



Charter Township of Van Buren

Lake Ledger

S u m m e r 2 0 0 3



Quirk Park flag raising



Quirk Park playstructure



Quirk Park Grand Opening ribbon cutting

QUIRK PARK GRAND OPENING

“A grand opening for the young and the young at heart”

On June 7th at 11:00 a.m. the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department, elected officials and residents officially welcomed Quirk Park to the Van Buren Parks Department family. The new addition between Ayres and Quirk was developed on the former Quirk School site. One of the highlights of the grand opening was the flag raising ceremony. Mr. George Kennedy a longtime resident and past member of the Recreation Committee raised the American flag for the first time at Quirk Park. Everyone in attendance was pleased to know that the flagpole at Quirk Park was the original flagpole from Quirk School.

A few years ago the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department, Recreation Committee, residents and McKenna & Associates (a planning firm hired by the Township) developed a conceptual park plan at the former school site. The goal was to develop a multiuse community park for the “young and the young at heart.” The signature point of Quirk Park is the gazebo. Over 150 people enjoyed hot dogs and soda pop on this beautiful spring day.

QUIRK PARK GRAND OPENING

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VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP HONORED BY THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL FITNESS

The Governor's Council on Physical Fitness recently honored Van Buren Township at the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports Awards event at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. This marks the second consecutive "Promoting Active Communities Award" Van Buren Township has received. The Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports has a goal of helping 1,000,000 Michigan citizens be more active. People cannot be physically active unless there are safe, convenient opportunities.

The Promoting Active Communities Award recognizes communities that have made a commitment to become healthier places to live by removing barriers to physical activity thereby making it easier for people to be active. The award helps increase awareness of the types of public policies and programs that remove barriers to healthful physical activity and recognizes communities that are doing a good job in this area.

Bruce Ross
Director of Recreation & Facilities

QUIRK PARK GRAND OPENING

Continued from Cover Page

Residents had their first opportunity to tour the signature point of Quirk Park, the gazebo. This state-of-the-art facility has a concession area, men's and women's restrooms and storage areas for all the fun games we have in store for the park. Merritt, McPherson & Cieslak (the architectural firm that designed the gazebo) spent many months designing a facility that we would all be proud of. Youngsters from the Van Buren Soccer Association were very excited to play an exhibition game on their 120' x 70' soccer field. The department was very pleased to show off this field and the three other new fields. We are pleased to say that all of the new soccer fields are irrigated so they will remain green all summer long.

It was also nice to see the residents utilizing the new 1 mile walking path that surrounds the entire park. One of the areas that is seeing a lot of use is the new playground area with a colorful playstructure that can be seen from homes neighboring the park. The final phase of Quirk Park due to be completed this fall is the Senior Activity Garden complete with shuffleboard courts, checkerboard tables and benches.

On behalf of the Township please enjoy this park, your park. A place for both the young and the young at heart.

Bruce Ross
Director of Recreation & Facilities

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

In the spring edition of the *Lake Ledger*, I took considerable space advising you about the State of the Township for the year 2002. I do not intend to be nearly as wordy in this communication. By now, you may have seen the State of the Township Year 2002 video airing on our governmental access channel, VBT 12. If you've seen the video *and* read my written narrative, you can see the two vary widely. As has been the case for the past few years, 2002 was another whirlwind year with so much going on it would have been impossible to capture everything on video (or we would have been forced to air a mini-series about the township's affairs!). The video focuses primarily on new development that occurred in 2002 since growth continues to be the number one issue facing our community. This year, we decided to try something new, seeking the participation of those who were directly involved in this new development, business owners, executive staff, a local minister and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce. We think the result is a video that is fresh with new faces and a chance for you to hear directly from those who have chosen to make Van Buren their business location. My thanks to Cable Operations Manager Ally Acosta and her staff for their efforts in this production.

Perhaps of most significance in the past three months, is the approval by the Board of Trustees of the Tax Increment Financing Plan, Development Plan, Development Agreement and the pledging of the township's "limited tax, general obligation" on several million dollars' worth of bonds related to the development of public amenities on the Visteon site near I-275 and Ecorse Roads. Considering the many comments I have heard from residents about the Visteon project, perhaps a walk back in time would help in understanding the process that led to this momentous occasion which is certainly a watershed moment in Van Buren's history. Please see the article in this edition of the *Ledger* entitled "The History of Visteon in Van Buren Township" for that background.

In closing, it remains my privilege to serve as Supervisor of this great community. Among the highlights of this term in office was the recent grand opening of Quirk Park, Van Buren's first new neighborhood park in many years. As a former student of the razed Quirk Road Elementary School, it gave me great pleasure to announce the opening of this park dedicated as Director Ross says to the young and the young at heart. Take some time during these warm, lazy summer months to visit Quirk Park. After all, it is your park. Enjoy!

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

THE HISTORY OF VISTEON IN VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

Sometime in 2000/2001, the Visteon Corporation began looking for property on which to consolidate a number of individual facilities they had been operating, in some cases from leased buildings. Since spinning off from Ford Motor Company (who coincidentally is celebrating 100 years of success this year), the company was seeking to establish an identity separate from Ford's, and a suitable site in which to consolidate their world headquarters and research and development operations would be one step for creating that identity. They were also looking for a site suitable for their "village" concept of low-rise, pedestrian friendly buildings for housing these operations.

The Visteon Corporation employs 77,000 people in 120 locations, in 25 countries on six continents and, while experiencing as many other companies have, the impact of a national economic downturn, realized revenues of \$18.4 billion in 2002. Visteon currently ranks 97 on the Fortune 500 list. Among their many customers are Navistar, Freightliner, Audi, Nissan, GM, Ford, Chrysler, Skoda and Rolls Royce. Their competitors are Bosch, Lear and Johnson Controls. Visteon is capable of producing 40% of a vehicle's content including chassis, axles, instrument panel, lights, powertrain, interiors and exteriors and electronics. The Visteon Corporation is larger than McDonalds and 3M. Visteon currently ranks as Wayne County's second largest employer with about 4,000 people employed within the County, many of whom will be relocated to Van Buren when their headquarters opens.

In seeking a suitable site for their headquarters, Visteon was also looking for a location in which they could utilize economic development tools enacted by government (federal, state or local) to assist them in the construction of their headquarters and related facilities. Not only did the Visteon Corporation consider various locations in Michigan, but sites in other states such as Ohio were also evaluated.

Visteon eventually came upon the 267 acres of land here in Van Buren located in the Northeast section of the township, land that had for many years been used as a gravel quarry. Once they determined the site could in fact meet their needs, the Visteon Corporation then commenced research regarding economic tools that could be used to offset the considerable expense of erecting a headquarters and R&D facility. They learned through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, an entity established by former Governor Engler, that tax credits could be available to businesses choosing to locate in Michigan. However, the granting of state tax credits by the State of Michigan would be contingent upon Visteon obtaining tax credits from the local community in which they were looking to locate.

The Board knew that the Visteon Corporation, the world's second or third largest Tier 1 supplier, would actively seek out those locations in which these tax benefits were advantageous. It is that expectation of realizing tax breaks that puts states and municipalities in competition with each other when companies such as Visteon are looking to locate their operations. Said another way, if such benefits were not available here, Visteon would likely have looked elsewhere. The Board was also aware that the uses related to a world headquarters and R&D operation were in keeping with the Township's Premier Community Amenities Plan. Primarily office and administrative functions such as a company's headquarters have much less impact on the environment and the delivery of services as compared to manufacturing facilities or residential uses. R&D facilities also typically place less drain on the providing of municipal services and in the case of Visteon, will involve no hazardous materials or outside storage. Also, the potential for job creation including highly compensated jobs is more likely with a company such as Visteon.

The Board was aware that locating Visteon's facilities in the northeast part of the Township was an ideal location with direct freeway access for Visteon employees and no sizeable residential development nearby to create unpleasant conditions for existing residents. After giving all of these factors considerable thought, the Board offered Visteon a 12-year Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate (more commonly known as a "tax abatement") in October 2001. Accordingly, the State of Michigan awarded Visteon a total of \$15 million in tax credits to locate in the state. Visteon's tax abatement results in a total of only five abatements currently in existence in Van Buren Township.

In February 2002, the Board held a public hearing on the establishment of a Local Development Financing Authority. LDFA's are another economic development tool enacted by the State of Michigan to encourage businesses to locate in Michigan. The LDFA permits the capture of taxes that would otherwise leave a district for use within the district. The LDFA Act restricts the capture of and uses of those tax dollars. The Act permits the capture of taxes related to technology uses for which Visteon would qualify and restricts the use of those dollars to fund public improvements within the district. Public improvements are defined by the LDFA (State law) and uses proposed in the Visteon Development Plan approved by the Board of Trustees must meet the requirements of the law. They include storm water management, roads, sidewalks, streetlights and other improvements.

THE HISTORY OF VISTEON IN VBT

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THE HISTORY OF VISTEON IN VBT

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Since its inception, the Board understood one result of establishing an LDFA was for the purpose of issuing bonds (obtaining money) to fund these public improvements. The Board knew the annual collection of captured property taxes would be used to pay the annual bond payments for thirty years and knew that for the bond to be attractive to bond buyers, it would require the township pledging its "limited tax, general obligation" to ensure the bond would be repaid over the thirty-year period. The Board also knew that by pledging its LTGO, the township could benefit in the future with lower interest rates should the township be in a position to fund public facilities or improvements (unrelated to the Visteon project).

The LDFA, including setting the boundaries of the 714-acre LFA District, was adopted by the Board in July 2002, after allowing ample opportunity for the various taxing jurisdictions to "opt-out" from the capture of their respective property taxes. Those taxing jurisdictions, none of whom chose to opt-out, include Wayne County, Wayne County Community College District, the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Authority and the township. It merits noting that the local school district, Van Buren Public Schools, was held harmless which means their property taxes will NOT be captured for use within the district and will in fact, be forwarded on to the School District in the same manner in which the taxes on land outside of an LDFA district are handled. These taxes can do much to impact upon the indebtedness a school district may have to retire, often indebtedness incurred in the building of new school facilities. Of course, for the first 12 years, the taxes are abated by 50% as approved by the Board in the fall 2001 and after hearing no objections to the abatement from any of those same taxing jurisdictions including Van Buren Public Schools.

In August 2002, the Board of Trustees approved the appointments of eleven individuals to the LDFA Board and regular LDFA Board meetings commenced. The LDFA Board is made up of eight members recommended by the Supervisor and confirmed by the Township Board. Recommendations included township residents who are business owners, executives employed in the private sector, and people working in various professions including finance, construction, management, etc. In addition, Wayne County appointed one individual to the LDFA Board and Van Buren Public Schools appointed two people to the Board.

In early 2003, much time was spent in the preparation and review of the Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan. During this time, the Board was made aware that in order for a bond issue to be "saleable," the township would be required to pledge its "full faith, limited tax, general obligation (LTGO)" to the issue. The bond issue is the means by which the public improvements can be funded at the outset with the

bond being paid back over time via the annual collection of captured taxes. Pledging the township's LTGO permits the bond to be "rated," which makes it more attractive to bond buyers as it provides a rating that measures the financial strength of the township with respect to paying back the bond purchasers. Pledging the township's LTGO also means that should the capture of taxes during any year in which the bond issue remains active be less than is needed to pay the bond issue, the payment of the bond issue becomes a "first obligation" of the General Fund. In other words, if captured taxes are less than is needed for that year's annual bond payment, general fund monies must first pay the bond issue and secondly, pay any other expenses of the township such as employee wages, other debts, and ongoing operating expenses.

Some may view this pledging of the township's LTGO as risky, however, the Board gave great deliberation before agreeing to do so with many safeguards being written into the Tax Increment Financing Plan. For instance, the projections on the annual collection of captured property taxes within the district are for those taxes generated solely by the Visteon project and do not include the capture of any other taxes within the district. Second, the growth at which the captured taxes are expected to increase was calculated on annual growth of 2%, a number we believe to be conservative. The bond issue requires the establishment of a "debt reserve account" of 1.2 times the amount of annual debt. What this means is that the debt reserve account must always have in its "vault" an amount of money that is equal to 120% of the annual bond payment for each year the bond is in effect. This means 20% more money than the actual annual bond payment must be held in reserve at all times. Again, this was a conservative tool to help ensure that even in lean years, sufficient funds would remain on hand to meet the annual bond debt payment. **The Board's highest objective is to guard against ever having to use general funds monies that would otherwise be used to pay for police officers or to provide services to seniors in order to meet a bond payment.**

Finally, considering the ability to meet the annual bond payments is based solely on the collection of taxes related specifically to the Visteon project, the collection of other "capturable" taxes due to developments that could occur because of the Visteon headquarters were not projected in the tax capture. Thus, should the opening of the Visteon headquarters in 2004 generate the interest of a hotel looking to locate in the area, the taxes generated by that development would not be used to pay the Visteon bond issue. Further, in the specific case of a hotel, their property taxes would not qualify for capture by the LDFA as outlined in the law, and would thus, be sent to the township and all other taxing

jurisdictions for use in any manner deemed appropriate by those agencies. In other words, should a hotel locate within the LDFA district, the taxes it generates will be collected by the township and other taxing agencies, and will be used in the same manner as the taxes paid by you and other businesses not located in the LDFA district.

As another example, should another high technology use choose to locate near Visteon and within the LDFA district, the property taxes generated by that business would be subject to capture but would not be used to pay the Visteon bond issue except in the event Visteon's taxes were insufficient to cover the bond payment. The LDFA could bank this money and use it to pay off the bonds early.

Again, the Board acted after great deliberation. Is it a leap of faith? Perhaps, but much science has gone into the decision-making process with many safeguards being put into place. Is an annual projected 2% growth factor conservative? We think so. Do we think Visteon will be the only game in town within the LDFA district boundaries? No. We think Visteon will be a catalyst for drawing other high quality uses to the district. Will the taxes on those uses be captured for use solely within the LDFA district? Only if the use qualifies for the capture of taxes per the State LDFA law. Otherwise, the taxes generated will be deposited into the coffers of all taxing jurisdictions including the township's general fund for use throughout the township.

One other fact with respect to the pledging of the township's LTGO must be explained. Pledging the township's LTGO will result in the bond issue being "rated" such as AAA, or Baa/BBB, which directly relates to the financial strength of the *township*. The higher the rating, AAA is the highest, the lower the interest rate on the bond issue. While the Board pledged its LTGO specifically related to the Visteon project, the fact remains that once the bond issue is rated, this is a rating the township could use in the future to procure bond proceeds for other projects (such as municipal facilities like fire stations or recreation facilities) at a more favorable interest rate than if we remained unrated. Thus, while Visteon may benefit today from a favorable rating, the township could benefit from this rating in the future.

So where are we today? The township along with professional support staff will soon be meeting with the ratings agencies - Standard & Poors, Moody's and Fitch. These agencies will be reviewing past and current budgets, past and current audit reports, how well your money is managed and the overall condition of the community. These ratings agencies will then make a determination about the financial strength of the township. Once (or I suppose if) the township becomes rated, we will then be able to finalize the size of the bond issue and the

amount of money to be available to fund the public improvements related to the Visteon project.

To conclude, Visteon has agreed to construct its facilities by 2004 at a cost of \$270 million. The township has agreed to pledge its LTGO to provide for a rated bond issue to achieve a lower interest rate to obtain funds to construct the public improvements related to the Visteon project.

Our expectations are that Visteon will open its doors in 2004 and will be a welcome, valued member of the community. They have already demonstrated their concern for the community, contributing \$75,000 toward the purchase of the year-old playscape in Van Buren Park, their willingness to contribute funding to the Van Buren Public Schools video productions class and their sponsorship of this year's Strawberry Festival.

History will record this as a watershed moment that changed the course of Van Buren Township as did the railroad coming to Van Buren and the creation of Belleville Lake. We hope that you will take advantage of and appreciate the public amenities that comprise part of the Visteon property such as walking trails, the beautiful 65-acre lake, and the athletic fields to be constructed there. We believe Visteon will be a well-regarded, responsible corporate neighbor and we welcome them to Van Buren!

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS REGARDING DELINQUENT WATER BILLS

Van Buren Township Ordinance Section 86-259 requires that all water and sewer bills 60 or more days past due and unpaid as of July 15 will have an additional ten percent (10%) penalty added, then be transferred to the next property tax roll. If you pay your property taxes through a mortgage escrow account, you may have a shortage in your account with the addition of the delinquent water charges being added to your property tax bill. The Water Department encourages all of its customers to bring their accounts current before the July 15 deadline to avoid additional penalties and possible increases in monthly mortgage payments. There are no payment plans or other exceptions to this tax transfer provision.

Please call (734) 699-8925 if you need additional information, or to obtain the status of your water account.

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

EMERGENCY!

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

VAN BUREN POLICE STEP UP LESS LETHAL OPTIONS



Van Buren Police Department's Less Lethal weapons

Police officers are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied human encounters. Occasionally, much less often than portrayed in the movies or on TV, they must use some type of force to carry out their duties. Even at the lowest level, the use of force is a serious responsibility. Our policy is that officers will use only that force that appears reasonably necessary to bring an incident under control.

Van Buren Police Officers have had the availability of other options including mace and baton training to control potentially violent situations without having to resort to using deadly force. With the break through of new technology in the past few years, Van Buren Township has increased our options in the last two years, including the use of bean bags and now, will begin training Police Officers with pepper ball weapons.

This new device is very similar to a paint ball gun, but uses a ball which emits a form of tear gas upon impact. These new less lethal weapons can be used when arresting a violent drunk or drugged subject, subduing people armed with weapons such as a club, board, shovel, or hammer, and restraining a violent mentally ill subject or someone attempting suicide. Officers can now use these less lethal weapons from a safer distance than traditional weapons such as a police baton or physically confronting the subject. This could reduce the risk of injury to an officer and the person being subdued and ultimately could be a life saving technique by having another option in controlling potentially violent situations without using lethal force.

Sgt. Gregory M. Laurain
Patrol Division Supervisor
Western Wayne Co. Special
Operations Team Commander

VAN BUREN FIRE DEPARTMENT BAR-B-QUE SAFETY

The Summer months are here, and that means time to fire up the grill. Grills are an excellent way to cook tasty food for any gathering of friends and family, but it is important to stay safe while at the grill. Here are several tips to help you safely enjoy the Bar-B-Que this season.



Van Buren resident James Kelly in front of his grill

If you are one of the many people buying a new grill this year it is important to be sure it is assembled properly. Follow all directions and safety tips included with the particular model you have purchased. If you are dusting off your old grill be sure to check the tank, all gas connections, and the condition of the burner. Make sure the racks are free of grease and buildup as this can cause a fire that is difficult to extinguish.

The venturi tubes on gas grills are an excellent place for insects to spend the winter. Be sure to clean these out before starting the grill for the first time. If the venturi tubes are blocked gas will find another place to go, creating a fire risk. The instructions included with your grill should show you how to properly clean these tubes.

When starting your gas grill, do so with the lid open. This method prevents gas buildup under the lid posing a major fire risk. An open lid allows the gas to disperse before being lit. Shut off the valves to propane tanks when they are not in use. Also be sure to check your tanks for leaks, dents, rust and properly functioning valves.

Gasoline, paint thinners, and other similar products are NOT appropriate for starting your charcoal grill. When starting charcoal grills only use an approved charcoal lighter fluid. These fluids are designed to light the charcoal without exploding or releasing harmful vapors into your food. The lighter fluid procedure should be done according to the instructions on the bottle. Once the coals have started DO NOT add additional starter. If your coals will not start, open the vents

and use a hair dryer to reignite them. When using matches to start your grill be sure there are no leaves, branches, or grass accumulated below the charcoal tray. It is common for a smoldering match to fall through the tray and ignite leaves or grass causing a serious fire hazard. Once your grill is warm do not leave it unattended. Children should not be allowed to start the grill.

Your grill, charcoal, and lighter fluids should never be stored inside your home. Keep these items in regulation containers away from furnaces, and other potential flame sources. Always have a multipurpose fire extinguisher (A.B.C.) available nearby your grill. The Fire Department is a great resource for information on what type of extinguisher will suit your situation.

Keeping these tips in mind will help to ensure a safe and enjoyable Bar-B-Que experience. There is nothing better than a warm grill filled with burgers, brats, and chicken while relaxing out on the deck amongst friends.

For more information or questions about Bar-B-Que and other fire safety contact the Van Buren Fire Department at (734) 699-8930 or visit the Van Buren Website at www.vanburen-mi.org.

Van Buren Fire Department
Fire Fighters - Fire Station Two

WHAT'S A FIRE?

Occasionally I am asked about the effects of a fire, and the actions taken by Fire Fighters during the extinguishment operations. The answers to these questions can be better understood by first realizing that fires and firefighting are both phenomena based in the sciences of chemistry and mathematics. A fire is actually the chemical process we know as oxidation (the same process as when an object rusts). When the oxidation happens so fast that it gives off heat and light, we call it a fire.

The temperature of a fire is determined by the chemical composition of what is burning (rusting very fast). Natural products such as wood, paper, wool, silk, and cotton normally burn in the range of 350-600 degrees Fahrenheit and produce "normal" smoke composed of carbon, soot, and water vapor. These were the conditions Fire Fighters encountered years ago when our household contents (clothing, carpeting, drapery, furniture, etc.) that may have caught fire were made mostly from natural products. Today's household contents are primarily made of synthetic (non-natural) materials.

Polymers and resins (plastics) dominate our living environment. Look at the labels on your clothing, carpeting, drapes and furniture. I'm sure you'll find "Nylon", "Rayon", "Polyethylene", or "Polyester" (all forms of plastic) somewhere on the labels. These plastics, a modern necessity of today's living, burn much differently than the natural products they replaced so many years ago. In fact, they burn about twice as hot (and twice as fast)! The smoke created by burning plastics is a deadly mix of toxins (hydrogen cyanide gas, carbon monoxide, etc.) that can produce fatal results with only a few deep breaths. Modern Fire Fighters now perform their firefighting duties in atmospheres frequently in excess of 900 degrees Fahrenheit and overflowing with deadly gases that attack with little, or no warning.

I do not wish to diminish the importance of all the "plastics" we use in our everyday environment. They have become commonplace and, in many instances, are better than the materials they have replaced. I do, however, hope that a better understanding of the chemistry in our environment will help us to create and maintain a safer lifestyle for us and our families.

Al Smolen
Fire Chief

FIRE FIGHTERS WANTED!!

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

Over the age of eighteen

A high school graduate

Possess a valid Michigan Driver's License



Please stop by the Public Safety Department's Records window and pick up an application.

For more information, please call (734) 699-8930.

GREETINGS FROM THE VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP K-9 UNITS!



Officer Eggleton & K-9 Major and K-9 Caliber

I would like to take a few moments to tell you about us. First there are five K-9 units working for the Township. There are three full service dogs, one narcotics detection dog and one explosive detection dog. The three full service K-9 units are Diane Shoenbach & K-9 Judge, Ken Toney & K-9 Harley and Mike Eggleton & K-9 Major. They are trained and certified through the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) in tracking, evidence search, article search, narcotic detection, handler protection and obedience. Jeff Gueli & K-9 Caliber are also trained and certified through NAPWDA in obedience and narcotic detection. Terry Shoenbach & K-9 Jury are the explosive detection team and is also certified through NAPWDA.

The K-9 teams work daily with the Department of Public Safety to help make the streets safe. We patrol just like any other Police Officer except we have the added benefit of having a K-9 to assist in doing our jobs better. The dogs are all very social and always eager to work. They help the Department by using their noses to track lost people or they may be used to find a suspect that just robbed someone. They also use their keen sense of smell to locate illegal narcotics and K-9 Jury is specially trained to find explosive material. A dog's nose is much more sensitive than humans thus they are able to detect things that you and I are unable to.

The dogs are trained locally at the K-9 Academy in Romulus which helps us keep our skills sharp. Our K-9 partners live at home with us and our families when not working.

The Van Buren K-9 units also do demonstrations at schools and other places to educate children and adults about our jobs and the benefits of K-9's. If you are interested in having a demonstration for your group please feel free to contact us at (734) 699-8930.

VAN BUREN MARINE PATROL BOATERS SAFETY

As we prepare for the 2003 boating season we would like to thank all the boaters for a safe 2002 boating season. Last year the Van Buren Township Marine Patrol investigated only one injury accident which resulted in minor injury.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind boaters of some of the basic Marine Laws:

1. **PFD's** (personal floatation devices, life jackets) shall be Coast Guard approved type I, II, or III. Each PFD will have a tag on the inside cover stating the size of person that particular PFD will fit, and if it is in fact USCG approved. Each person on board a vessel (boat) shall have a suitable PFD and of proper size.

Common Mistakes: Not having the correct sizes, not enough PFD's onboard, PFD's left in plastic bags, or old weather worn PFD's.

2. A **USCG** approved type IV throwable device (ring or cushions with handles) must be onboard and accessible. The ring or cushion should be kept next to the helm or operator.

Common Mistakes: No Type IV onboard or the throwable device is buried in a hold (cabinet).

3. **Navigation lights** must be on between sunset and sunrise, and during reduced visibility (fog, rain, haze, etc). Navigation lights consist of bow lights (red/green) and stern light (white).

Common Mistakes: Running with just the bow lights on, or the stern light is not visible for a distance of one mile.

4. **Fire extinguishers**, type B are required on all vessels including personal water craft (jet skis).

Common Mistakes: Discharged or missing extinguishers.

5. **No wake:** The slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering and does not cause a wake.

Common Mistakes: Creating wakes near the Belleville and Denton Bridges, or within 100' of the shore, docks, anchored vessels, marked swim areas, or person(s) in the water.

6. **Speed limit** on Belleville Lake is 40 m.p.h..

7. **Direction of travel** on all in-land lakes is counter-clockwise.

8. Harassing or chasing wildlife is against the law.
9. A PWC (jet ski) may not be operated between one hour before sunset and 8:00 a.m.
10. A PWC may not cross within 150' behind another vessel.
11. A person born after 1978 must have a boating safety certificate in order to operate a PWC.

These are just a few reminders of Michigan boating laws, please feel free to ask the Marine Officer for a free handbook, stop by the Van Buren Department of Public Safety, or go on-line and visit www.michigan.gov/dnr. Take 15 minutes and read the handbook it will make a difference.

Many insurance companies offer discounts to boaters who complete a boater safety course. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadron, Wayne County Sheriff's Department, and the Van Buren Department of Public Safety offer boater safety courses. Most boating accidents occur because the operator was unfamiliar with the laws and responsibilities of operating a boat safely.

Remember, the owner as well as the operator of the boat is responsible for its safe operation. Boating can be safe and enjoyable as long as we all exercise good judgment and common courtesy. When in doubt, **SLOW** down!!!!

For further information please call the Van Buren Marine Officer at (734) 699-8930 ext. 272 or 236.

Thank you and have a great boating season on Belleville Lake!

DEAR RESIDENT, ABOUT OUR TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY...

Van Buren's community landscape is changing and in some aspects it's maturing. A host of fascinating and rewarding opportunities are on the horizon. These changes and opportunities will impact and affect our community. In order to preserve our character and atmosphere, many carefully prepared and community based regulations, restrictions, conditions and ordinances have been and continue to be developed and adopted to direct and manage the quality of life and growth in Van Buren.

Not surprisingly it is difficult for Township residents and business owners to keep current with our evolving environment.

Planning & development, infrastructure & environmental matters are more and more complex. It is common for residents and property owners to contact the Township offices with questions, complaints and comments about our changes, particularly those changes that directly impact (or are perceived to impact) the questioning individual(s). In the following, I have written responses to the most common themes, complaints and questions the Department receives. In this hypothetical scenario I address a proposed residential subdivision to be build in a field behind a homeowner's lot. My fabricated citizen is very upset that the field that his family and neighbors enjoyed for years will no longer be available for their recreation and enjoyment. Have no doubt I am sure the following, to some degree, **is on all of our minds**.

Dear Township Resident,

I hope to address your comments here accurately and completely but I also encourage you to call the Department (734-699-8913) and/or meet with Steve Pugsley, (Van Buren's Planning & Zoning Administrator), or myself if you want or need additional information.

You bring up several points:

You state that while you "understand a healthy economy is good for Van Buren you are disappointed that the Township markets itself to developers."

The Township does not actively market itself as available for growth. Real estate professionals, land developers and Township property owners are the primary sources of information on available land in the Township.

HOWEVER, Van Buren does advertise its character, atmosphere and qualities, but the market we direct it to is our residents and business owners. It is important that your elected officials and Township staff keep its citizens and taxpayers aware of those resources, changes, and opportunities in our community.

Every week you will find readily available:

New and updated information describing coming events, meetings and activities on Cable TV Channel 12;

Current and relevant community and government articles in the *Lake Ledger*;

DEAR RESIDENT, ABOUT OUR TOWNSHIP....

Continued on Page 10

DEAR RESIDENT, ABOUT OUR TOWNSHIP...

Continued from Page 9

Numerous information packets either mailed or available at the Township and local businesses offering an ever increasing menu of opportunities (recreational and educational) that Van Buren Parks and Recreation offer to our children, teenagers, adults and seniors;

Advertisement of new and improved community amenities and features (the Grand Opening of Quirk Park just this past June 7th);

Local newspaper columns by Township staff (e.g. Director of the Environment Dan Swallow and Senior Director Linda Combs are frequent contributors);

Township businesses and issues reported to you in person as an audience participant or via Cable TV by the Township Board of Trustees at their regular meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month.

You question the capacity of our utility infrastructure and traffic impacts.

There is no doubt you and the rest of the Township have experienced and felt the impacts of a very heightened and active interest by the residential development market to develop neighborhoods in Van Buren over the past 6-1/2 years.

In order to address the impacts of this interest and subsequent growth the Township Ordinances have been regularly updated and amended since 1997. These new and amended regulations are in place to identify and preserve those features and assets that make Van Buren a desirable community in which to live and work. All the new and amended regulations are aimed at raising the standards of development to protect those same assets and features.

During the complete review process, as required by the Zoning Ordinance, all proposed residential developments must meet specific architectural, density, storm water management, tree preservation, and infrastructure standards and requirements. Our (your) Zoning Ordinance requires no less than 50% brick on the exterior of each home and two identical homes cannot be built next to each other or across the street from each other. Further, a minimum amount of existing trees or suitable replacements must be installed and maintained on the complete site and access to the developments must be improved to minimize the impact of additional traffic. The most aggressive improvements to the Township's development standards are environmental regulations. Environmental protections are at the forefront of Van Buren's initiatives. The Planned Residential Development ordinance encourages clustering of housing units to preserve open space as well

as requiring greatly increased building setbacks from public roadways that must be planted in a neutralized manner using native plant species. All storm water management systems must be designed and constructed to control all water runoff generated within the site. Van Buren has one of the most, if not **the most restrictive**, storm water regulations in Wayne County and southeast Michigan.

It is true that traffic has increased. To the extent that our Township is enabled, the ordinances and policies of the Township require improvements be constructed to address safety standards. Wayne County has jurisdiction over the road network and does work with the Township to require improvements to the impacted roadways.

I want the Township to stop all developments, especially those near my home. Why don't you just deny these requests?

The Township's Ordinances permit development of subdivisions and site condominiums in each of the Township's residential districts. All parcels of land and all landowners, whether that land is 1 acre or 200 acres, are afforded rights and protections to use and develop their property provided the development meets the regulations and standards of the Ordinances, zoning regulations and state and federal laws.

Over 45% of the land zoned for residential land uses is still vacant. It is extremely difficult, and in some cases just not possible, to defend a position of no growth without terrific legal expense and drain on other Township resources. Rather Van Buren uses, and I believe quite effectively, improved development standards to protect our features and avoid those developers that are not quality-conscious or community-conscious.

New subdivisions and growth will negatively impact the value of my home and my neighborhood.

Consistently, and as reported by real estate professionals for over the past 5-1/2 years, new homes and residential development improve housing values throughout the community. Older subdivisions have realized significant increases in value as measured by resale values. Builders report that 30 - 50% of their new homes are bought by Van Buren residents, which indicates that our residents want to stay here and have a reason to stay here.

These new homes will cause an increase in crime.

I am glad to report that statistics showed that crime decreased in the Township during 2002. Several things may be at work here, two of which can be documented.

WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

First, our police and fire men and women are some of the best trained in Michigan. Their service, dedication, reputation and professionalism is proven every day of the week and on every call they answer.

Lastly and similar to your neighborhood, our new developments attract owners just as committed as you and your neighbors in maintaining the value of their property and are just as committed to keep Van Buren a safe place and preferred community to live and work in.

Dear Resident, I don't have any illusions that I have or can change your mind, only time and first hand experience will do that. You do need to know that your Township staff understands and dearly appreciates that you want to reinforce and maintain the quality of life and standards of living in Van Buren. I do hope I was able to provide a little more accurate and relevant information. And as I began, please feel free to contact the Department if you wish to discuss this further.

Bryce Kelley
Director of Planning & Economic Development

VBTV 12

Summer is here! We at the cable department are excited to be out and around this season videotaping various events. If you see us videotaping and the camera is pointed right at you, don't forget to give us a friendly wave and you just might end up in one of our programs. Remember, when we are out videotaping, we are always on the lookout to get as many cool shots as possible. Sadly, not all of them can make it into the finished program. Just in case you don't see yourself on Cable VBTV 12, hopefully we can catch you next time.

I'd like to encourage all of our residents who have cable to watch Channel 12 on a regular basis. It is one of the best places to get up-to-date township information. The station keeps an information slide show bulletin board that we show on the channel, which runs twenty-four-hours everyday whenever a program is not airing. The bulletin board has information that ranges from contact information of elected officials and various other people, dates and times and other specific information for events that take place in and around the township, special notices for meetings, a programming guide, and an assortment of other information.

Ally Acosta
Cable Operations Manager

The 2002 Water Supply System Consumer Confidence report has been mailed to all Van Buren residents. 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 web site at www.vanburen-mi.org under Departments, Water & Sewer, or extra copies are available by calling (734) 699-8925.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SEWER BACKUPS OR BASEMENT FLOODING CLAIMS

A recently enacted Michigan statute, Act 222 Public Acts of 2001*, clarifies municipal liability for sewer backups. A key provision of the new 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 Clerk, within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered. Notice must be mailed to Van Buren Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Twp., 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 of 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.



Tons of Trucks



Saturday, September 6

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Van Buren Park

Come join us for a truckload of fun!
Trucks and other vehicles of all shapes and sizes will be on display to sit in and climb on. Don't forget to bring your camera!

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

The Van Buren Park Concert Series will take place at Van Buren Park, located on the South I-94 Service Drive between Belleville and Rawsonville Roads. Each week we'll feature a different type of music for the whole family. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and enjoy a variety of music. **Concerts start at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$2.00 per car for park admission.**

- July 9 **Straight Ahead (Jazz)**
- July 16 **Fabulous Motown Entertainers**
- July 23 **Rich Eddy's Rockin' Oldies Band**
- July 30 **Red Garter Band (Dixieland)**
- August 7 **String Quartet**
(Thursday) In cooperation with the Belleville Area Council of the Arts.
- August 13 **Kid's Concert (starts 7:00 p.m.)**
featuring Harpbeat & Magician Gordon Russ



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

Refund Policy

Patron satisfaction is our most important objective. Refunds will be given during the first week of the class/program ONLY.

**** No refunds after one week. ****

Refund received within 4-6 weeks.

JAZZERCISE

A 60-65 minute dance exercise class that includes warmup, 30-35 minute aerobic workout, weight training and stretching. Now with fresh new moves and new music it's pure motivation. **Please call Patti Rukkala for class information (734) 340-3686.**

Ongoing, Mondays & Wednesdays
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (childcare \$2.00 a child)

and

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



Ongoing, Saturdays
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.



4 week EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) = \$35.00
8 week (cash or check) = \$80.00
Walk in = \$8.00

WINE & FOOD PAIRING

Have you ever wondered how to really appreciate the taste of wine? Come to the Bayou Grill to learn all this information and more. Chef Ernest O. Prokos of the Bayou Grill and other wine experts will demonstrate the techniques for experiencing wine while indulging in samples of diverse food.

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

July 31 & August 28

Held at the Bayou Grill in Belleville
located at 404 Main Street



MUST Register at the Township Hall
\$30.00 per class

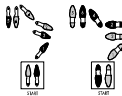
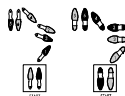


WANTING TO TEACH A CLASS?

Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department is looking for instructors to teach classes. If you have a talent or interest you would like to instruct i.e., dance, exercise, foreign language, or even juggling, call the Recreation Department at (734) 699-8921 and ask for Jennifer Morris, Recreation Manager.

ADVANCED LINE DANCING

Come check out Instructor Ron Kline as he shows you the latest moves and grooves in line dancing from an assortment of music. This is a great opportunity to socialize with others. Comfortable shoes required, partners are not.

 **2nd Tuesday of every month**
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 

Van Buren Residents = \$5 Non-Residents = \$6

T'AI CHI CHUAN & MEDITATION

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

Fridays, July 11 - August 15



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



Van Buren Residents = \$21.00
 Non-Resident = \$36.00
 \$5.00 drop-in fee

JOIN OUR PROGRAM MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive our recreation programs at your home either mail us your name and address to add to our mailing list or call the Recreation Department at (734) 699-8921.

K-9 OBEDIENCE KCLASS

Join dog trainer of 40 years experience, Lila Warner, for six weeks of one on one training. What to bring: Bring Fido, a training collar and a six-foot leash. **Dogs must be 6 months or older.**

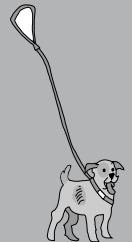
We teach you to train your own pet under our supervision. Must bring proof of rabies, distemper, & a recent proof of negative fecal report to the first class and register at the Van Buren Community Center. Only 18 & older can train.



All classes are held at Belleville High School (Small Gym)

Tuesdays, July 8 - July 29
 Tuesdays, August 5 - August 26

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. \$25.00 per dog



Metro Youth Fitness 2003 Local Competition

A program that encourages physical fitness, team building and promotes athleticism in non-athletes. Come to Van Buren Park to try out for various events i.e., chin ups, softball throw, meter races, etc... Winners move on to compete at one of the Metro Parks. Competitors must be between the ages of 8-14.

Thursday, July 17 1:00 p.m.

FREE!! FREE!! FREE!!

TOTS OF FUN

"Tots of Fun" is an opportunity for children to expand their motor and social skills all within a safe and fun environment. This is a drop-in nonstructural playtime for children. An adult or guardian may enter for free and must accompany all children.

Mondays and Wednesdays

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Ages: Infant to 5 years

Van Buren Community Center



Van Buren Residents = \$2.00/child
 Non-Residents = \$3.00/child

**YOUTH TOTAL FOOTBALL CAMP
WITH MILL COLEMAN**

Advance your skills and experience the training methods that college and professional athletes experience in their daily practices. This camp will offer training in speed and agility, positioning, team fundamentals, and a whole lot more. Coach Mill Coleman is an All-State Quarterback, All American Quarterback and MVP recipient of two state championships. Mill Coleman was also a former professional player with the Chicago Bears and Montreal Allouettes. Kids will receive the most for their money with this exceptional coach and skills.



**Wednesday - Friday
July 30 - August 1**



9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Van Buren Township Softball Field
Ages: 6-13 (participants will be placed by age at camp)

Fee: \$100/player (includes T-shirt, certificate and drinks)

Please bring football shoes, tennis shoes
and a sack lunch each day.

**Registration Deadline:
Wednesday, July 16, 2003**

* Minimum of 25 students*



GET ACTIVE!

FAMILY FUN DAY



**Saturday, August 23
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
located at Van Buren Park

Join the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department for an afternoon of fun and entertainment. Participants can enjoy the obstacle course, water balloon toss, three legged relay, sack race, and many more games for the whole family.

If you have any questions, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at
(734) 699-8921.

FREQUENTLY ASKED NUMBERS

Van Buren Soccer Association
(734) 325-2430

**** You must register with this association for soccer. Van Buren Township does not accept registrations for soccer.**

Belleville Cougars
(734) 697-0440

Belleville Area Little League
(734) 699-3527

Registration/Waiver Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Age: _____ Class: _____

Parent Name: _____

Phone #: (h) _____

(w) _____

Fee: _____ Receipt #: _____

I hereby accept 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 liable for any loss, damage or injury to property or person as a result of involvement in Van Buren Township's Recreation Classes or Programs.

Signature: (Parent or Guardian if not over 18)

Please Mail to: **Charter Township of Van Buren**
Recreation Department
46425 Tyler Road
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111

SEPTEMBER DAYS SENIOR CENTER

When you say "Senior Center" many people think "gambling trips." However, there is a comprehensive selection of available activities, services and systems for your benefit at our senior center. There are direct and indirect assistance opportunities available. If we are unable to assist you, there is a good chance that we can refer you to an appropriate provider.

The center receives partial funding from *The Senior Alliance, Area Agency on Aging 1-C*, in accordance with the Older Michiganians Act. *The Senior Alliance* provides advocacy, programming, planning, contracting, funding and personnel necessary to enable older persons to function as independently as possible. Services are offered at no charge to eligible participants. September Days works with The Senior Alliance to help coordinate these services.

Many of you may have stopped at the front window at the center to seek information from Dorothy Laurence. She is a telephone reassurance provider, employed through the Wayne County Office on Aging. Dorothy makes friendly calls to check on the well-being of older, generally home-bound adults in our community. She is kind enough to direct those who are new to events and services at the center.

September Days is also an official Elder Prescription Insurance Coverage (EPIC) site through the Department of Community Health for the State of Michigan. EPIC is Michigan's prescription insurance program created to provide the state's low-income elderly residents with assistance in the purchase of a majority of their prescription drugs. The program is currently not open to new enrollees. However, there is an Emergency Enrollment status for those whose income is less than \$13,470 per year for an individual, or \$18,180 per year for a couple. If you are low-income, and you spend 10% or more of your monthly income on prescriptions, you may be eligible for the emergency program. Contact the center for more details.

One of the most frequently used programs at the Center is the trip program. September Days coordinates trips and works with other agencies to bring new and exciting options. Day and overnight alternatives are available. The trips are listed on the township website, and are published in our monthly newsletter.

Another frequently used program is our leisure classes. For those of you who have talented hands, we have *Copycats Crafters, Crocheting, and Quilting*. We also offer the arts in the form of *Ceramics, Clay or Art* class. There are many levels and varieties of exercise available including: *Line Dancing, Dance Exercise, Square Dancing, PACE (People with Arthritis Can Exercise)*, and *Yoga*. You can learn about the ancient Japanese art of harmonizing the life energy in your body in the Jin Shin Jyutsu class. Computer classes are offered at six-week intervals, and in three different experience

levels. Music lessons are offered periodically. The Variety Club is a discussion-based group that meets on Wednesdays from September through May. The Center also sponsors a chapter of the Red Hat Society, "just for fun." Transportation can generally be arranged for those who are unable to drive to the Center to attend classes.

For those who enjoy making their own schedule for exercise, our game room is a good choice. There are many fitness machines available for your use. We have two NuStep Total Body Recumbent Steppers. These machines are considered state-of-the-art cardiovascular rehabilitation equipment. There is also a recumbent bike, numerous treadmills, steppers, and rowers. There are three pool tables and a chalkboard for scoring.

If you are ever around the Center at lunchtime, you may have noticed one of our other programs. A nutritious meal is served to persons 60+ here at our dining room, and to more than 50 homebound seniors. This program is administered through Wayne County Office of Nutrition. Eligibility for Home Delivered Meals is determined according to need and physical capability, however, the on-site lunch is served to anyone 60+ or handicapped. If you are a homebound senior interested in receiving meals, you can call the meal program at (734) 727-7358. If you would like to receive a congregate meal, you can call the Center at least 24 hours in advance to sign-up. Lunch is served Monday-Friday at 11:30 a.m. Transportation can be arranged for congregate meals.

Free blood-pressure screenings are held every Monday. Blood pressures are taken either by a registered nurse or EMT. This service is available from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Regular complete health screenings are held 1-2 times per year.

September Days is also a Focus: HOPE Commodity Supplemental Food Program for Seniors distribution site. Focus: HOPE provides free monthly food to senior citizens who are 60 years of age or older. Income guidelines are used to determine eligibility. A participant with a single income must receive less than \$973/month, couples must receive less than \$1313/month. If you think you are qualified, please contact the Center.

Center membership is available to any person 55 or older. Resident dues are \$5.00 per year, non-residents pay a slightly higher fee. Your membership includes the full use of facilities, plus the mailing costs of our monthly newsletter. Stop at the front desk to receive a complimentary newsletter, and for any other information. The Center is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. There's so much you can do here!

Erin Alston, BSW
Senior Coordinator



Belleville Harvest Fest

Sat. Oct. 11, 2003 11 AM- 4 PM

Bring the kids and enjoy the bountiful harvest and old-time activities with your friends and neighbors!



All activities take place on 4th St and at the Museum, Library and Parking Lot.

Belleville Parks & Recreation

7th ANNUAL SUMMER KIDS TRIATHLON

Wednesday July 23rd at 6:00 p.m.
 Belleville High School Track
 Shot Put, Long Jump and Run
 Boys & Girls ages 3 to 18

- Candle Dipping Butter Churning
- Corn Husk Dolls Soap Making Wood Carving
- Antique Tractors Rug Hooking Apple Pressing
- Felt Making Indian Corn Jewelry
- Dulcimer Music Quilting Corn Shelling
- Petting Farm Face Painting Goat Cart Rides!

C.B.C. Chicken Barbeque and lots more fun things to do!

Belleville Summer Entertainment 2003

- **Music in Victory Park**
 • Every Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m.
 • from June 22nd through August 24th
- **6th Annual Belleville Bridge Walk & Taste of Belleville**
 • Thursday Aug. 28th - Horizon Park
 • Walk starts at the north end
 • of the bridge at 5:30 p.m.
- **Belleville Art Colony**
 • Fridays August 1st through 22nd
 • Fourth Street Square
- **BACA Garden Party & Silent Auction**
 • August 7th in Van Buren Park
 • followed by Symphony in the Park
 • Call 697-7151

- **Brunch with Bach Matinee**
 • Sunday Sept. 7th at 3:30 p.m.
 • Van Buren Township Hall
- **Belleville Art Colony Exhibit & Awards Presentation**
 • Thursday Sept. 11th - 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
 • at the Fischer Library
- **Belleville Home Tour**
 • Visit Beautiful Homes on the Lake
 • Sunday Sept. 14th at 1:00 p.m.
 • Contact the Belleville Area Museum
 • Call 697-1944
- **Belleville Harvest Fest**
 • Library, Museum and Fourth Street
 • Saturday, October 11th - 11AM-4PM

**FRED C. FISCHER
LIBRARY**

167 FOURTH ST.
BELLEVILLE, MI 48111
(734) 699-3291



www.belleville.lib.mi.us

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday	12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday	12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	CLOSED

FRED IS FIFTY! - LIBRARY HISTORY

The Belleville Library began in 1920 when the Wayne County Board of Supervisors appropriated \$10,000 to better library facilities throughout Wayne County. Miss Kingsley of the Detroit Public Library, Mr. E.W. Yost, Wayne County Superintendent of Schools, and his assistant Fred C. Fischer, selected J.C. Pullen Furniture store as the first library station in Belleville. This library of 200 books was the second reading center established by the Wayne County Library.

Over the next 30 years the library outgrew three different locations with its growing collection of books. The Fred C. Fischer branch came into being shortly before the death of William Van Dyke in 1952. Mr. Van Dyke gave the library to the City of Belleville to commemorate a deep friendship for Fred C. Fischer, eminently respected citizen and leader of this community, with whom he had served on the Wayne County Library Board.

On November 8, 1953 a dedication ceremony was held to mark the occasion of the completion of the new Fred C. Fischer Library. According to an annual report from 1953. Mr. Van Dyke "long held the opinion that public libraries were too stuffy and forbidding and his many gifts were designed to change the library's atmosphere by increasing the comfort of the library patron, and making the library an attractive place for all users, young people particularly."

This means that the Fred C. Fischer Library will be fifty this year! We will celebrate this milestone during the week of November 3-8, ending with a party on Saturday evening, November 8, 2003.

WHERE WERE YOU IN 1953?

We are collecting Fischer Library memories from the past fifty years. Do you remember coming to the library as a child? Did you hang out at the library during high school? Were you an avid reader who couldn't come to the Fischer Library often enough? Did you attend the dedication in 1953...a summer reading program in 1983...a Friends of the Library event in 1993? Please share your memories of the Library with us. Mail or drop this survey off at the library. (Fred C. Fischer Library, 167 Fourth Street, Belleville, MI 48111).



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

MY FAVORITE FISCHER LIBRARY MEMORY: _____

I WOULD BE WILLING TO SHARE THIS MEMORY AT THE "FRED IS FIFTY" PARTY ON NOVEMBER 8TH:

YES _____ NO _____

Coming Up!

BELLEVILLE AREA LAKESIDE HOME TOUR

Presented by the Belleville Area Museum
& Historical Society

Sunday, September 14, 2003
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Featuring 6 beautiful homes all on Belleville Lake

Tour Tickets:

In Advance - \$10

Day of Tour - \$12

Tour Salad Luncheon at
St. Anthony's Catholic Church
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
\$6.50

For further information, call the
Belleville Area Museum at (734) 697-1944.



Also on tour is this stunning French Country home which has two sun rooms, an indoor pool, and a "Lake Room."



Highlights of this Lake Pointe Pass home include a custom-made solid oak bar with granite top, an antique harvest table, and a collection of vintage plates and platters. A gathering room with a cozy fireplace overlooks the lake.

3 of the featured homes in Belleville Area's Lakeside Home Tour



To be included on the Belleville Area Lakeside Home Tour is this lovely Georgian Colonial house constructed in 1950 on North Shore Drive. Enhanced with several unique features recycled from other historic structures, the home has a large, open country kitchen and dining room which include a fireplace made from antique bricks.

BELLEVILLE AREA MUSEUM 405 Main Street

Summer Hours:

May 1 through Labor Day
Monday through Friday 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Closed Holidays

Admission:

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

Tours By Appointment (734) 697-1944

FALL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Fall Story Time registration begins Monday, August 25, 2003.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME (Ages 3 1/2 - 6)

Enjoy five programs of stories, poems, and crafts at the library:

Mondays, 7:00 p.m.	Sept. 8 - Oct. 6
Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m.	Sept. 10 - Oct. 8
Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m.	Sept. 10 - Oct. 8

TODDLER STORY TIME (Ages 2 - 3 1/2)

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

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.	Sept. 11 - Oct. 9
Thursdays, 11:15 a.m.	Sept. 11 - Oct. 9

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Mark your calendars:

Used Book Sale - Saturday, Aug. 2, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Kaz Cimoszko - Thursday, Sept. 18, 7:00 p.m.

Harvest Fest - Saturday, Oct. 11, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Kay Charter, Bird Conservationist - Sat., Oct. 18, 2:00 p.m.

Used Book Sale - Saturday, Nov. 1, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Visit the Friends' website for further information:

<http://www.belleville.lib.mi.us/friends.htm>

SCOUT CHOOSES LIBRARY FOR EAGLE PROJECT

The next time you are at the library, check out the new double sided benches on the portico. Take some time to admire the landscaping by the parking lot. Scout Fernando Fitch from Saint Anthony's Troop 793 has chosen the Library as the site for his Eagle Project. In order to earn the rank of Eagle, a scout must design and implement a project that demonstrates both leadership and community service. Fitch designed and built the benches, oversaw fundraising efforts to purchase materials, and enlisted the help of friends, relatives, and fellow scouts for this labor intensive project. We greatly appreciate Fernando's efforts.

LIBRARY MEETINGS

The **Tri-Community Library Committee** meets the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. **Meeting dates:** Jul. 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10 & Oct. 8

The **Friends of the Library** meet on the first Saturday of each month from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. **Meeting dates:** Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Library Director Debra Green succeeded in obtaining a Federal Library Services and Technology Act Grant for \$12,000. The grant will promote awareness of library programs and services through an innovative marketing campaign. Emphasis will be placed on targeting non-traditional users, establishing deposit book collections at community centers, and rethinking the execution of Library Reading Programs to meet the needs of previously unserved children.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2004 CALENDAR

Following the success of its past historical society calendars, the Belleville Area Historical Society is preparing a calendar for the year 2004. The calendar will feature a full-page local historic photograph for each month of the year and is scheduled to go on sale this fall.

A Patron List will be included in the calendar. Anyone who wishes to include his or her name as a patron and supporter of the Belleville Area Historical Society and Museum is asked to donate \$10.00 to the calendar project. Calendar pages are also available for business card ads for \$35.00 each. If interested, please place a check payable to the Belleville Area Museum and the form below in an envelope and return to the museum at 405 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111. In order to be included, please send your donation by July 31, 2003.

_____ **Yes**, I would like to be listed in the Belleville Area Historical Society 2004 Calendar as a patron.

_____ **Yes**, I would like my business card to appear in the Belleville Area Historical Society 2004 Calendar. My business card is enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Belleville Area Museum
405 Main Street
Belleville, MI 48111
(734) 697-1944

PEST ALERT: EMERALD ASH BORER

The Problem

Following in the footsteps of American Chestnut Blight, Dutch Elm Disease, and the Bronze Birch Borer, Emerald Ash Borer is expected to kill more than 30 million forest and landscape trees in Southeast Michigan, Northwest Ohio, and Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small (1/2" long and 1/16" wide) dark metallic green beetle whose larvae feed on the inner bark of green, white, black and ornamental ashes (*Fraxinus spp.*). The mountain ash (*Sorbus sp.*) is not a true ash and has not been affected by EAB. Adult beetles are active from mid-May to late July, the species over winters in its larval stage.

Affected ash trees are identifiable by significant canopy dieback. Between 1/3 and 1/2 of the canopy dies in the first year of infestation, with the remaining canopy dying within 2-3 years. Additionally, the tree typically puts out shoots and branches below the dead portions of the canopy. An affected tree is also identifiable by D-shaped larval exit holes 1/16" in diameter on the bark and vertical splits in the bark caused by wound response of the tree. The inner bark of affected trees also indicates EAB presence with S-shaped larval feeding tunnels.

Ash Products Quarantine

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Michigan Department of Natural Resources have declared the six-county metropolitan Detroit region (all of Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Livingston, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties) an EAB quarantine area in an attempt to limit the spread of the beetle. It is illegal to move ash trees or ash products out of this quarantine area. This includes ash trees, branches, logs, firewood, lumber and wood chips. If you believe you have violated this quarantine, the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) urges you to completely burn the offending material and contact their EAB hotline at (866) 325-0023. The MDA also asks you not to move a wood product if you don't know what type of wood it is.

Treatment

Currently no treatment has been proven effective against EAB, and the Michigan State University Extension Service cautions homeowners against any company claiming to have a cure or guaranteed treatment. MSU Extension Service is investigating three potential treatment regiments:

1. A systemic insecticide (imidacloprid) that is applied by either soil injection or soil drenching over the root system of ash trees in April.

2. A systemic insecticide (imidacloprid or bidrin) that is injected into the trunk of ash trees in May or June.
3. A contact insecticide (cyfluthrin, bifenthrin, carbaryl or acephate) that is sprayed over the foliage, trunk or limbs on June 1 and July 1.

Each of these treatment regiments is expected to be most successful on ash trees with less than 20% canopy dieback. MSU Extension Service does not yet know if trees already affected by EAB can recover with treatment, or at what point a tree is too damaged to recover.

Tree Removal

Ash trees that cannot be saved should be removed to limit the spread of EAB. Unfortunately, there is no funding available at this time to help homeowners with tree removal costs. The Michigan Department of Agriculture has established EAB disposal sites that accept ash material free of charge for chipping and disposal. However, homeowners are still responsible for removing the trees and transporting them to the disposal site. The site closest to Van Buren Township is:

Asplundh Tree Expert Co.

Plymouth Industries Yard

13101 Eckles Road

Plymouth, MI

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Replace with Diversity

One way to limit the impact of plant diseases such as EAB is to replace lost ash trees with a diversity of tree-species. This will limit the potential over-planting of any one species, and minimize the impact of future plant diseases and pests. MSU Extension Service has developed a list of potential replacement trees and made it available at http://www.msue.msu.edu/reg_se/roberts/ash/treelist03.pdf.

More Information

For more information, homeowners may contact:

Michigan Department of Agriculture Emerald Ash Borer

toll free hotline: (866) 325-0023.

Michigan Department of Agriculture

<http://www.michigan.gov/mda>

USDA Forest Service:

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/eab/index.html>

MSU Extension Service:

http://www.msue.msu.edu/reg_se/roberts/ash/index.html

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day



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

When: **October 4, 2003 (Saturday) 9 am – 2 pm**

Where: **The Environmental Quality Company**
parking lot 49350 North I-94 Service Dr,
Van Buren Twp, MI

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

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

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/Mouse Poisons

Workshop

Paint Thinners
Cutting Oils
Glues
Paints (all)
Turpentine
Varnish & Stains
Wood Preservatives

Unacceptable Items

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



Sponsored By:
**The Environmental
Quality Company**

Put household
HAZARDOUS WASTE
where it belongs!

TRASH GUIDELINES:

Homeowners of Brand New Homes:

Please call the Community Services Department to order your garbage container (toter) and recycle bin. You should receive them 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 bottom. **Please do not place LOOSE TRASH in toters/containers.**

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

Damaged Containers:

Broken or damaged containers supplied by Waste Management may be replaced or repaired if necessary. Please notify us if your container needs to be replaced or repaired.

Waste Management will only provide maintenance or replacement on the 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 (734) 292-0800 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

As holidays arrive the trash schedule is subject to change. Always set out your trash on your normal day. Waste Management will try to do two days in one in order to catch up the routes. We frequently receive calls when residents have not set their trash out on their normal day expecting Waste Management to be a day behind. The only day in which trash is collected a day later is for those whose trash day falls on the actual holiday **not those that are the day following.**

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!!**

Special Pickups:

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

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

If you are moving:

Please leave the container that was provided by Waste Management on the property for the next homeowner as the cart remains 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 recyclables 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.

COMPOST GUIDELINES

Brush



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

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

Compost season ends the last week in November - no compost will be taken at the landfill or at curbside.

Please be sure to 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.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS:

Yard Waste Pick up **BEGAN**
the first week in APRIL!!

Leaves and Grass Clippings

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

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

Do not use plastic bags!!



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

RECYCLE GUIDELINES

Plastic

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



Please Recycle!



Tin

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

Aluminum: Containers and foil.



Paper

Newspapers: Including all inserts, advertisements, and magazines that are delivered with them.

White Paper: Including office paper, computer paper, and envelopes.

Brown Paper Bags: Keep them separate from your paper.

Glass

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

Cardboard

Cardboard: All cardboard boxes must be broken down (including moving boxes) into 3'x 3' bundles. Cardboard boxes are not acceptable rubbish containers.

**** No pizza boxes****

Kid's Flea Market

Wednesday, August 13
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

(before Summer Concert Series Kids Concert)
Van Buren Park (stage area)

\$2.00 park entry fee

Attention kids! Buy or sell old toys, clothes, sports equipment, games, trading cards, etc. before the kid's concert. Each kid will be allowed to put his/her goods on one blanket (max. 8'x8'), blanket not provided. Registration forms and guidelines are available at the Community Services Desk.

Pre-registration is mandatory.
Reserve your spot today!

Join us afterwards for the Summer Concert Series Kids' Concert with performances by Harpbeat and Gordon the Magician.

For more information call (734) 699-8921.

Township Meetings

Board Meetings:

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

Work Study Meetings:

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

Environmental Commission:

2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

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

Water/Sewer Commission: 4th Monday 7:00 p.m.

Downtown Devel. Authority: 2nd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.

Local Devel. Finance Authority: 2nd Tuesday 2:00 p.m.

Cable Commission:

2nd Thursday 7:00 p.m.
(Meets January, March, May, July, Sept & Nov, changes will be posted)

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.

Endowment Committee:

2nd Tuesday 1:00 p.m.

Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory:

2nd Wednesday 3:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees

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

Supervisor 699-8910

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

Clerk 699-8909

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

Treasurer 699-8903

Phillip Hart

John Herman

Jeffrey Jahr

Walter Rochowiak

Trustees 699-8910

Township Departments

Public Safety

Christopher Elg, Director of Public Safety 699-8930

Police, Fire, Dispatch 699-8930

Animal Control 699-8930

Emergencies 9-1-1

Developmental Services

Bryce Kelley, Planning &

Economic Development Director 699-8913

Patti Duha, Director of Water & Sewer 699-8944

Ordinance Enforcement 699-8913

Dan Swallow, Environmental Director 699-8913

Block Grants (CDBG) 699-8913

Community Services

Bruce Ross, Director of Recreation & Facilities 699-8926

VBTV Channel 12 699-8926

Parks & Recreation 699-8921

Linda Combs, Senior Director 699-8918

September Days Senior Center 699-8918

Lake Ledger

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Editor:

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Community Services Department

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