross
Director of Recreation & Facilities

Medicare Part D Presentation

Join us for a Medicare Part D presentation courtesy of CVS Pharmacy on Thursday, November 16 at 2:00 p.m. at September Days Senior Center. If you would like to meet individually with a pharmacist following the presentation, please bring your medications with you. This event is open to the public. Please call (734) 699-8918 to sign up.

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Greetings from the Treasurer's Office. With the arrival of fall/winter comes the mailing of the 2006 winter tax bills. Tax bills are estimated to be mailed around December 1, 2006 with a due date of February 14, 2007.

The Treasurer's Office is still in the process of implementing the new tax law requiring collection of a portion of the Wayne County Charter approved operating millage, with the summer bills. Public Act 357 of 2004 provides a funding mechanism to serve as a substitute to county revenue sharing payments. The substitute funding mechanism involves a gradual shift of county property tax millage from a winter levy to a summer levy and additionally, requires the establishment of a restricted fund to be known as the Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund.

As a result of the legislative action by the State of Michigan, the General Property Tax Act has been amended to provide the following: One third of Wayne County's Charter approved operating millage of 5.6483 mills was levied in July 2005 rather than December 2005. Two thirds of Wayne County's Charter approved operating millage of 5.6483 mills was levied in July 2006 rather than in December 2006. 100 percent of Wayne County's Charter approved operating millage of 5.6483 mills shall be levied in July 2007 rather than in December 2007. For each year after 2007, 100 percent of Wayne County's Charter approved operating millage shall be levied in July.

Below is an illustration of the gradual shift of Wayne County's operating millage from the winter to the summer tax bills:

WAYNE COUNTY CHARTER OPERATING LEVY			
	SUMMER LEVY	WINTER LEVY	TOTAL LEVY
2004	0	5.6483	5.6483
2005	1.8828	3.7655	5.6483
2006	3.7655	1.8828	5.6483
2007	5.6483	0	5.64.83

In addition to the Charter approved operating millage, Wayne County levies the Soldier's Relief millage and the Extra Voted millage. These 2005 millage rates were .0368 and .9529 respectively. They will continue to be levied 100% in December of each year. In addition, Wayne County levies the Wayne County Parks and Wayne County Jail millages. These millages will also continue to be levied 100% in December of each year.

Just a reminder that it is very important that you update any changes to your tax information. Please examine your tax bill closely to assure accuracy. If you find any information that needs to be updated please contact the Treasurer's Office for assistance. Changes can also be implemented by filling out the section on the back side of the tax bill voucher that is submitted to the Treasurer's Office along with your payment.

As a service to our residents the Treasurer's Office coordinates payments from over 42 different mortgage companies for roughly 3,450 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. If any changes are made notify our staff so we can keep your information accurate.

Winter taxes can be extended for senior citizens from February 14, 2007 to April 30, 2007 for those seniors who have applied for the Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit via Form MI-1040CR and have not received the refund prior to March 1, 2007 and need it to pay their taxes. The taxes can be extended by submitting a copy of Form MI-1040CR to the Treasurer's Office and filling out a Winter Deferment Extension Form. The Wayne County Treasurer's Office will then issue a new bill for the taxpayer and allow the taxpayer until April 30, 2007 to pay without penalty or interest charges. Payments must then be made directly to the Wayne County Treasurer's Office. Winter deferments can be filed in person, by visiting the Treasurer's Office or by calling the Treasurer's Office for an application at (734) 699-8903.

As an additional payment option for our residents, the Treasurer's Office is now working in cooperation with BS & A Software and Official Payments Corporation (OPC) in order to facilitate the acceptance of credit card payments. OPC offers individuals and businesses the opportunity to pay their property taxes by the telephone or over the internet. OPC does charge taxpayers a separate 3% convenience fee for this service.

On another note, if you have not visited the Treasurer's Office in order to obtain a license for your dog, you are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Please bring a copy of your dog's proof of rabies vaccination in order for our staff to process the license. The following is an excerpt from the Township Ordinance (Section 14-51) related to the requirement of getting your dog properly licensed within Van Buren Township.

"It shall be unlawful for any person to own, possess or harbor a dog six months or older, in this township without first having obtained a license from the township treasurer, or such other officer as the township treasurer shall designate, in compliance with the provisions set forth in this division."

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

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP HONOR GUARD



The Van Buren Township Honor Guard has been established to be the formal representatives of the Township in high profile ceremonies and special events.

Police Officers that are a part of the Honor Guard are Captain Gregory Laurain, Sgt. Mark Buckberry, Detective Louis Keele, and Officers Christopher Hayes, Ryan Bidwell, Michael Long, Amy Naif, and Christopher Valinski.

Their goal is to represent all members of the Van Buren Township Public Safety Department in the highest degree of honor, dignity, professionalism and loyalty as possible.

The primary purpose is to provide appropriate honors for funeral services of the fallen with the utmost dignity and respect that reflects the highest traditions of public safety.

Officers assigned to this detail are specifically trained in military customs and courtesies as well as respect to the flag of our great nation. Members are expected to maintain the highest morals and values of Van Buren Township. They stand ready to represent the Township as a well trained ceremonial detail promoting a positive public image serving as goodwill ambassadors for the community they serve.

The Honor Guard personifies professional decorum at a level of service and respect that has come to characterize Van Buren Township.

The Honor Guard performed on September 10 at Open Arms Lutheran Church as part of their tribute to those who serve in police and fire departments.

The Honor Guard will be at the VIP Dedication and Open House of the newly constructed Fire Station #2, to be held on November 2 this year.

Capt. Gregory M. Laurain
Support Services Division

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT INSTITUTES EMS BIKE TEAM PROGRAM



Van Buren Bike Team Officers providing assistance

As you and your family enjoy many of the special events that happen around Van Buren Township you may notice the fire department's recent special addition to their fleet.

By the end of the fall season, the Van Buren Township Fire Department will have begun providing emergency services at special events, such as the Annual Crop Walk or Haunted Forest, in a very unique way. These events will be patrolled by fire personnel staffing mountain bikes stocked with equipment designed to render emergency medical (EMS) aid quickly, effectively, and efficiently.

The design of this new service technique is to provide a very practical, cost-effective, and time saving solution when ordinary fire apparatus would be hampered by traffic, parking, barricades, and other vehicle blocking obstacles. The EMS Bike Team will place life-saving equipment, such as oxygen and an AED, on a "vehicle" that can quickly cut through a crowd or traffic back-ups and provide prompt care. The Bike Team will also patrol special events or gatherings and spread injury-prevention messages by encouraging safe traveling habits and helmet usage while riding a bike.

Although the old adage may imply "It is as easy as riding a bike" and, that being a member of the Bike Team may be easy, nothing is farther from the truth. Fire Department personnel assigned to the Bike Team will participate in monthly training sessions that will consist of topics such as: long-distant rides, riding within traffic flow, teamwork cadence, overcoming obstacles, traffic laws, nutrition, and providing emergency services immediately after dismounting a bike.

To schedule the Van Buren Fire Department Bike Team at your next special event contact Captain David McNally (Public Education Coordinator) at dmcnally@vanburen-mi.org or Lieutenant Daniel Besson (EMS Division/Bike Team Officer) at dbesson@vanburen-mi.org.

Lieutenant Daniel Besson
Van Buren Fire Department

COMPUTER FRAUD PREVENTION

Part 3 of a 4 part series

It is time once again to visit the world of Computer Fraud Crimes. For this part we are going to explore yet another avenue criminals frequently use to commit crimes against unwitting victims. One of the most common and vast ways to exploit victims is through internet purchases. This is a very broad category involving several schemes.

The most frequent is the online auction fraud. It typically accounts for over 50% of all fraud related complaints per year. Online shoppers visit auction websites to buy and sell various items much the same way a real live auction would occur. The fraud occurs when the victim either does not receive the item they paid for, or they receive an item that is of a substantially lower value and/or quality than the item they intended to purchase. Resolution can be very difficult due to the anonymity that the internet offers coupled with very little identifying information of the other party. Often the only thing known to the buyer is an e-mail address or website address. Non-delivery of merchandise is the easiest way to facilitate this crime, again due to anonymity.

These types of transactions do not occur only from the auction websites, but also from what appear to be legitimate sites as well. With today's technology, websites can be made and posted at very little expense and knowledge. Much of the software today is very user friendly and there is no requirement to meet in order to post a site as a business authorized to conduct transactions via the internet. Some of these non-legitimate sites can also do more harm than simply not providing an item or service to the customer, they can also be responsible for varied Identity and Credit Card Fraud complaints as well.

Credit card fraud is a multi-faceted crime. Initially, stolen or forged credit card numbers are used to make purchases over the internet. The merchandise is then shipped to the suspect and the charge is made to the financial institute issuing the credit and billed to the customer of record. The customer then contacts the creditor and files a dispute over the charges. It is then "charged back" to the merchant who does not receive the monies owed for goods or services they provided. The merchant is left without the merchandise or the payment owed, while the customer is left to dispute the charges which are often entered onto their credit report and not easily removed. The only winner is once again the criminal who remains anonymous within the system.

The best way to insure against fraud by internet purchase is to keep in mind that you are buying the item sight unseen. Don't judge the item by its initial appearance. You are, in a sense, buying only the picture initially; there is no way to verify that the item posted is the actual item or that the seller is who they actually say they are.

Be careful about giving out valuable personal information online. Don't send information such as Social Security Numbers, Credit Card Numbers, Passwords, etc., without knowing specifically who is asking for them. Criminals have been known to request these sensitive items via e-mails. While secure transactions with a known "e-commerce" site are fairly safe, non-secure messages to an unknown recipient is not. Most reputable legitimate internet merchants (i.e.; Sears, Kohls, Meijer, and many other major retail chains) will only conduct transactions over a secure server. This means that the information you provide is encrypted as it travels from your computer to theirs (so to speak) so it cannot be intercepted and used by any other means which may interrupt the connection. Most all of these reputable businesses will not share or sell any of your personal information for the purposes of marketing, which too can make you vulnerable to an intrusion.

Pay for the items through a credit card whenever possible. Many credit card companies offer insurance to protect the consumer from fraud over the internet as well as many built in protections to avoid the possibility of misuse. They can also offer the best information and leads to possible suspects when a fraud occurs.

The most effective prevention is to research the prospective seller carefully. If you have not done previous business with the seller or know someone who has, be sure to check references. Look for sources of information online regarding the business and its practices online. Auction sites often offer "feedback" from other users regarding their prior transactions with the seller. They can provide very useful information regarding the items they sell, deliver and business practices based upon their own experiences.

The moral of the story is as always, BUYER BEWARE! Use common sense and research all of your transactions to best protect yourself. Always use a secure site to transmit personal information and be certain you know who is receiving the information. The uses of the internet to make purchases have provided a certain ease in shopping and services while also offering good discounts. The technology has introduced us to another very useful tool, but with it comes some pitfalls that we can easily maneuver around if we understand the hazards and use caution.

Detective, Louis Keele
Van Buren Public Safety

VAN BUREN FIRE DEPARTMENT PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their warm welcome, as well as to introduce the Van Buren Township Fire Department to the community we serve.

My name is Mark Nicholai and I was appointed on August 24, 2006 to serve the community as the Van Buren Township Fire Department Fire Chief. I have been active in the fire-rescue field all of my adult life, which is now 22 years. I have served in various capacities including Paramedic, Fire and EMS Dispatcher, Fire Fighter, Lieutenant/Shift Commander, Training Officer/Assistant Fire Marshal and Fire Commander. The majority of my career has been with the Pittsfield Township Fire Department where my last assignment was as the Fire Commander. I have been heavily involved in area training programs for fire service, emergency medical services and heavy rescue training programs.

The Van Buren Township Fire Department currently provides fire-rescue services from two facilities; Station 1 is located at 130 Fourth Street and Station 2 is located at 7981 Belleville Road. Station 2 is staffed with two paid on-call fire fighters from the hours of 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. and then from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. During that time the "duty crew" handles incidents that do not require a full department response; these incidents include vehicle fires, medical emergencies, electrical emergencies, fire alarms (with no visible smoke or fire), carbon monoxide alarms and the alike. From the period of 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. when the station is not staffed paid on-call fire fighters are dispatched via a paging system to respond to all emergencies. If the fire fighter is available, they respond to one of the two fire stations to respond in fire apparatus. Additionally, significant events such as structure fires, vehicle accidents with people trapped etc. are also dispatched to all available personnel to respond, as well as any on-duty staff.

The Township has experienced a significant population growth spurt over the last few years. A 15.1% increase in the last six years alone. An increase in population in turn requires a greater demand for services from all governmental agencies, and the fire department is no different. The department currently is averaging 2000 calls for service annually, and many of those are occurring simultaneously.

Van Buren Township has and is continuing to prepare for the future with several new initiatives, including the construction of two new fire stations. New Station 2 is located on Belleville Road just south of Ecorse Road and is an 18,000 square foot facility that will house fire department administration, a back-up dispatch center, a back-up emergency operations center and training facility. The station will also have facilities to support a modern day fire department operation. The apparatus assigned to the station include 2 engines, 1 ladder, and 1 utility vehicle.

Station 1 will be located on the northeast corner of Sumpter and Hull Roads and will be a 12,285 square foot facility that will also provide for training facilities, office and storage space and will also be equipped to provide facilities for a modern day fire service operation. Apparatus assigned to Station 1 includes 1 engine, 1 squad, 1 utility vehicle and the dive rescue trailer.

With the addition of these state of the art facilities the fire department will be better able to provide fire-rescue services to the community.

I look forward to working with the elected officials, Director of Public Safety, fire department officers and fire fighters to improve all aspects of the fire department's operation in order to provide the best levels of service possible.

Mark Nicholai
Fire Chief

KEEPING YOUR HOME SAFE AND WARM THIS FALL AND WINTER

Follow these safety tips from CDC, the National Fire Protection Association, and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to prevent injuries and deaths related to heating your home.

- Install a smoke alarm near bedrooms and on each floor of your home. Test it monthly. If it has a 9-volt battery, change the battery once a year.
- Install a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm near bedrooms and on each floor of your home. If your alarm sounds, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission suggests that you press the reset button, call emergency services (911 or your local fire department), and immediately move to fresh air (either outdoors or near an open door or window). Know the symptoms of CO poisoning: headache, fatigue, dizziness, and shortness of breath. If you experience any of these symptoms get fresh air right away and contact a doctor for proper diagnosis.
- Make sure heating equipment is installed properly. Have a trained specialist inspect and tune up your heating system each year.
- Keep portable space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that can burn, including bedding, furniture, and clothing. Never drape clothing over a space heater to dry.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters. Never leave children in a room alone when a space heater is in use.

KEEPING YOUR HOME SAFE

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VAN BUREN PARKS

Well summer has quickly come and gone and the air is a bit cooler. The inevitable winter months are right around the corner. Before we get to that point, I would like to fill you in on the happenings of another successful summer season in Van Buren Township's parks. The parks had a wonderful summer with visits far exceeding preseason expectations.



New Comfort Station in back loop of Van Buren Park

If you have been in Van Buren or French Landing Parks recently, you will notice that the landscape has changed. Three new comfort stations have been under construction to provide park visitors with modern and clean restroom facilities. This project was made possible through a grant from Wayne County. Also, the kids may have noticed that Van Buren Park has some new play options. A new swing set featuring ADA accessible swings and an accessible playscape geared toward preschool aged children were built to compliment the existing park structures. These new play components were funded through a generous grant provided by the Van Buren Civic Fund, and the community itself performed the construction. Special thanks goes out to the Civic Fund, the community members that helped with the construction, Jack Golden & Associates for supervising the efforts, and Tim Horton's on Rawsonville Road for donating the morning refreshments for all of the volunteers.



COHORT at the Sizzlin' Summer Nights in Van Buren Park

This summer also saw a very successful Sizzlin' Summer Nights Concert Series on the stage at Van Buren Park. Many community members attended the evening performances featuring Rich Eddy's Rockin' Oldies Band, the Belleville Community Band, COHORT, the Twistin' Tarantulas, and Crossroads.

This fall we have other events, such as the Not-So-Scary Haunted Forest held October 7th, and the Haunted Forest on Friday and Saturday evenings throughout October starting on Friday the 13th. These events have become community traditions that provide children and families with a fun day at the No-So-Scary, or a spooky evening for those brave enough to challenge their fears in the Haunted Forest.

As winter approaches, I just want to remind everyone to come visit the parks as we continue to create community through people, parks and programs. Whether a cool afternoon picnic, a walk through the woods, or a brisk sledding excursion, the fall and winter seasons have plenty of options to enjoy your Van Buren Parks.

Anthony Mulkey
Parks Manager

KEEPING YOUR HOME SAFE

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- If you use a kerosene heater, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Never put gasoline in a kerosene heater - it could explode. Before you refuel the heater, turn it off and let it cool down. Refuel outside only.
- When using a kerosene heater, keep a door open to the rest of the house or open a window slightly. This will reduce the chance of carbon monoxide build-up in the room.
- Have your fireplace chimney and flue inspected each year and cleaned if needed. Open the flue and use a sturdy fireplace screen when you have a fire. Burn only untreated wood; never burn paper or pine branches - pieces can float out the chimney and ignite your roof, a neighbor's roof, or nearby trees.
- If you use a wood-burning stove, have the chimney connection and flue checked each year. Make sure the stove is placed on an approved stove board to protect the floor from heat and coals.
- Never use your range or oven to heat your home, even for a short time.

2007 Historical Society Calendar

The 2007 Historical Calendar has gone to print and is expected to be available for sale by November 1. Each month will feature a full-page local historic photograph. Calendars are published as a fund raiser for the Belleville Area Museum and will be sold for \$6.00 each.

If you wish to place an order by mail, please call the Museum at (734) 697-1944.

Recreation Program - Fall/Winter 2006-07

Jazzercise

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



Ongoing, Mondays & Wednesdays

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

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

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

Ongoing, Tuesdays (Regular)**

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

Ongoing, Thursdays (Regular) **

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

Ongoing, Fridays (Step)

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

Ongoing, Saturdays (Circuit)

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

Ongoing, Sundays

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



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

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

8 week (cash or check) = \$88.00

Walk-in = \$10.00

Community Dance Socials

Days of Bonnie & Clyde - November 18

(Swing)

Flashback Disco Night - December 16

(Rumba)

Dance Lessons: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. \$5/person

Dancing: 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. \$8/person

Variety of music from big band, country to top 40's.

Do you want to have some fun? How about socializing with others who enjoy dancing?

Light snacks and great dancing!
No alcoholic beverages.

Snowmobile Safety

Who needs to take a snowmobile safety course?

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

Receive student reading material when you register. This information is for you to read and complete the exercises at the end of each chapter.

Come to the one time class for testing on

Thursday, December 14, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Van Buren Resident = \$20 Non-Resident = \$25

**Non-Refundable Fee
15 minimum for class**

American/Latin Combo Dance Lessons

Learn the basics of Beginning Ballroom Dancing.

American: Foxtrot, Waltz, Swing or Disco Hustle.

Latin: Cha-Cha, Tango, Mambo, Rumba, and others.

Wednesdays, November 15 - December 20

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(6 week class) Couples Rates:

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

(6 week class) Singles Rates:

Van Buren Resident = \$35 Non-Resident = \$50

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

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

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

Free Movie!

Movie Schedule:

Nov 17	Pocahontas
Dec 1	Snow White
Dec 8	Rugrats in Paris
Dec 15	Toy Story 2

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

All ages welcome!

**Holiday Nights
 Greenfield Village Outing**

Friday, December 8 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Explore Greenfield Village at its finest. Meet at the community center at 6:30 p.m. From there we will take the recreation van to Greenfield Village. Watch or take part in ice skating in the village (skates available on site for an extra fee). See the authentically decorated homes, carriage or sleigh rides, carolers, musicians, live reindeer, bonfires, Santa and Mrs. Claus. There is also shopping and more.

Van Buren Resident = \$15 Non-Resident = \$18
 Van Buren Resident (child 5 & under) = \$10
 Non-Resident (child 5 & under) = \$12

Domestic Violence and Anger Management

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

Join Social Worker Moses Boone on a once a week 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.



Brunch with Santa

**Sunday, December 17
 11:00 a.m.**

Van Buren Township Hall



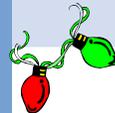
Cost: Adults = \$10 (Must register in advance)
 Children 3 & up = \$5 (special kid's buffet)
 Seniors = \$5
 Children under 3 = FREE

Who can that be with a bright red suit and a shiny red nose? Well it's Santa Claus and he invites all youngsters to come out for brunch with him. Mrs. Claus will be around as well to share a fun story with you. Youngsters are encouraged to bring a letter for Santa.

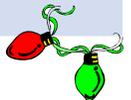
This year the recreation department is collecting donations for the Van Buren Township Animal Shelter. They are in need of dog and puppy food, toys and treats. If you would like to donate, please bring items to the brunch to set under the tree.

**There are a limited number of seats available.
 Must register in advance -
 No onsite registration**

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



Holiday Lights Contest



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

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

Registration forms due **Wednesday, December 6**

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

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

**** Winner receives ****

Home photo in *The View* and a \$50 gift certificate to Flowers by Katherine Rose.

V.B.T. Teen Authority



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

Ages: 13-18



Be a voice in your community. Meet with other teens at the recreation department to socialize, plan cool activities, or just hang out.



Open Scrap Night

Friday, November 17 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

\$2.00 per person for pizza
\$5.00 per child if you'd like us to provide childcare.
Children must be potty trained.

Youth Art Workshops
Wacky Wild Wednesdays



Wednesdays:
November 15, December 13

Ages: 7-12

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

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

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

Per Class Fee:

Van Buren Resident = \$10 Non-Resident = \$15

Anusara Yoga Fall Workshops

Week 1: Standing Poses: They are the most fundamental class of postures. They serve as the master pose from which all other poses originate. Through standing poses, students can learn the universal principles of alignment more easily than in the other classes of poses, because the body has the capacity for the greatest range of motion in these poses.

Week 2: Balancing Poses: Balancing poses develop lightness, strength and agility. Practicing balancing poses allows you to achieve tremendous control over the body. These poses develop muscle tone and increase coordination, concentration, and focus. By practicing outer balance you can cultivate your inner silence.

Please bring a yoga mat, a block,
and a yoga strap.

Standing Poses: November 21 & 22
Both nights 6:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Balancing Poses: November 28 & 29
Both nights 6:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

All 4 workshops:

Van Buren Residents = \$32 Non-Residents = \$47

2 workshops only:

Van Buren Residents = \$20 Non-Residents = \$35

Walk-in single workshop = \$12



2006 Holiday Arts & Crafts Show

Saturday, December 2, 2006
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

- **ALL CRAFTS MUST BE HANDMADE** (Non-handmade items will not be allowed)
- Electricity is not provided
- Crafters must provide their own display setup
- Setup begins Friday, December 1, 2006, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday setup begins at 8:00 a.m.
- Crafters are expected to stay until 3:00 p.m.
- Call for space availability before sending in payment
- Send 2 pictures of your display
- Checks are payable to Van Buren Township
- Call (734) 699-8921 for more information

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

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

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

\$5.00 for each additional table

Registration/Waiver Form

Participant's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Age, if under 18 _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

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

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

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

Activity	Day and Time of Class	Fee

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

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

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

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

Signature (Parent or Guardian, if not over 18)

 Date

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

2005 Drinking Water Quality Report

The 2005 Drinking Water Quality Report was mailed before July 1 to all Van Buren addresses. In complying with Federal requirements, we have developed the report to provide you with valuable information about your drinking water. The report explains where your water comes from, lists the results of testing conducted at the water treatment plant and in the water distribution system, and contains important information about water and health. The report also provides information on how you can minimize contaminants in our source water. The report is available on our website at www.vanburen-mi.org under Departments, Water & Sewer, or extra copies are available by calling (734) 699-8925.

ANNUAL FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING PROGRAM

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

The hydrant flushing program is an important maintenance activity of the Department. Every fall, each of the approximately 1,590 hydrants in the township is operated to verify that the hydrant is in good operating condition. Minor preventive maintenance such as greasing the operating nut and making sure the fire hose nozzle caps can be removed easily in an emergency are also part of the program. Needed repairs are identified and scheduled for completion. We also make sure that the water in the barrel is pumped out so that the hydrant does not freeze and become inoperable in the winter.

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

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

VBTV 12

Summer may be entering its final days, but Van Buren Government Access Cable is going strong. We have worked very hard this summer to bring program video highlights to our community such as Takin' It To The Streets, Healthy Youth Tour, Summer Jamboree and many more. These and other programs will air each week throughout the fall on Van Buren Channel 12.

This fall we will continue with our regular line-up to bring you shows like the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce Interview with Janet Millard, the Belleville Historical Society meetings and, of course, the Van Buren Township Board Meetings that are broadcast live every first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. In addition, we will also cover many of the events sponsored by the Recreation Department, Department of Public Safety and the September Days Senior Center. Watch our bulletin board which runs twenty-four hours each day whenever a program is not airing or check us out on the Van Buren website (www.vanburen-mi.org) for program dates and times and other information regarding our community.

Ally Acosta
Cable Operations Manager

Important Phone Numbers

Van Buren Soccer Association

(734) 480-3966 or www.vanburensoccer.com

You must register with the Association for soccer.

Belleville Cougars

(734) 697-0440

You must register with Belleville Cougars.

Belleville Area Little League

(734) 487-9335

www.eteamz.com/BellevilleAreaLL

You must register with Belleville Little League.

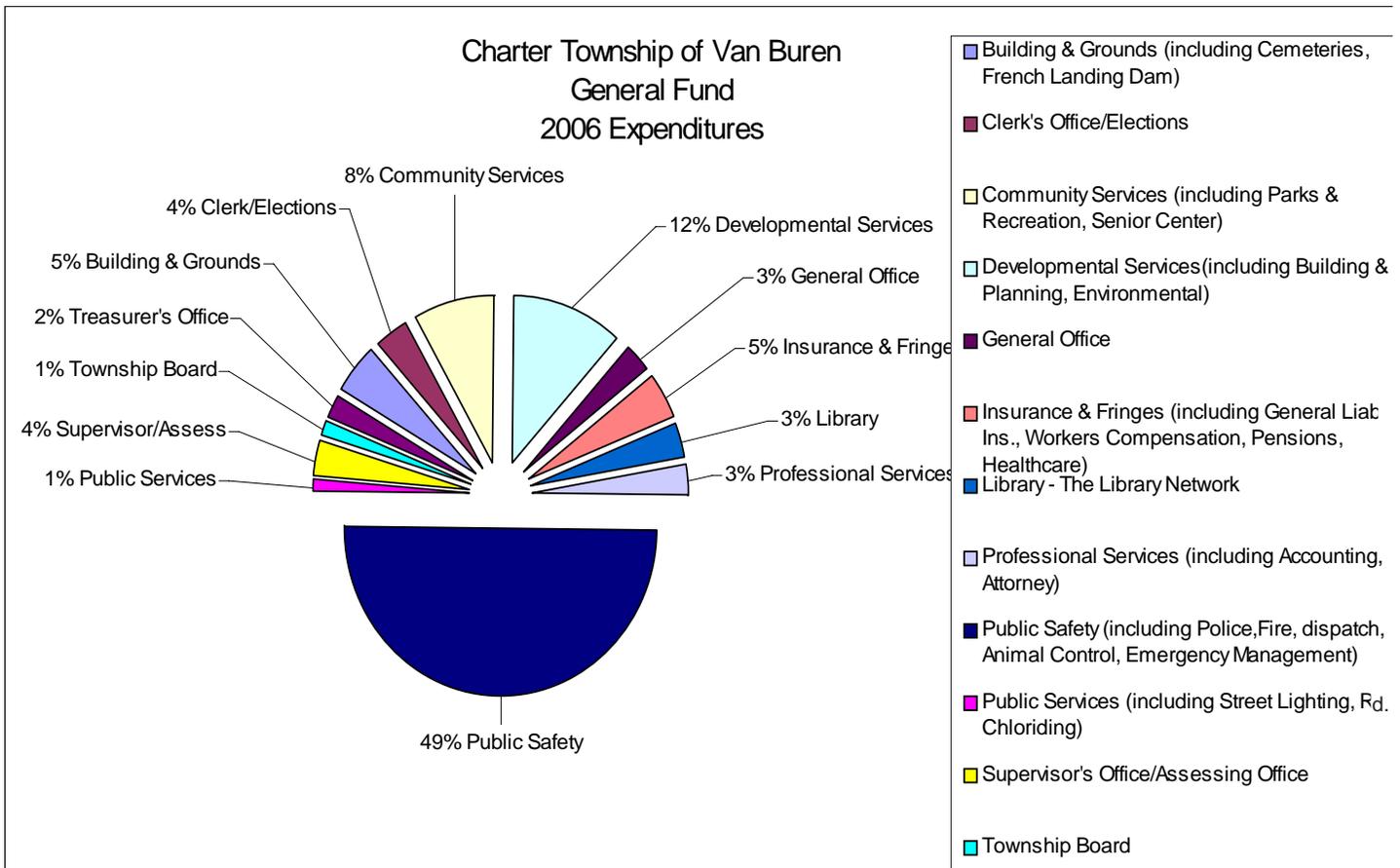
Belleville Tiger Swim Club

(734) 697-9494

You must register with Tiger Swim Club.

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

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE
Continued from Page 3



Please review these charts so you may have a better understanding of where your tax dollar is spent and how sources of revenue other than property taxes assist the township in providing services to our residents.

My best wishes for a wonderful fall and winter and please find time to visit your township parks.

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

VAN BUREN TECHNOLOGY

Continued from Page 3

dispatching for emergency personnel. Today, these enhancements are taken for granted and more than ever before in history of the township, access to information is often only a keystroke away for our residents.

In the years since 2000, we have come to realize that the ever changing environment of technology can best be addressed through a coordinated effort as compared to each department "doing its own thing." Toward that objective, the township commissioned a study of our technology systems with one of the key objectives being to hire people who have the ability to manage existing systems, providing technical

support, and who are also able to envision long-term technology goals that cross departmental boundaries and in the end, can enhance all areas of township operations while being mindful of fiscal responsibility to our residents and taxpayers.

Recently, the Township Board approved hiring Steve Rankin to serve as the Township's first Information Technology Director and Kenneth Dandy to serve as an information technology coordinator assigned to the Department of Public Safety. Both Mr. Rankin and Mr. Dandy possess the necessary credentials and experience to serve in these positions and have spent the last few weeks (as of this writing) learning about the

VAN BUREN TECHNOLOGY

Continued on Page 24

SEPTEMBER DAYS SENIOR CENTER

Membership: Membership is available to senior adults 55 and better. Membership allows participation in center classes, events and trips as well as admission to the exercise room.

Meals: A nutritious meal is served Monday - Friday at 11:30 a.m. to persons 60 and older. Suggested donation of \$2.25 (under 60 is \$3.75). Please call (734) 699-8920 by 12 noon the previous day so that a meal can be ordered for you.

Health: Free blood pressure screening is held every Monday. A registered nurse is on duty from 10 a.m. until noon. The Foot Doctor is here the first Monday of the month from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Focus:Hope: Focus:Hope Food For Seniors is available through September Days. Please call (734) 699-8919 to register. Pick-up is on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. Income guidelines are as follows: 1 person - \$1,037.00/month, 2 persons - \$1,390.00/month, 3 persons - \$1,744.00/month.

Transportation Program

September Days Senior Center has expanded its Transportation Program for Senior Adults in Van Buren Township. The program will assist Seniors in getting to their doctors' appointments as well as local errands to the bank, beauty parlor, etc.

Transportation is available Monday through Friday. Appointments must be scheduled between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Last pick-up is at 2:00 p.m.

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

There is a suggested donation of \$2 each way for local trips and \$5 each way for trips to Washtenaw County and other farther distances.

Just for Fun

Card Players

Join us for an afternoon of fun and games. All skill levels welcome. No partner needed. No fee.

- BRIDGE - Meets Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Dining Room.
- NEW! HAND AND FOOT - Meets Mondays at 2:00 p.m. in the Dining Room.
- PINOCHLE - Meets Mondays at 2:00 p.m. in the Dining Room.

Red Hatters

These spunky ladies gather for monthly meetings, lunch outings, trips, craft events, and much more!

Restaurant Club

This club dines at a different restaurant the third Tuesday of each month. During the fall and winter, events are lunch outings. For the spring and summer, events take place over the dinner hour. No membership dues for the Restaurant Club. Come as little or as often as you like - it's a great way to make friends!

Variety Club

The Variety Club meets every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. in the Senior Lounge. They discuss current events, host guest speakers, and watch travel movies. They also meet once a month for a lunch outing. This group participates in a Mystery Trip each September.

Diabetic Group Meeting

Kathy Pruneau-Hill, RN, from Oakwood Home Medical Equipment continues to host our educational Diabetic Group.

Topic: Holidays and Winter Exercise

Wednesday, November 29, 2:00 p.m.

Prepare to thrive during the holidays and winter months with tips from Kathy.

Museum Series

The Belleville Area Museum has planned a seminar just for September Days. Please join us for :

Life on the Home Front - World War II

Wednesday, November 8th at 2:00 p.m. A discussion on life in the United States during war times.

Meet at the Center at 1:45 p.m. to ride together or at the Museum at 2:00 p.m. for the seminar.

Veteran's Day Lunch & Discussion

September Days is inviting veterans to lunch on Thursday, November 9 at 11:30 a.m. in the Dining Room. Please sign up by noon on Wednesday, November 8 to reserve your seat.

Creative Energy

Ceramics

Meets Mondays from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the Craft Room. Instructor: Eleanore Hendrickson. This is a drop-in class for beginning and experienced students to learn about ceramics, glazing, and firing in the kiln. Fee: \$2 per session.

Copy Cats

Meets Mondays at 9:00 a.m. in the Craft Room. Class Leader: Verdys Shephard. This class does a variety of projects and shares craft ideas with each other. No fee.

Crochet

Meets Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Craft Room. This class is open to all skill levels. Please bring your own materials. No fee.

Quilting

Meets Tuesdays from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Craft Room. This class is for all skill levels. Bring materials with you. Sewing machines are available or you may bring your own. Stop by and get in on the latest quilting project! Fee: \$3 per person.

NEW! Art Exploration

This brand new class is designed to bring out the artist in you. Explore various types of media including pencil, charcoal, acrylic paints, sculpture, and more! All skill levels are welcome. Instructor: Adam White. Fee: \$3 per session. Class meets Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

Health & Fitness

Intro to Jin Shin Jyutsu

Meets Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Craft Room. This class is taught by Carol Welhouse. Learn the ancient art of harmonizing the life energy in the body. No fee.

Line Dancing

Meets Tuesdays 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Dining Room. Advanced Beginner... Fun and challenging. A great way to get your exercise and learn the steps to your favorite songs! Instructor: Sharon Hollandsworth. Fee: \$3 for each class.

NEW! Massage

September Days offers Norwegian Massages at the Center on Thursday afternoons between 1 and 5 p.m. Sissel Bridges offers back massages, arm/shoulder massages, and scalp/neck massages.

Cost: 15 minutes - \$10 / 30 minutes - \$20

Massages are by appointment only. Please call the Senior Center Office to sign up.

Health & Fitness Continued...

NEW! Step Aerobics Class

This 6 week class meets Wednesdays from 1-1:30 p.m. in the Dining Room. Instructor: Jan Oliver. Take your exercise to the next level with this new step class. Fee: \$1 per session. Steps are provided by the center.

PACE (People with Arthritis Can Exercise)

Meets Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Dining Room. Instructor: Peggy Macomber. Fee: \$2 per session.

Yoga

Meets Fridays at 10 a.m. in the Senior Lounge. This drop-in class uses videos to perform stretching and range-of-motion exercises. New participants are always welcome! Bring a mat. No fee.

Upcoming Trips

Nov 27-28 Niagara Falls - Shoreline Tours (\$129 per person/double occupancy) Perched on a cliff overlooking world famous Niagara Falls, one of the most remarkable casino gaming resorts has made a stunning debut! This trip includes accommodations at the Sheraton on the Falls 4-star hotel and \$35 in casino incentives. All passengers must have 2 pieces of ID to board the bus!

Dec 5 Magic of Christmas - Turkeyville (\$40)

Dec 9 Dickens Victorian Village - Bianco (\$199 per person/double occupancy)

Dec 13 Christmas Caroling

Dec 14 White Christmas, The Musical at the Fox Theatre - (\$99) Matinee Performance. Lunch included. Due to the popularity of this production, September Days is offering this trip through the MLE Company and Bianco Tours. Please sign up early if you would like to go. For more information about the show, visit www.whitechristmasthemusical.com.

Grief Support Group

Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the Lounge. This group is led by Mary Martinez, Brown Family Center. No fee. This fall will bring new discussion topics to the support group.

November - How to cope during the holidays.

Bloom at your library!

167 Fourth St • Belleville, MI 48111
734.699.3291 • 734.699.6352 fax



Fred C. Fischer Library LIBRARY

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

www.belleville.lib.mi.us

District Library Update

The District Library Planning Committee, with representatives from Van Buren, Sumpter, and Belleville has been meeting since spring. They are almost done discussing and compiling the elements that will go into a district library agreement. Once the agreement is drawn up it will go to the three municipalities for approval.

What does a district library mean to you? It means the library would no longer be a branch of the Wayne County Library, but would be a local entity governed by a locally appointed or elected library board. This will help the library better address the needs of the community.

The population continues to grow while the library has not. Record breaking numbers of people are checking out materials, using the internet, asking reference questions, etc. The Fischer Library has less than half the state average number of books and other materials per capita. Even if the library did have the necessary materials, there would be no room in the current building to house them.

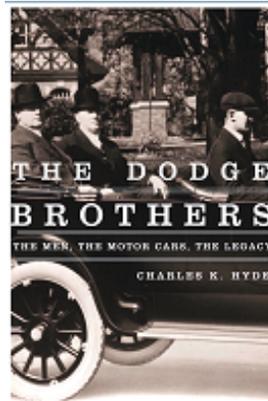
To continue, a district library agreement would need to be approved by each community, Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren. Following that approval, many factors will be considered, including a location with geographic centrality, accessibility, pedestrian friendliness and possibly designing a new library building. Public meetings will be held to obtain community feedback and to provide you information. Check our website for updates.

Canton Library

Beginning January 1, 2007, residents of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren will be limited to checking out two items per day at the Canton Public Library. The Canton Library Board adopted this policy in response to overuse by residents of our community.

The Dodge Brothers: The Men, the Motorcars, the Legacy

Saturday, November 18, 2:00 p.m.



Author and historian Charles K. Hyde presents the history of automotive pioneers the Dodge Brothers and the cars that made them famous.

Programs for Everyone

Book Discussion Group Ages 18 and up.

Meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

NEW! Join our morning group. It meets on the second Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Check our website for each month's title.

Friends of the Library Used Book Sale

Saturday, November 4, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 3, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

Safari in Southern Africa

Thursday, October 26, 7:00 p.m.

Explore Southern Africa with Dee Crowe, through photos and stories. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Teen Pumpkin Carving

Ages 12-18 Tuesday, October 24, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Materials and refreshments will be provided.

Teen Movie Day: Castle in the Sky

Friday, November 10, 2:00 p.m., Grades 6-12

In this Amine adventure, an orphan has inherited a mysterious crystal that links her to a legendary sky-kingdom.

Seeds of Knowledge

The library mailed a brochure and gift to all residents last spring. Each household received a packet of sunflower seeds, compliments of the Friends of the Library. The library has received pictures from many people who planted their seeds. The variety, Mammoth Grey Stripe, lived up to its name as most people reported sunflowers that were at least ten feet tall!



A Mammoth Sunflower poses with library director, Debra Green.

JAZZERCISE RECEIVES AWARD



Patti Rukkila, Jazzercise, Inc. franchise owner and Director Ross proudly display the Belleville National Strawberry Festival Parade 2006 Best Dance Entry Award

Programs (continued):

Teen Craft Day

Tuesday, December 12, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

The holidays are coming... make a gift for a friend or relative!

Holiday Story Times:

Preschool (Ages 3 1/2 - 6)

Enjoy five programs of stories, poem, and crafts:

Mondays, 6:30 p.m., November 13 - December 11

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m., November 14 - December 12

Toddler (Ages 2 - 3 1/2)

Along with their parent or caregiver, the toddler enjoys stories, fingerplays, songs, and action rhymes with the librarian:

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., November 15 - December 13

Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m., November 15 - December 13

Registration begins October 30.



Explore Your Family Tree

Join genealogist Ginger Bruder for inspiration and advice on discovering your family roots. A three-week Genealogy Workshop will be offered in the library program room on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on November 15, 29, and December 6. An optional field trip to the Detroit Public Library, Burton Historical Collection, will take place on Saturday, December 9.

Workshop Topics

November 15: Introduction to Genealogy

November 29: Vital Records

December 6: Internet Tools

Call or come to the library to sign up for this free program.

Christmas Is Coming!

Belleville Area Museum

Festival of Holiday Trees

November 28 - December 29, 2006

December will bring the museum's 11th Annual Festival of Holiday Trees. The museum will be filled with Christmas trees and wreaths decorated by individuals and community organizations such as churches, schools, businesses, and service groups. If you or your organization would like to take part, please call the museum at (734) 697-1944.

Museum Photos



The 11th Annual Festival of Holiday Trees will take place at the Belleville Area Museum November 28 through December 29 during museum hours.



This photo of the former Sinclair gas station at Belleville's Main and Third Streets will appear in the 2007 Belleville Area Historical Society Calendar.

A November Lecture Series

on

"Gems of Detroit"

Co-sponsored by:

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

November 2 - Pewabic Pottery

November 9 - Michigan Central Railroad Station

November 16 - Belle Isle

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



Upcoming Holiday Events

At the Belleville Area Museum

- Friday, Dec 1 City of Belleville, Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies. Museum open 6 - 8 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec 2 Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade (Museum open for extended hours 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)
- Saturday, Dec 16 Children's Christmas Ornament Workshops, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m.

**Belleville Area Museum
405 Main Street**

Hours:

Tuesday through Saturday, Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Hours Subject To Change



Admission:

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

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

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

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

RESOURCES FOR YARD & GARDEN QUESTIONS



Are you spending too much money watering your lawn? Do you want to know how to fertilize and still protect the environment? Is your favorite tree dying? Do you need to know what kind of trees are in your backyard? Are you having insect problems around the house? There are numerous resources for homeowners on these subjects and this article will provide a few that the Township staff has found to be particularly helpful.

One of the best in-state, expert sources of information for the home gardener is the Michigan State University Extension Service (MSU Extension). Most of the County Extension offices have Horticulture or Gardening experts on staff that can help answer citizen concerns. They also offer various workshops and informational flyers on lawn maintenance and other gardening topics. The State and County Extension Offices can be found on-line at www.msue.msu.edu or you can call the Wayne County MSU Extension office at **(313) 833-3412**.

Other great resources for environmentally friendly lawn & garden practices are the local watershed protection organizations including the Alliance of Rouge Communities and the Huron River Watershed Council. Both of these organizations provide tips on how homeowners can manage their landscaping to reduce the maintenance and improve water quality. You can also learn about using more native plants and wildflowers in your garden, which require less fertilizer and watering. You can find the Rouge website at www.rougeriver.com or contact Wayne County Department of Environment at **(888) 223-2363** to learn about the landscaping practices that help protect water quality. The Huron River Watershed Council has river friendly lawn & garden tips posted on their website at www.hrwc.org or they can be reached at **(734) 769-5123**.

Fall Lawn & Garden Reminders:

- The BEST time to fertilize your lawn is in the fall, NOT in the spring.
- Compost your leaves - you can simply shred small amounts of leaves on the lawn with the mower, and build a compost bin for larger amounts.

Dan Swallow
Deputy Director of Planning and
Economic Development

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

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

AIR QUALITY CONCERNS

Have you ever noticed a strong odor, a large amount of smoke, or other air quality concern, but have not known who to call? Van Buren Township staff will help you direct your concerns to the appropriate agency. While the Township does not have direct regulatory authority over most air quality issues, our staff has been trained to collect complaint information and transmit that information to the appropriate agency. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) handles most air quality concerns in the State of Michigan. The MDEQ regulates the emissions from industrial facilities, monitors odors from waste disposal facilities and has specific guidelines for open burning.

If you notice an air quality concern such as a strong odor emanating from a facility in the Township or a large amount of smoke, please contact the Township Department of Community Services at (734) 699-8926 during normal business hours or the Department of Public Safety at (734) 699-8930 outside of normal business hours. Township staff will then forward that information to the MDEQ or other appropriate agency for follow-up.

Dan Swallow
Deputy Director of Planning and
Economic Development

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SEWER BACKUPS OR BASEMENT FLOODING CLAIMS

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

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

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

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

TRASH GUIDELINES:

Homeowners of Brand New Homes:

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

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

Toters and additional containers:

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

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

Please write your address on all containers!

Damaged Containers:

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

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

Stolen Containers:

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

Holiday Pickup Schedule:

If your trash day falls on a holiday, please continue to place your trash at the curb for removal on your regular scheduled day.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS:

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

All Homeowners:

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

Please write your address on all containers!

Special Pickups:

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.**

If you are moving:

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

Large Quantities of Trash:

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

Attention Mobile Home/Manufactured Home and Apartment residents:

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

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

YARD WASTE GUIDELINES:

Brush



Bundle all brush 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 at curbside after that date.

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

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

Yard Waste Season

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

Leaves and Grass Clippings

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

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

Do not use plastic bags!!



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

RECYCLE GUIDELINES:

Plastic

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



Please Recycle!



Tin



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

Paper



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

Glass

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

Cardboard

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

VAN BUREN TECHNOLOGY

Continued from Page 15

township's many systems, hardware and software used in providing municipal services in our community. They have also been meeting with the township's outside vendor coordinating the many support services necessary to make sure technology is appropriately utilized and properly managed and maintained. As always, the Township Board's goal is to provide valued municipal services, cost effectively, and we expect that goal to be furthered with the addition of these new positions and two well-qualified individuals who are filling them.



VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP PARKS

Van Buren Park

Located on the S. I-94 Service Drive next to the Kmart plaza. Activities: Van Buren Park offers a myriad of recreational activities. Picnics, swimming at the beach, volleyball, walking trails and two playgrounds are just a few of the activities to be enjoyed.

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.

All park hours 8:00 a.m. till dusk - Open all year round.

Township Meetings

Board Meetings:

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

Work Study Meetings:

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

Environmental Commission:

2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission:

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

Water/Sewer Commission:

4th Monday 7:00 p.m.

Downtown Devel. Authority:

2nd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.

Open Space Committee:

4th Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Cable Commission:

No longer meets regularly.

Endowment Committee:

2nd Tuesday 1:00 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals:

2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee:

2nd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.

Recreation Committee:

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

LDFA:

2nd Tuesday 2:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees

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

Supervisor 699-8910

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

Clerk 699-8909

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

Treasurer 699-8903

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

Patti Duha, Director of Water & Sewer 699-8944

Ordinance Enforcement 699-8913

Community Services

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

Cable 699-8926

Parks & Recreation 699-8921

Linda Combs, Senior Director 699-8918

September Days Senior Center 699-8918

Lake Ledger

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Editor:

Christina Harman

Community Services Department

Charter Township of Van Buren

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