



Charter Township of Van Buren *Lake Ledger*

S u m m e r 2 0 0 4

“What is life without an Awesome Adventure?”



Awesome Adventures Horseback Riding Trip



Awesome Adventures Water Park Trip

Climbing up a 30-foot rock wall or camping for the first time without your parents can be a challenging and thrilling experience. This summer kids in the Awesome Adventures program will have a chance to experience those same feelings as they venture to new places, learn exciting things and make new friends.

The Awesome Adventures program was started in the summer of 2002 and has grown from six adventures to 10 with over 150 participants. It was designed to challenge youth ages 8-15 both mentally and physically with an emphasis on outdoor recreation.

Over the past two years, adventures have included trips to parks, nature centers, and recreation facilities in lower Michigan. Indoor rock climbing, canoeing, mountain biking,

AWESOME ADVENTURES

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AWESOME ADVENTURES

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hiking, camping, swimming and horseback riding have been some of the activities offered. The recreation department provides transportation, instruction, and equipment for all participants.

This is a great alternative to the traditional recreation programs like soccer or baseball. Give your kids or grandkids the opportunity to try something new. There are a few spaces available for indoor rock climbing, and overnight trips to Mammoth Cave and Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes.

For more information about this program and/or any other programs we offer call (734) 699-8921.

Meghan Mutch
Special Events Coordinator

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

As usual, there has been considerable activity throughout the township since the last *Ledger*. What follows is a "summary" (you may question my use of this word as you read on), of the activities of various departments/services offered to you.

Public Safety

The Board recently approved entering into a contract with CDPA, an architectural firm, for designing a fire station for the southern part of the township. The \$65,000 contract includes developing a site plan, a complete building package and determining a fixed cost for constructing a new fire station. The Board would then be in a position to commence construction of a new station to be in use in 2005. The Board has been working for several years to see new fire facilities become a reality in the township. The Township purchased just over 2 acres of land at the corner of Sumpter and Hull Roads two years ago and last year earmarked \$2 million in the Landfill Fund for fire facilities.



The Downtown Development Authority also approved a contract with CDPA for designing a fire station within the District along Belleville Road. The DDA recently approved the purchase of five acres of land on Belleville Road for the location of a new fire facility. As with the southern facility, this project has been a goal of the DDA since they approved their project list in 1993. If all goes smoothly, a new fire station in the northern part of the township could come to fruition in 2005.

The Fire Department is also awaiting receipt of two new fire engines, apparatus purchased at the end of 2003 that should be in use in the township by the end of 2004.

The Board recently received the *Operation & Management Study of the Department of Public Safety* by independent consultants, Bill Kelly and Tom Stone. The study, seven months in the making, was performed with an objective of improving public safety services and determining whether or not our nominally consolidated public safety department remained a viable structure. The results of the study were significant.

Bill Kelly, Police Chief of the nationally accredited Abington Township, Pennsylvania police department, and Tom Stone, Executive Director of the FBI's Law Enforcement Executives Development Association, outlined 114 areas for which



improvements could be made to enhance public safety service in Van Buren. Recommendations ranged from the relatively minor such as the submission of agenda items by command officers in advance of staff meetings to the significant policies and procedures regarding holding cells. Kelly and Stone suggested that the new Public Safety Director implement new procedures and develop a schedule to ensure the department policies manual is continuously reviewed and updated as needed. Kelly and Stone also recommended that the existing public safety structure be maintained and the Board commence with filling the director's vacancy.

Perhaps most significantly, the report posed the question "what went wrong in the Department of Public Safety in the Charter Township of Van Buren?" Their response "...we realize there were many contributing factors but only one major problem in the Department...a void of leadership at the top. Part of that void was created because the position of Director...has been vacant approximately seventeen months out of the last thirty-five...We also determined that even when there was a full-time Director...in place...little was being done to (i) establish organizational direction and procedures, (ii) analyze organizational and individual performance, or (iii) provide general oversight and leadership to the men and women of the organization." Answering this fundamental question, however challenging, was the purpose for the Board spending about \$35,000 for the study to be completed. While everyone on the Board could have and likely did come to a similar conclusion, the areas outlined for improvement in the 114 recommendations Kelly and Stone made would have been far more difficult to arrive at without the public safety service expertise the consultants provided.

The Board's objective was not to simply end up with a nicely bound document that would look good on a shelf, but rather, and far most significant, to actually make improvements so that public safety service to you is of high quality and above reproach. Further, while the Board recognizes its responsibility for the position remaining vacant for several months, the time between July 2003 and today was due, in part, for the need to complete this study. We did not want to exacerbate a problem we knew needed fixing by simply hiring another person to serve as director. The Board was aware the issues in the department were significant, and that an objective eye was needed to help us define the problems and offer suggestions for resolving. Indeed, we felt the necessary *first* step was not to fill the director's vacancy, but rather, to determine the condition of the department and *then* fill the vacancy. The consultants' observations concerning department operations when the director's position was filled, while also difficult, served to validate our need for the study.



Since the study was completed, implementing many of the suggestions contained in the report has begun with Lt. Ken Brooks responsible for police, dispatch and animal control operations, and Sgt. Greg Laurain assisting in supervising dispatch operations. Deputy Director-Fire Division Al Smolen is responsible for fire operations. The Board and Department will continue to monitor public safety activities to ensure that suggestions for improvement are implemented and to determine their effectiveness.

Further, the Board will be searching for a suitable candidate to serve as director and will be using the services of Kelly and Stone, particularly because they have come to know the township so well, to assist in filling the vacancy. They will continue to lend assistance to the township by reviewing resumes, screening interested applicants, performing background investigations and interviewing select candidates. Kelly and Stone will also provide guidance with implementing some of their more complex recommendations for improvement. They will be paid an hourly rate of \$75 each for their services, an amount that is cost effective as compared to liability the township could incur if improvements are not made. They will not, however, be serving as interim public safety directors as supervision of the department will be shared by Dep. Director Smolen and Lt. Brooks.

It is our shared objective - the Board's and that of Kelly and Stone - that you are the beneficiary of better service - improved response time and a continued professional approach to public safety service.

Planning & Economic Development

Work continues at the Visteon site. If you are a regular viewer of Board meetings via VBTV 12 you likely have seen several components of this project come to the Board for formal consideration. There are several parts to a sizable project such as this. Those items that have received Board action recently include improvements to Tyler Road, Ecorse Road and I-275, some of which include the use of \$5 million of Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) funds. MEGA was created in 1995 to allow the State of Michigan to offer single business tax credits that could be used to sway company decisions to retain jobs or add new jobs within the state, instead of in competing states or countries. Despite announcements of plant closings or major work force reductions, State representatives believe MEGA has worked to attract high-profile projects such as Visteon and to increase Michigan's competitive advantage. Other areas of the Visteon project commanding the Board's attention include those related to the public trailways system to be developed at the site and streetlights. Visteon remains on schedule to relocate about 700 employees to the site starting August 1.



On June 17, 2004, the Board attended a ribbon cutting ceremony at Grand River Printing & Imaging on Haggerty Road. Grand River is Michigan's largest commercial web offset printing company. Their 86,000 square foot facility, in a former vacant speculative building, will be the most technologically advanced print manufacturing and services facility in the area. The Board granted Grand River an eight-year 50% abatement on real and personal property taxes to locate in the township with Grand River committing to the addition of 25 new jobs at their Van Buren location. Grand River has won three *Crains*/IRI Awards for being one of the Top Ten Best Workplaces in Southeast Michigan.

Grand River compliments the Haggerty Road "industrial corridor" along with industrial neighbors including L&W Engineering, Daikin Clutch, ADVO, Murray's, Graybar, Coca-Cola, Bank One, Ricardo, Inc. and Visteon. Ricardo received a 10-year tax abatement to locate their North American Headquarters in the township with the commitment to add 60 new jobs to their site, and Visteon, who plans to add 200 new jobs to their Van Buren Headquarters, received a 12-year abatement. This results in a total of five tax abatements

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

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2004 VOTER INFORMATION

Reprinted courtesy of County Clerk Garrett's Office.

Register and Vote

Polls Open at 7:00 a.m. - Close at 8:00 p.m.

Primary Election is Tuesday, August 3, 2004

General Election is Tuesday, November 2, 2004

In 2004 Voters Throughout Michigan Will Elect:

- President & Vice President
- U.S. Representative in Congress (all districts)
- State Representative (all districts)
- State Board of Education (2 seats)
- University of Michigan Regents (2 seats)
- Michigan State University Trustees (2 seats)
- Wayne State University Governors (2 seats)
- Justice of the Supreme Court
- Judge of the Court of Appeals
- Judge of the Circuit Court
- Judge of the District Court
- Judge of Probate
- County Officials
- Township Officials
- Specified City and Village Officials

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

You're qualified to vote if:

- You are a citizen of the United States.
- You are at least 18 years of age on or before the day of election at which you seek to vote.
- You have been a resident of Michigan for at least 30 days before the election.
- You have registered to vote on or before the close of registration preceding the election at which you seek to vote.

How is residence determined?

- By law your residence is the place where you habitually sleep, keep your personal effects and have your regular place of lodging (Service People, U.S. Government Employees, the families of both, and citizens outside U.S. territorial limits may register in the community of their last legal residence). Michigan Law requires that the same address be used for voter registration and driver's license purposes.

REGISTRATION

Does everyone have to register to be eligible to vote?

- Yes

How can I register?

- At the office of your county, city, township or village clerk.
- Any other registration locations established by the local clerk.

Are there other sources of voter registration applications?

Voter registration applications can originate at any of the following but are not registrations until accepted by your local clerk:

- Secretary of State driver's license office
 - Secretary of State "renewal by mail"
 - State and federal mail-in forms
- Note: Voters using mail-in registration forms must vote in person the first time they vote! Mail-in registration forms are available on the Michigan Department of State Web Site (www.michigan.gov/sos).

These governmental agencies:

- Family Independence Agency
- Department of Community Health
- Department of Career Development
- Armed Forces Recruiters

Will I ever have to re-register?

- Registration in this state is considered permanent, however, any time you move out of one community and into another in this state you must re-register. The same is true if you move out of state. Re-registration is also necessary if for any reason your registration has been cancelled.

Change of Address?

- If you move within your city, township or village, a change of address should be made with your local clerk or at a Secretary of State Branch Office. If you have not completed a change of address prior to election day, you will not lose your right to vote. A change of address card will be completed at the polling place when you vote.
- If you move outside your city, township or village, a change of address should be made at a Secretary of State Branch Office. The change of address may be made by mail as well as in person.
- If you submit a change of address on your driver's license at a Secretary of State Branch Office, the address on your voter registration record will automatically be changed as well.
- Printed forms for changing your address are available on the Michigan Department of State Web Site (www.michigan.gov/sos).

VOTER INFORMATION

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TREASURER’S OFFICE

The Summer tax bills are out and the Township will extend the collection due date until Thursday, September 30, 2004, without penalty. Your tax bill can be paid at the Treasurer’s Office, by mail or after normal working hours in the drop-box in the Police Department lobby. The summer tax collection supports our local schools and the intermediate school district (RESA).

Just another reminder that if you have paid-off a mortgage, re-mortgaged, sold a home or purchased a home you need to notify my office so that our records reflect the proper data for your taxes. We need you to keep us updated regarding what mortgage company the bills get sent to and if any change has occurred as to where you want the tax bill sent. We want you to help us keep your tax records correct.

The 2004 Summer Tax Bill reflects the millages levied and the different entities that the Van Buren Township Treasurer’s office is responsible for collecting. The following is an example of the 2004 summer millage rates used to calculate the taxes due, based on a property with a taxable value of \$51,800. One “mill” is equal to \$1.00 of property taxes for each \$1,000 of taxable value. Therefore, the calculation to compute the taxes is as follows:

A. Dived the taxable value by 1,000 (\$51,800 taxable value/1,000 = 51.8).

B. 51.8 x each millage rate equals the tax due.

Taxing Authority	Millage
SET (State Education Tax)	6.0000
Van Buren School Debt	1.2645
RESA - Intermediate School District	3.4643
Total	10.7288

C. 51.8 x 10.7288 = \$555.75

The property listed with a principal residential exemption would have a summer tax bill of \$555.75.

If this were a non-principal resident exemption, the summer tax bill would reflect an additional 18 mills for School Operating or a bill for \$1,488.15.

Besides taxes and the collection and investment of all revenues, the Treasurer’s office is a check and balance for the Clerk’s office. The Township’s purchasing policy spells out in great detail how a Purchase Order is to be prepared, the budget and account number to be charged and who must sign-off to get approval. After the P.O. is issued and the item has been purchased, the Clerk’s office makes sure the invoice and completed back up is in place before a check is placed on a Voucher List and submitted to the Township Board

for approval. Checks are then released by the Clerk’s Office with signatures by the Clerk and the Treasurer. Transfers of funds to cover the expenditures are made by the Treasurer and bank accounts are reconciled by the Clerk’s office and verified with the Treasurer’s Office. The monthly financial statements and expense distribution reports give the Directors and Board an on-going and current look at their budgets in relation to the expenditures.

The Township Budget is balanced and is always being monitored and maintained.

Summer is here and our thoughts have turned to vacations, barbecues and being with family and friends. The flowers are blooming, the trees are green and combined with the blues of the lakes makes Michigan a beautiful place to be in the summer. We hope you all get to enjoy the season and do the things that bring you happiness. School is out so be extra careful driving in areas where our children are playing. Always be good to one another and look out for each other.

Remember my staff and I are always here to assist you so stop in anytime. If you have any questions, call my office at (734) 699-8903.

Sharry A. Budd
Township Treasurer

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SEWER BACKUPS OR BASEMENT FLOODING CLAIMS

Michigan statute, Act 222 Public Acts of 2001*, clarifies municipal liability for sewer and 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.

"CAMP WITH A COP"



*We're Back in
2004*



Camp With A Cop 2000 at Van Buren Park

"COME JOIN IN THE FUN"

The Van Buren Township Police Department would like to announce the return of our "**CAMP WITH A COP**" program. The dates for the Camp will be **August 20, 21 and 22, 2004**. The Camp will be held at Van Buren Township Park off the South Service Drive, Van Buren Township. Participation is limited to the first **80** boys and girls **ages 8-**

13 who reside in Van Buren Twp/City of Belleville.

Approximately 20 officers will offer their time and assistance to make this an eventful weekend for the kids.

The kids will arrive at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, August 20th, spend the whole weekend and go home at noon on Sunday, August 22nd.

Our program is designed to be a fun filled weekend as well as an opportunity for the Police Officers to interact with the boys and girls at "NO COST" to the parents.

The Camp is made possible because of the Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows who have graciously agreed to donate funds to hold this great event.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE JUNE 21, 2004 THROUGH JULY 19, 2004 AT THE VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT AND CITY OF BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

**Great activities and great food.
This is one weekend that all kids will enjoy!**

BOATER SAFETY

Boating season has arrived to Belleville Lake. Unfortunately there have already been some problems on the lake. Two vehicles have been submerged while their owners were trying to either launch or retrieve their boats. Another boat was launched onto the ramp.

It's important to remove straps from the stern, or rear of the boat prior to launch, and to keep the bow strap hooked to the boat until it's over the water.

I spoke with Anna Sylvester, a representative of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, on 6-11-04 and she stated that the boat launch on Rawsonville Road should be staffed in about a week.

Many lakes in Michigan have rules that are specific to them; these are called special local watercraft controls. It is a good idea to check these out prior to going boating. They can be found on the internet at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources web site www.michigan.gov/dnr. When you get to the home page select the recreation and camping page and then the boating page. Near the bottom of the boating page you will see special local watercraft controls. The special local watercraft controls are then listed by county.

Belleville Lake has three special watercraft controls. They are, a 40 mph speed limit, no wake within 100 feet of the Belleville Road Bridge, and no wake within 100 feet of the Denton Road Bridge.

Just a reminder of a few rules:

If a child is under 6 and on the weather deck of a moving boat they must have a type I or II, personal flotation device (PFD) on.

You must have a PFD that is the proper size, in good condition, and readily available for each person on your boat.

If you were born after December 31, 1978 you must have in your possession a boater's safety card to operate a personal watercraft.

The direction of the lake is in a counter clockwise rotation.

Personal watercraft operation time is from 8:00 a.m. until one hour before sunset.

Mike Moening
Marine Officer

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SAFETY

Van Buren Township is “a great place to live, work, and play.” The Primary objective of the Department of Public Safety is to ensure that Van Buren Township is a SAFE place to live, work, and play. As our community continues to grow we have noticed more activity on our roadways and sidewalks in the form of bicyclists, joggers and walkers. In an effort to meet our objective we need your assistance. Here are a few helpful hints:

- Never allow your child to ride without wearing a properly fitted helmet. 90% of all serious bicycle injuries are head and neck trauma related.
- Also, set a good example for your children and wear a helmet yourself.
- When towing another bicycle create a high visibility marker.
- Remember, when riding in the street obey the rules of the road.
- Cyclists have all the rights and responsibilities as other vehicles.
- Bicycles are built for one, unless a seat that is designed specifically for a second rider (child’s seat, tandem bicycles) is being used.
- When riding, walking, or jogging at night, wear retro-reflective material which illuminates when light is shown upon it.
- A rear reflector is mandatory when riding at night as well as a headlight that is visible from 500 ft.
- Cyclists ride with traffic. However, pedestrians walk, or run against traffic.
- When possible, jog with a friend. Take a phone, and advise your loved ones of your route, what you are wearing, and your expected return time.

Remember the three B’s to pedestrian and cycling safety...

predictable

seen and

alert!!!

For more information, contact Lt. Brooks at (734) 699-8930.

Officer Lou Ann Hamblin
Public Safety Department

FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

At 8:00 p.m. on April 22, 2004 the Fire Department began a new program of enhanced services to Van Buren’s residents. One of the fire stations is now staffed with a two-person crew for twenty hours every day. The purpose of the program is to quicken the response of fire fighters to emergency scenes and perform additional tasks of public education, safety inspections, and departmental support functions. This new staffing program allows Van Buren’s on-call fire fighters to sign up for 10-hour duty shifts that answer most of the community’s calls for service. For larger emergencies requiring more fire fighters, additional on-call staff is alerted for response. Van Buren’s fire fighters proudly remain ready to provide assistance to the community’s needs. This newly enacted program is just one way to show our continued commitment to help. We welcome your comments either by telephone (734) 699-8930 or through the Township’s website www.vanburen-mi.org.

Allen Smolen
Fire Chief

NEW FIRE STATIONS ON THE HORIZON

On June 8, 2004, the Downtown Development Authority voted to approve a contract with CDPA Architects, Inc. for the design and costing phase of building a new fire station within Van Buren’s Downtown Development District which encompasses parts of the township’s north half. On June 15, 2004, the Township Board of Trustees voted to retain CDPA to perform the same tasks for a fire station on a township-owned parcel of land at the corner of Sumpter and Hull roads to service the township’s southern areas. CDPA Architects, Inc. was selected as part of a competitive process which evaluated proposals from a large number of architectural firms. Utilizing the same architects for both buildings has resulted in a cost savings for Van Buren.

With both of Van Buren’s current fire stations being long outdated in their ability to function in today’s world of emergency services, Van Buren’s fire fighters are understandably anxious for the new buildings to become a reality. We look forward to the two new fire stations serving the community sometime in 2005.

Allen Smolen
Fire Chief

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

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

VOTER INFORMATION

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Change of Name?

- Any name change due to marriage or legal action may be reported to the clerk by:
 - Mail
 - In Person
 - At the Secretary of State Branch Office
- A person changing name should re-register, but may vote under former name.
- Printed forms for changing your name are available on the Michigan Department of State Web Site (www.michigan.gov/sos).

REGISTRATION CLOSURES:

- For the August 3rd Primary Election in 2004, the last day for registration is July 6th, during regular business hours. For the November 2nd General Election in 2004, the last day of registration is October 4th, during regular business hours.

VOTING PROCEDURES

Where do I vote?

- Each voter must cast their ballot at the polling place designated to serve the precinct in which they reside. If you are in doubt as to the location of this polling place you should check with the clerk of your city, township or village.

Then What?

- The first step in casting a ballot involves signing your name, current address, and date of birth on an Application to Vote form. Inspectors then compare your birth date and address with the information on the computer registration list.

Instruction for marking ballots or operating machines.

- Detailed instructions for the proper method of casting your vote are posted in each precinct. If additional help is needed, ask the election inspectors.

What can I do if I spoil my ballot?

- If you tear, soil, or erroneously mark a ballot, you may return it to the precinct officials and another ballot will be given to you. Before you return the spoiled ballot, be sure to conceal any mark you have made on it.

Can a voter ever receive assistance in voting?

- Any voter who requires assistance to vote because of blindness, physical disability or inability to read or write may be given assistance. Any person of the voter's choice (Federal Law) may assist except their employer, officer of their union or an agent of either.
- Two election inspectors (Michigan Law) who have expressed an affiliation for different political parties may assist any voter who requests assistance.

Handicapped Voting Precinct Accessibility

- Federal Law requires that every precinct be made accessible to the handicapped and all persons over 60 years of age. Where regular voting equipment cannot be made accessible, then an alternative ballot must be provided at the precinct. Most precincts are equipped with special booths which permit the elderly and handicapped to be seated while voting.

PRIMARIES

What is the difference between a primary and a general election?

- In a primary election the members of each party nominate candidates of their party for the general election. Voters may vote for candidates in one party only. Also conducted are nonpartisan primaries where the list of candidates exceeds more than twice the number to be elected.
- In a general election all voters elect officials from the party nominees independent candidates. They also elect candidates in nonpartisan races. Voters may vote for candidates in more than one party.

How do I establish which party's ballot I am entitled to vote?

- You may vote the primary ballot of any political party but vote for candidates of one political party only. If you vote in more than one partisan section of the ballot, the partisan ballot will be rejected.
- Under Michigan Law you do not have to make a choice until you enter the voting station.

ABSENTEE VOTING

You may vote by absentee ballot if you:

- Expect to be absent from the community in which registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day.

- Are physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another.
- Cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of your religion.
- Have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where you reside.
- Are 60 years of age or more.
- Cannot attend the polls because of confinement in jail awaiting arraignment or trial.
- An emergency absent voter ballot can be obtained on election day if a family death or illness requires you to leave your city or township on election day or you are unable to attend the polls because of personal illness or accident. The emergency must have occurred late enough that you could not file a regular absent voter ballot request. Have someone deliver your written request for an emergency absentee voter ballot to the clerk's office before 4:00 p.m. on election day.

How do I apply?

- By contacting the clerk of your municipality, in the case of a state primary or general election, the city or township clerk. Contact the village clerk (for village elections only) if that is where you reside. State a statutory reason (listed above), tell where the ballot must be mailed or delivered, give your present address and sign the request. Absentee Ballots can be mailed only to registration address or an address outside the community.
- Each person who desires an absentee ballot must sign the request as ballots are sent or delivered only to those who sign.
- Application can be made for one election only or for the primary election and general election which follows on one form. Applications may not be accepted sooner than 75 days preceding the primary election.

NOTE: Absent Voter Ballots **cannot** be supplied through telephone requests.

Application can be by:

- Letter
- Post Card
- Returning application form obtained from your local clerk or completing application form when visiting the clerk's office.
- Federal Post Card Application

NOTE: This is restricted to:

- Members of the Armed Forces (Merchant Marines) and their spouses and dependents.
- U.S. Citizens temporarily living or traveling outside of the territorial limits of the United States.

What is the deadline for applying for absentee ballots?

- Application must be made by 2:00 p.m. on the Saturday preceding the election.
- If after the deadline is passed and it is found an Absentee Ballot is required, the elector may go to the clerk's office on any working day up to 4:00 p.m. of the day preceding election. Both application and voting ballot will occur at this time in the clerk's office.

How do I return my absentee voter ballot application?

- Public postal service, express mail service, parcel post service, or other common carrier.
- Personally deliver it to your clerk or an assistant of the clerk.
- Have an immediate family member mail or deliver it to the clerk or an assistant of the clerk.
- Have another person living in your household mail or deliver it to the clerk or assistant of the clerk.
- If none of the above are available to you, another registered voter may deliver your application to the clerk but must sign an authorizing certificate.

REGISTER AND VOTE!

This information compiled by-

Cathy M. Garrett

Wayne County Election Division
(313) 224-5525

ELECTION CHANGES FOR 2004 AND BEYOND

As many of you are aware big changes have occurred as a result of the November 2000 election. Most notably is the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) signed into law by the President in October 2002. It requires state and local governments to upgrade election processes and systems. \$1.5 billion in federal funding has been appropriated to help states implement these improvements. To be eligible for federal funding each state was required to develop and submit a State Plan outlining how it will comply with the requirements. One of the components of the Act is the requirement for a unified voting system for each State. The State of Michigan has chosen optical scan which means all precincts systematically moving to optical scan with vendors being chosen on a county wide basis. Jurisdictions using voting systems other than optical scan are the first priority for new equipment funded by the State. Jurisdictions currently using optical

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ELECTION CHANGES 2004 & BEYOND

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scan will be eligible for upgrades at a later date. Michigan is eligible to receive approximately \$45 million this fiscal year with an estimated \$33 million in additional grant funds coming over the next two fiscal years. According to the Secretary of State Terri Land "More than 65 percent of Michigan's 5,305 precincts already use optical scan systems. The remaining 1,829 precincts will adopt this method." Optical scan is one of five different voting methods used throughout the United States. All are currently used in Michigan, sometimes within the same county. Van Buren has an advantage over some jurisdictions because we began using optical scan in 1997. HAVA will also help to improve access for voters with disabilities and those who are living outside the country, including military personnel stationed overseas.

Interesting News You Can Use

Currently there are over 18,000 registered voters in Van Buren Township and we have 9 voting precincts. The Primary Election will be held August 3, 2004 and the General Election will be held November 2, 2004. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. The last day to register to vote in the August Primary Election is July 6, 2004. The last to register to vote in the November General Election is October 4, 2004.

If you have any questions about your registration status or how to vote absentee, please contact my office at (734) 699-8909 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or check your voter status on the web at www.sospublius.org/. This website provides a variety of information regarding the voting process such as checking voter status, registering to vote, an election overview, maps and candidates, election campaign finance and more. Most importantly, take the time to vote.

For your convenience the Clerk's Office will place the unofficial election results on Governmental Access Channel 12 as soon as votes are tallied.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

NEW FIRE ENGINES EXPECTED SOON!

As announced in the Spring 2004 Lake Ledger, the Fire Department's two new fire engines are nearing completion at the Pierce Manufacturing plant in Wisconsin. Pierce representatives have notified us that the trucks are slightly ahead of schedule and should be delivered to Van Buren at the end of July.

Allen Smolen
Fire Chief

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 didn'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

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 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.



INTO THE PARKS



A scenic view of French Landing Park

Greetings once again, and hopefully this finds you enjoying your summer. Please keep in mind that you don't have to go far to get away from your daily routine. The parks of Van Buren offer a chance to go and spend time recreating with family and friends and they're just around the corner from where you live. Summertime is for picnics and we still have a few dates available to rent pavilions, so give us a call.

By the time you read this the improvements to the U of M Boat-house should be complete. The project has provided two handicap parking spaces down by the beach along with a path to allow for disabled residents to access the bathrooms and boat-house. We are very happy to have this complete, as we want everyone to be able to enjoy all the parks we have to offer.

This past spring new decorative stone flowerbeds replaced the old wooden ones at Van Buren Park. Along with the plantings and the memorial garden it has really enhanced the look as you first make your way into the park. Each day the attempt is to improve the resources that the Township has to offer, we do this by enhancing the beauty and usefulness of these already fine parks.

Richard Frank a respected restorian specialist who has worked on many projects in his lengthy career including the State Capital, and Depot Town in Ypsilanti was brought in a few months back to help us with the Riggs House at the Riggs Heritage Park site. To this point he has completed a document detailing what needs to be done for us to seal the home from any further deterioration until we begin the actual restoration. The barn will also receive some attention in an attempt to protect it.

Van Buren Soccer Association recently completed another successful season at Quirk Park and we look forward to their return in the fall. In the meantime I hope everyone will stop by the parks and check out all we have to offer. Enjoy your summer and feel free to stop by anytime.

Vincent Averill
Parks Manager

GET UP & GET ACTIVE



Kid's get active with Rec Professional Mike Devlin

Get Up & Get Active is underway this summer, and the youth of Van Buren Township are starting to realize the benefits of this exciting program. Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department has been awarded a \$5,000 grant. The grant is part of the "Get Michigan Youth Moving" project developed by the Michigan Legislature through the Michigan Department of Public Health and administered by the Michigan Parks and Recreation Association.

This grant will enable youth to participate in numerous activities which will alter their state of mind about exercise and eating healthy. Youth have already started to jazz it up with our Junior Jazzercise, splash it out at the Wayne Recreation Department Pool, participate in large muscle games/exercises facilitated by one of the members at September Days Senior Center, Jan Oliver. Kids will also learn about carrying their backpacks correctly from the Belleville Chiropractic Wellness Center as well as how to eat healthy (kids are even making their own nutritional lunches). Days will also be spent at Lower Huron Metro Park so youth will be able to explore the walking trails and outdoors all while staying active. Even the Fred C. Fischer Library is getting in on this program. They will facilitate storytelling so kids remember to keep an active mind as well as an active body. A scavenger hunt, Laser Tag, and even the Van Buren Township Police Department will get in on this program. Finally on the last day a special event will be held for all the participants' families.

This is a free program for youth and something we hope to continue for many years to come. It is so vital that adults help with this youth obesity epidemic. Children of today need to know they have other alternatives to fatty foods and sedentary lives.

Jennifer Morris
Recreation Manager

Recreation Program - Summer 2004

Tots of Fun

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

Parent or guardian must accompany children at all times.



Mondays & Wednesdays
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

K-9 Obedience Class

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

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

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

Tuesdays,
August 24 - September 28

Classes are held at Van Buren Park on the S. I-94 Service Drive

Van Buren Resident = \$30.00
 Non-Resident = \$35.00



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

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

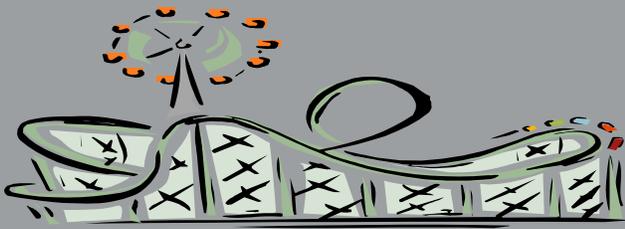
Cedar Point

Ages:	Prices	Savings
Child 3 & Under 48" and 60+	\$24.50	\$0.45
Adult 3-59, 48" & over	\$33.50	\$10.45
Ride/Slide (2 day)	\$63.50	\$6.45

Detroit Zoo

Ages:	Prices	Savings
Child 2-12	\$6.00	\$0.50
Adult 19-61	\$9.00	\$1.50

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



Introduction to T'ai Chi

T'ai Chi is an ancient Chinese martial art designed to strengthen the body, relax the mind, and enhance internal energy. T'ai chi improves balance, flexibility, muscle strength, and blood circulation throughout the body.

This course will cover basic t'ai chi movements along with breathing, relaxation and energy exercises.

Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and shoes.

Ages: 16 and up

Summer Session Fridays, July 16 - August 20
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (6 weeks)



Van Buren Residents = \$10.00
 Non-Residents = \$15.00



Get Active! Family Fun Day

Saturday, August 14
Noon - 2:00 p.m. at Quirk Park
All ages welcome!

Like it or not, you are a role model for the rest of your family. If you spend most of your time plopped on the couch and rarely exercise, you can expect more of your clan to do the same. So go get the kids, and make exercise a family affair. Join the Recreation Department for a day of fun, food, and games. Beat the clock on the obstacle course, grab a partner for the water balloon toss and three legged relay, and many more games for the whole family.

FREE! FREE! FREE!

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



Jazzercise

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

Ongoing, Mondays & Wednesdays

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
(childcare \$2.00)
and

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



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

**Register with Jazzercise **

Walk Michigan Win a trip to Mackinac Island

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

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

Starting every Wednesday May 5 - August 11 you can simply walk your way to earning tickets. The more you walk the more tickets you earn to put in a drawing to win an all expense paid trip to Mackinac Island. The trip to Mackinac Island will take place over Labor Day weekend for the annual walk across the "Big Mac."

Walk Michigan will be held in two places this year, Lower Huron Metro Park and Quirk Park. Even though this is a free event, a fee will be charged for those who enter Lower Huron Metro Park. Quirk Park will not have an entrance fee.

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

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. Daily park entry fee (\$2). Concerts start at 7:30 p.m.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| July 21 | Carl Vanover & Friends (Country) |
| July 28 | Rich Eddy's Rockin Oldies Band |
| August 4 | "Symphony in the Park"
<i>In cooperation with the Belleville Area Council for the Arts.</i> |
| August 11 | Don Middlebrook and Living Soul |

Gym Schedule

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

**** Children 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult****

**** Schedule and times are subject to change based on participation or scheduling of special events****

Registration/Waiver Form

Participant's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Age, if under 18 _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

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

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Phone</i>
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Activity	Day and Time of Class	Fee

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

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

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

I understand that the Township may take photographs for use in Township publications and news releases without my written consent.

I have read the above waiver/release of liability and understand it.

Signature (Parent or Guardian, if not over 18)	Date
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Please Mail to: Van Buren Recreation Department, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Twp., MI 48111

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

Continued from Page 3

in existence (Olympic Laser on Schooner Drive received a 12-year abatement, with 80 new jobs and L&W's abatement for 12 years was to add 71 new jobs), and a total of 436 new jobs to be added to our community.

During today's ever more competitive economic market, the ability to attract industry to a community and thus, new jobs and an improved tax base, often rely upon a community's ability to offer incentives such as abatements. In Van Buren, a stringent tax abatement guideline exists to ensure that applicants are evaluated as objectively as possible and to make sure those industries that are granted abatements reflect the needs of our community. Further, if those companies who are granted abatements fail to meet their objectives as outlined in the agreements, the township has been aggressive in revoking abatements with three being revoked over the past several years. With over 80 sites currently being used in an industrial manner, the Board has been prudent with regard to granting tax abatements.

Environment

In April, the Board approved the formation of an Open Space Committee. The need for this committee became clear after the Board approved a study to determine the amount of and ecological significance of the land that remains vacant in the township. As we all know, the township is undergoing considerable change as it transitions from a rural community to an urban one. While many of us appreciate the options that come with growth, we are also concerned about the loss of natural features and vacant land. This Committee, one I'm convinced time will show was charged with a historically significant task, will be meeting over the next several months to study the report, determine the methods by which land can be preserved, ascertain financial implications and make recommendations for the Board to consider. If you are concerned about preserving some of the township's land in an undeveloped state, you are encouraged to attend the meetings of this Committee. The Open Space Committee meetings will be posted on our website www.vanburen-mi.org; on our governmental access channel VBTv 12 and at Township Hall, or you can call the Environmental Department at (734) 699-8913 to obtain meeting dates and times.

Water And Sewer

At the Board's June 15 meeting, a Water Distribution System Master Plan was approved. While water system reliability reports have been routinely prepared and submitted to regulatory agencies, a plan for the future of the water distribution system had never before been crafted. This first ever master plan for the township's water distribution system

articulates a build-out objective with regard to planning for this essential infrastructure over a sixty-year time frame. A Master Plan, while a useful development tool, is also a guideline that can be modified if township needs change or other factors influence development that were not known during the development of the Plan. In fact, the township will strive to review the Plan every five years to ensure the Plan reflects our changing community. This Master Plan also has recommendations for improvements to the system to ensure its reliability and integrity of the system. The Board is grateful for the expertise and many years experience of our current water and sewer director who realized a need existed to develop this plan as well as a first ever Sanitary Sewer System Master Plan (currently a work in progress) for future planning for these vital infrastructures.

Recreation

In June, the Board approved contracts with various performers/bands for the 2004 Summer Concert Series to held on Wednesday evenings in Van Buren Park. The entertainment includes a variety of music from country, folk, and Motown, to a Caribbean/Jimmy Buffet sound to an orchestra. If you have not spent an enjoyable Wednesday evening at the park, please put it on your list of fun things to do this summer, you won't be disappointed.

Remember, Quirk, French Landing and Van Buren Parks all have something different to offer with playscapes to be found at each of these parks. Enjoy a pick-up game of soccer at Quirk Park, a beautiful sunset at French Landing or a quiet time to meditate at Van Buren. Remember in Van Buren, leisure time is "always in season."

Senior Services

Trips abound this summer for members of September Days Senior Center. They include the Star of Saugatuck, "Great Gershwin" Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Northville's Annual Sidewalk Sale and the Ford Rouge Tour. Daily hot lunches continue to be served during the summer and while the center is open during the week, programming continues with such classes as Dance Exercise, Quilting, Cooking & Nutrition and Ceramics. If you're one of our valued seniors and are not yet a member of September Days, please take a moment to stop by and see what September Days has for you.

As I said at the start, there is much going on in our township. For a recap of 2003, look for the State of the Township 2003 video currently airing on VBTv 12. For all of the other ongoing activities of the township, look to the cable channel or our website www.vanburen-mi.org for information.

Summer is a time to relax and be with family and friends. Van Buren has many amenities including Belleville Lake, our parks and neighboring Lower Huron Metropark. I hope you make time for "down time" and for those most important to you.

With highest regards,

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

ACCESSORY BUILDINGS, DECKS AND FLAGPOLES

The Township Board recently adopted revisions to Section 4.14 of the Township Zoning Ordinance regulating accessory buildings, structures and uses. The Planning Commission and staff spend considerable time and effort to revise and simplify the regulations pertaining to accessory buildings and structures which were difficult to understand and cumbersome to administer.

A couple of definitions of words used in the Ordinance will help in understanding the revisions. For example a "detached building" has a roof and would be like a garage, pole barn or shed. The word "structure" includes buildings but also things without a roof like a deck, patio or a swimming pool.

Some of the highlights of the revised Ordinance are listed as follows:

Detached Accessory Buildings

- Attached garages are no longer counted against the total square footage allowed on your lot or parcel for accessory buildings or structures.
- Detached buildings with 768 square feet or less need to be at least 15 feet behind the rear of the house and 5 feet from the side and rear lot line.
- Detached buildings with more than 768 square feet need to be at least 50 feet behind the rear of the house and at least 15 feet from the side and rear lot line.
- Detached building size (footprint) is based on the size of your lot. For example a total of 900 square feet of building is allowed per acre of land or fraction thereof. Thus, if your property is 1.5 acres you may have up to a total of 1,350 square feet of detached accessory building(s) ($900 \times 1.5 = 1,350$). A maximum of 4,000 square feet of detached accessory building(s) is allowed based on this formula of 900 square feet per acre of property.
- Detached garages on lots smaller than 25,500 square feet in area can be up to 528 square feet in size (22' x 24' = 528 s.f.)

- Accessory building shall be designed and constructed to be compatible in design and appearance with the home on the property.
- Height of the accessory building is based on the roof pitch and ranges from 14 feet for a 4 1/2 pitch up to 17 feet for a roof pitch that is greater than 8/12. Height is measured from the ground to the midpoint of the roof not the peak.
- An accessory building shall have a concrete floor or pad and a rat wall on lots smaller than 2.5 acres.

Decks, Paved Terraces and Patios

In all single-family residential zoning districts in the Township, the minimum rear yard setback is 35 feet from the rear edge of a deck, paved terrace or patio to the rear lot line. A deck, paved terrace or patio **may encroach up to 10 feet** into this 35 foot rear yard space **only if** one of the following characteristics exist:

- The rear lot line abuts a regulated wetland or a detention pond as shown on an approved site plan.
- The deck, paved terrace or patio is not more than 30 inches above the surrounding grade.

Swimming Pools

Swimming pools that are above or below ground are permitted in the rear yard space subject to the following setbacks and other requirements:

- The pool must setback at least 10 feet from the side and rear lot lines and at least 4 feet from any other building on the lot.
- Safety fencing between 4-6 feet high with tamper proof locks on all entry gates must surround all sides of the pool that don't abut a building.
- No overhead utility lines are permitted.
- No portion of the pool shall encroach any easement or right-of-way granted for public utility use.

Flagpoles

No change! They are still allowed in any yard space and may be up to 35 feet high.

Copies of the revised Section 4.14 are available at the Building Department at no charge. Questions regarding the Ordinance revisions are welcomed and encouraged.

Have a happy 4th of July and a wonderful summer.

Steve Pugsley, AICP, PCP
Zoning and Planning Administrator

WEST NILE VIRUS AND MOSQUITOES

What we know:

Sources of stagnant water serve as the primary breeding ground for *Culex pipiens*, the mosquito that carries the West Nile Virus. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), source reduction (alteration or elimination of mosquito larval habitat) is the most effective and economical method of providing long-term mosquito control in many habitats. Larviciding is less effective than source reduction, and adulticiding is the least effective way of combating mosquitoes. A combination of both source reduction and larviciding is recommended to reduce mosquito populations.

Source Reduction:

Mosquitoes can breed in any puddle that lasts more than 4 days. Many common domestic situations create puddles capable of supporting mosquito larvae. It is very important to eliminate sources of stagnant water, such as:

- artificial containers such as tin cans, buckets, ceramic pots.
- discarded tires
- clogged rain gutters
- septic sewage
- tire swings (drill holes in the bottom to allow rain water to drain out)
- wheelbarrows stored so that water collects
- plastic wading pools stored so that water collects
- drip saucers for potted plants
- swimming pool covers
- Ornamental pools (Aerate the pools or stock them with surface feeding minnows [Goldfish offer little, if any, benefit.]

Furthermore, outdoor sources of standing water should be regularly cleaned or changed, for example:

- bird baths
- plastic wading pools
- swimming pools
- water bowls for pets

Larvicide:

Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis or B.t.i. has been shown effective in reducing mosquito larval populations in stagnant water sources. B.t.i. is a naturally occurring soil bacterium that can effectively and specifically kill mosquito larvae. Commercially available B.t.i. strains are sold under the trade

names such as Mosquito Dunks, Aquabac, Teknar, Bactimos, and Vectobac. When mosquito control is needed to reduce mosquito-borne disease, the Department of Health favors use of larvicide applications to the breeding source of mosquitoes. Larvicides are more effective and less toxic than adult mosquito sprays, and the applications are unlikely to result in human exposure. Extensive testing shows that microbial larvicides do not pose risks to wildlife, nontarget species, or the environment, when used according to label directions.

Van Buren Township lacks the staffing and funding necessary to institute a township-led larviciding program. However, the Township has purchased a supply of Mosquito Dunks and supplies them to residents with stagnant water around their home free-of-charge. Residents simply need to stop by the Developmental Services office located in Township Hall, provide proof of residency and request a supply of B.t.i. Mosquito Dunks. Mosquito Dunks typically require reapplication every 30 days and should be applied at a rate of one dunk per 100 sq. ft. of standing water.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality approval is required for treatment of waters of the state, and certain tributaries of those waters. These include lakes, streams, and wetlands greater than 5 acres. The necessary forms are also available at the Developmental Services office. MDEQ's approval is not necessary for treatment of residential larval grounds such as swimming pools, rain barrels, decorative ponds or wetlands less than 5 acres. In addition, a private individual may only treat surface water if they own the property to be treated or their property abuts the water body, or they have written permission from a property owner meeting this criterion.

So, reduce the sources of standing water on your property by disposing of old tires, buckets, cans, etc.; and if you still have some standing water with mosquitoes breeding on your property you can't get rid of - stop by the Developmental Services office for your free Mosquito Dunks. For more information you may call (734) 699-8913 or e-mail Environmental Director Dan Swallow: dswallow@vanburen-mi.org.

Dan Swallow
Environmental Director

SEPTEMBER DAYS SENIOR CENTER NEWS

Travel opportunities abound at September Days Senior Center. We have planned many exciting trips for the coming months. Although they are considered "senior" trips, non-seniors are welcome to participate as space permits. Gift Certificates are available for birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Stop in to the center for more information. This list is subject to change so call (734) 699-8919 to check current scheduling.

- July 29 Ford Rouge Tour & Greektown Casino
- July 31 Purple Rose Theater - "Duck Hunter Shoots Angel" by Mitch Albom
- Aug 7 Northville's Sidewalk Sale & Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall
- Aug 12 "Damn Yankees" Cornwell's Dinner Theater
- Aug 18 Hiawatha Racetrack Slots & Dinner Cruise
- Aug 26 Windsor Racetrack Slots
- Sept 3 Yoder's Amish Quilt & Craft Show
- Sept 9 "Camelot" Fisher Theater
- Sept 9 New York City
- Sept 20 Tree-mendus Fruit Farm
- Sept 23 Geritol Follies
- Sept 23 "Mum Stroll"
- Sept 28 Ausable River Queen
- Sept 28 Great Smokey Mountains
- Oct 3 Grand Traverse Resort & Casino
- Oct 5 "Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"
- Oct 7 Celebrate Detroit! Hockeytown Cafe, Pewabic Pottery, Ford Field
- Oct 12 Mackinac Island Annual Senior Trip
- Oct 12 Casino Windsor
- Oct 14 "Your Hit Parade" at Hartland Senior Center
- Oct 26 "Anything Goes" - Stratford Festival, Ontario
- Nov 1 Thanksgiving Day Parade
- Nov 9 Windsor Racetrack Slots
- Nov 11 Branson, MO
- Nov 30 Edsel Ford Home Tour
- Dec 4 Gaither Homecoming
- Dec 4 Christmas Shopping in Chicago
- Dec 8 "A Cornwell Christmas" - Cornwell's Dinner Theater ("Turkeyville")
- Dec 15 Roy Clark Christmas Memories Show

SEPTEMBER DAYS SENIOR CENTER 2004 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Joe and Mary joined September Days in March of 1990, and according to our newsletter archives, began volunteering shortly thereafter. Joe participated in a 5K "Miles for Meals" walk in September of the same year, and November 1991 was elected to serve on the Endowment Committee. He continued to serve in that capacity for more than 10 years.

Joe and Mary also began delivering meals to the homebound in 1991. During these 13 years, they have given us their time every Monday and Wednesday morning. Additionally, they deliver Holiday Meals to the homebound on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.



Joe and Mary Czajkowski

We have always looked forward to Mary's contributions to our Bake Sales and even when participation dwindled, Joe and Mary remained faithful attendees at our General Membership meetings, (always bringing wonderful dishes to the potluck suppers, I might add!)

Along with what they do here at the center, Joe and Mary also volunteer at their church and make monthly visits to the soup kitchen at the Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit to help feed the homeless.

Truly volunteers who "give from the heart", it is with humble gratitude that I acknowledge them as the recipients of the September Days Senior Center 2004 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Linda H. Combs
Director of September Days

2003 WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The 2003 Water Supply System Consumer Confidence report has been mailed 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 Department, or extra copies are available by calling (734) 699-8925.



www.belleville.lib.mi.us

Hours: Mon - Thurs 10 - 9, Fri & Sat 10 - 5

Did You Get Your Refrigerator Magnet?

Thanks to a grant, the library was able to do a first time mass mailing to each residence in Belleville, Sumpter, and Van Buren this spring. This colorful promotional piece has brought many new faces to the library. The number of residents (both new and not so new) who were not aware of their local public library continues to surprise us. We have received such good feedback about the project that we are budgeting for another mailing next year. If you did not get our magnet and card "Something for everyone at your Library," come in and ask for one at the Information desk. Limited quantities are available.



Van Buren Day Camp busy reading

Another aspect of the grant involves bringing the books to the kids this summer. Van Buren Day Camp and Holiday West Mobile Home Park each received 150 kid popular paperbacks and bookmarks to encourage reading.

Proof of this grant's success is our record-breaking registration for the Summer Reading Program. Over three hundred had registered by the first program on June 22.

The \$12,000 Library Services and Technology Act grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Library of Michigan paid for eighty percent of the costs.

An overflow crowd of 300 plus packed the childrens room for the first session of the Summer Reading Program

Fall Story Time Registration

Story Time registration begins Tuesday, September 7, 2004.

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. 20 - Oct. 25
Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m.	Sept. 22 - Oct. 20

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. 23 - Oct. 21
Thursdays, 11:15 a.m.	Sept. 23 - Oct. 21

Book Discussion Group

The Fischer Library's book discussion group meets at the library at 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. All interested adults are welcome to attend (registration is not necessary).

Feature books include:

August 5, 2004: *Plainsong*, by Kent Haruf
 September 2, 2004: *Black Rose*, by Tananarive Due
 October 7, 2004: *Jane Austin Book Club*, by Karen Joy Fowler

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 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 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:

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

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

If you are moving:

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

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 November 29 - 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.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS:

Yard Waste Stickers are available in the Community Services Department.

(734) 699-8926

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.

RECYCLING 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 ****

Kids Fishing Classic

**Saturday, August 21
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**



Location:
French Landing Park



Age:
Youth up to 12 years old
(accompany by an adult)

**FREE!! FREE!! FREE!!
Please register by 10:00 a.m.
the day of the event.**

Hey Kids "Get Your Fish On!" The Kids Fishing Classic will be held at the Historical French Landing Park. This event is a perfect time for all youth of the community to enjoy the great outdoors. Please provide your own fishing pole, tackle, and bait. Prizes will be awarded for the first fish caught, most fish caught, and longest fish caught. A free lunch will be provided during prize giveaway.

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.

Open Space Committee:
To be announced

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.
(Meets February, April, June,
August, October & Dec,
changes will be posted)

Endowment Committee:
2nd Tuesday 1:00 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

Director of Public Safety 699-8930
Police, Fire, Dispatch 699-8930
Animal Control 699-8930
Emergencies 9-1-1

Developmental Services

Bryce Kelley, Planning &
Economic Development Director 699-8913
Patti Duha, Director of Water & Sewer 699-8944
Ordinance Enforcement 699-8913
Dan Swallow, Environmental Director 699-8913

Community Services

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

Lake Ledger

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Editor:

Christina Harman
Community Services Department

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