



Charter Township of Van Buren

# Lake Ledger

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*"Proud to Serve and  
Protect our community"*



Police Officer Dale Harrison, Sgt. Ernie Thornsbury, and Police Officer Fred Sweet, standing in front of the new Supervisory Tactical Support Unit.



Van Buren Firefighters from Stations #1 and #2 on a training burn.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

By: Christopher Elg, Director of Public Safety

To the Citizens of Van Buren Township:

It has been ten months since I started here as your Director of Public Safety and much has happened in this short time. With the support of the Board of Trustees and the hard work by members of the Department of Public Safety we have increased our authorized personnel strength by four sworn police officers due to some cost savings initiatives,

### PUBLIC SAFETY

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**SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE**

By: Cindy C. King, Supervisor

A year ago, I commenced my narrative by writing about the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and the heroic efforts of those aboard Flight 93 that crashed in Pennsylvania. Again, I find myself thinking about the tragic events of that sunny day in September and how all of our lives have been forever changed. On Sunday, September 8, I participated in "Downriver Remembers" a ceremony to honor the victims of 9/11 and to express our appreciation to the police, fire and emergency response personnel whose efforts demonstrated courage, professionalism and compassion during one of our nation's bleakest moments.

If you were at "Downriver Remembers," you know the sense of patriotism and love for this great country of ours that was so movingly expressed by the various speakers and those in attendance. As U.S. District Attorney Jeffrey G. Collins said this country "has become very united...[w]e are brothers and sisters." Attorney Collins also said this country "celebrates the liberation of women...freedom of speech and freedom of the press." I cannot help but echo his comments. Ours is a great country because we respect that which makes us different, we honor one's right to make choices, because we value freedom. We have laws that protect those rights we Americans think as basic, essential to the pursuit of happiness. Americans celebrate life. As this season moves toward winter and the holidays that come, please pause to give thanks to this country, our freedom, and our way of life. Take a moment to hug a loved one. Take a minute to tell a cop or firefighter you appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

What is going on in Van Buren? As usual, lots. I had the pleasure of participating in the annual South Middle School 6th grade "Manners Dinner" held at the Bayou Restaurant in downtown Belleville. Each year teacher, Mr. Carl Marosi, gathers up local officials, business owners and other civic-minded Belleville area folks to take a group of sixth graders to dinner. On May 20, Clerk Payne and I enjoyed the company of two lovely young women, both of whom are named Andrea. We had a good time of lively conversation, delicious food and fun. All of the young people were proof positive of the great kids we have living amongst us and we are the better for them.

On June 1, several area residents volunteered their Saturday to help build the new playscape at Van Buren Park. Joining us were volunteers from Visteon and local Girl Scouts who provided a tasty lunch for the workers. If you've not had an opportunity to visit the park, please do so and see the results of our efforts.

This summer also saw the kick-off of what we hope to be an annual concert in the park series. Free concerts were held almost every Wednesday in the park with various types of music being featured. Your attendance will ensure a concert series continues in the future. If you attended a concert and had a good time, please tell your friends! Our goal is to offer something for everyone and to fill Van Buren Park with residents such as you.

Approved by the Board in June, the township now has in place an animal adoption policy for the adopting of dogs picked up by the Animal Control Officer. For a nominal fee, and upon agreeing to spay or neuter the animal, residents can obtain a dog that is likely to become a welcome member of the family. If you have a interest in adopting a dog, please contact the Animal Control Officer at (734) 699-8930.

On June 19, Visteon held a groundbreaking ceremony for their world headquarters here in Van Buren. As I said then, I believe the locating of Visteon's world headquarters in Van Buren will be a watershed moment in the history of the township. Over the past several months, Visteon representatives have been meeting with planning staff including the township's professional planning consultants as they seek approval for the development of their site. The Township Board recently approved the creation of a Local Development Finance Authority to assist in funding the public improvements to be made as a direct result of this historic project.

**SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE**

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**Belleville Christmas Parade**

**Saturday, December 7th**

**8:00 a.m.**

Pre-Parade Pancake Breakfast at BHS Cafeteria. \$6/Adults and \$5/Children under 12 and Seniors.

**11:00 a.m.**

Christmas Parade - Theme "A Patriotic Christmas-United We Stand" Deadline for entries is Friday, November 8th.

## TREASURER'S OFFICE

By: Sharry A. Budd, Treasurer



Donna Hunter, new Account Clerk in the Treasurer's Office

Where did the summer go?

The treasurer's office is continuing to collect the 2002 summer school taxes. The Township Board did extend the deadline for collection until Monday, September 30, 2002. We hope that helps, as everyone is busy getting back into the routines of fall.

My office is also starting to gather information for the 2002 winter taxes, so if you have remortgaged or purchased a home, you need to notify my office so our records reflect the proper data. We need you to keep us updated on 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.

On a personal note, when you come into the office you need to congratulate my Deputy Bruce Malinczak. He has been notified that he has received his "Certified Municipal Finance Administrator" certification. This is a three-year educational program through the Michigan Municipal Treasurers Institute and Central Michigan University. He has also been appointed to serve on the MMTA Board that represents Michigan. His dedication to my office and the residents of Van Buren Township is something I appreciate.

However, the best news from my Deputy Bruce Malinczak was the birth of his daughter. Little Maggie Rae Malinczak arrived on September 10, 2002 at 10:13 p.m. and weighed in at 5lbs, 13oz. This is the first child for Bruce and his wife Debbie. We certainly wish them the very best in their new adventure of being parents.

In the last *Lake Ledger*, I told you about Barb Kauppila's retirement after 12 years in the Treasurer's Office. Although we miss her and know that she's keeping busy, I am pleased

to report that we have hired Donna Hunter to serve the Van Buren Township residents. She is quickly learning our procedures and is always willing to serve the residents at the counter or on the phone. Be sure to welcome her.

Remember if you have questions about your current taxes you may call my office at (734) 699-8903.

I hope you and your families get to enjoy the fall colors and the many activities the fall season brings.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Front Page

which has allowed us to fund these positions within the existing 2002 budget. Last week we were notified that we were one of 16 departments in Michigan to receive a COPS in School grant which will fund an additional two officers. With the addition of the two School Resource Officer positions we hope to have them interact daily with our most precious assets in the community - our children. It is our hope that this partnership with the Van Buren School District will allow us to spend quality time with the youth in our community and work together to prevent those who might go astray otherwise. We want to be there to be an active listener, friend, advisor, teacher and a role model for the students.

We are getting there but have not yet reached an optimal level of staffing which would allow us to do so much more for the community. We currently have openings in our fire department and encourage citizens to contact us and find out more on how you can serve this community in this very exciting capacity. We need to plan our growth within the department carefully and balance it with the needs of the citizens we serve. We also realize there are many different factors that impact our immediate ability to fund additional positions such as the potential impact of any reduced funding from the state, the current Township budget process and the November public safety millage questions. Our staffing goal is one where we can slowly evolve from being a reactive force to one where we spend a majority of our time in crime and fire prevention related tasks. As call volumes increase, the time left for routine patrol and prevention activities decreases.

I have heard the many praises and compliments that the men and women of the Department of Public Safety have deservedly brought upon themselves due to their untiring efforts in making our community a safe place to live and work. Whether it is the assistance given by our Marine Unit to

## PUBLIC SAFETY

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**SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE**

Continued from Page Two

On August 31, Clerk Payne and I, along with about 3,000 other local officials, police and firefighters descended upon the Capitol in Lansing to protest the Governor's veto of the state budget, a veto that included the elimination of a portion of state-shared revenue that is returned to local government. Fortunately, the State Legislature overrode the Governor's veto and state-shared revenue has been restored. However, I remain concerned that the revenue sharing could be reduced in the future. State-shared revenue is about 25% of the township's revenue stream, thus, any reductions have the ability to impact funding valued public services. Remember, this revenue is raised locally and that the loss of this revenue does have an impact on the services provided to you, residents of not only the township, but of the state as well. I would hope the state and local government could work in collaboration in funding services important to residents.

On August 12, the Township Board during a special meeting (date change due to the Primary Election held August 6) approved two ballot questions to seek additional millage to fund public safety operations and the construction of new facilities. The Board, after research performed by the township's planning consultants and several months' work by the Public Safety Committee, approved seeking a renewal of the current 3 mills for operations with an additional .4 of a mill for a period not to exceed 5 years. Further, we approved ballot language seeking up to .6 of a mill to fund capital improvements. If approved, this millage would run for a period of up to 20 years. Capital improvements would include a new public safety headquarters including fire bays in the northern part of the township (the relocation of our current headquarters at the township municipal center) and two smaller fire stations in the southern part of the township, one to the west and one to the east. All told, the Board is seeking an additional 1 mill in public safety funding.

On August 23, members of the Board joined staff at September Days Senior Center as they welcomed 280 seniors to the annual Country Jamboree held in the gym at the Municipal Center. Seniors danced to the music of Dale Williams and enjoyed a wonderful meal of smoked turkey and sausage, potato and fruit salads, corn, rolls and dessert. Senior Director Linda Combs reported that everyone had a great time! If you are over the age 55 and interested in joining September Days, please contact the Center at (734) 699-8918. Current membership stands at a record 1,660.

August 27 & 28 saw the Board in meetings to work on developing the 2002 Amended and 2003 Proposed General Fund Budgets. The Board met informally with department directors to discuss their respective services, and the amount of funding to be allocated to each department. Each year, the Board is challenged with adopting a balanced budget as we

are required by law to do. Every year, department line items are fine tuned, revenue sources studied, services provided reviewed for their value; the annual budget preparation session is a useful tool for assisting in this deliberation. Look for formal budget presentations to occur in October. The township's General Fund budget must be adopted by November 1.

At our first meeting in September, the Board approved the purchase of new hardware and software for changing over nearly all departments of the township to an integrated system. At a cost of about \$250,000, this is a significant investment in maintaining the many computerized records on file at township hall. Effectively implemented, the software will improve communication among and between the departments, reduce redundant data entry, and permit the creation of new data and its storage and retrieval to be handled more efficiently. It is my opinion this new software is every bit as important a part of managing the change occurring throughout the community as a new water distribution system master plan, or new and revised ordinances. As the implementation of this new software continues, we will keep you posted and would ask for your patience. We, too, will be experiencing a new way of providing service to you!

Lastly the township's Recreation program has been awarded the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness Level 3 Award. This prestigious award acknowledges the hard work of Director Ross and his staff in developing programs and events whose objective include the physical fitness of the participants. As a part of the award, the township was also the recipient of an \$800 check from the Governor's Council.

As I close, I think again of that which we value most. Clearly, our families and friends are at the top of the list. As the leaves turn their brilliant fall colors and the days grow steadily shorter, make time to spend with loved ones. Visit Van Buren Park with the kids, join a dance class with your significant other, take a trip with September Days. Time flies - make the most of it!

**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.



**GET TO KNOW YOUR PARKS & REC**

*The Benefits are Endless!*



Gymnastics Instructor Melissa Ruocco and student

Recreation has truly been booming this fall. We have numerous activities for every one of all ages to join. We are offering our traditional youth classes such as Gymnastics, Youth Dance and Tae Kwon Do, to our adult classes, T'ai Chi, Wine Tasting and Cooking Demonstrations. Also, we are offering new programs, such as a flower creating workshop, family entertainment day (a trip to the Detroit Science Center) as well as workshops on learning how to manage your money.

Since we are adding more and more classes to our schedule we are always looking for volunteers to help us out. Volunteers are an important component of the special events and programs we offer here at the Parks and Recreation Department. You might be asking yourself why should I volunteer? Well I can tell you first hand volunteering has many attributes. It is a great chance to meet new and interesting people. Research has shown that volunteering can produce a better sense of self-esteem and confidence, reduce heart rate and blood pressure, enhance your well-being, boost the immune system, and reduce life's stresses. It is almost as if volunteering is a medicine. Volunteering helps to keep the community united. The more you volunteer the more you take pride in the accomplishments of the community.

Age is not a factor when it comes to volunteering. People of all ages are encouraged to come out to our programs or special events to volunteer. We are often approached by high school students who need to perform a certain amount of volunteer hours for their school organizations. We are always happy to help them out by having them participate in our special events. We even had two high school students volunteer at our Day Camp this past summer, Jeanine Stadecker and Kristen Nichols. Both Jeanine and Kristen are Van Buren residents and really showed they care about their community. They helped with making crafts with the campers and come up with their own ideas to add to the

camp. Their dependability, responsibility and professionalism at the camp were definitely appreciated. In addition to these two volunteers, we had another high school student, Emily Dresher, volunteer at our Adult Basketball League Tournament selling concessions. She also helped out with our Tot Tumblers in our gymnastics class.

So, if you are looking for something fulfilling and rewarding to do in your community, consider volunteering. Even if it isn't at your Parks and Recreation Department, volunteer at the local animal shelters or schools. There are a variety of places to volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering at the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department contact our office at (734) 699-8921. Volunteering...The Benefits Are Endless!

Jennifer Morris  
Recreation Manager



**VBPS is Looking for More Distinguished Graduates Program enters its 6th year.**

Van Buren Public Schools is eager to induct five more graduates of Belleville High School into the Distinguished Graduates Hall of Fame. Enacted by the Board of Education in 1998, the mission of this program is to recognize honorable and worthy graduates who have brought distinction to the community.

Qualified nominees must have graduated from Belleville High School prior to 1992 and have distinguished themselves in either or both of the following categories: contributed to their chosen profession through outstanding individual performance, leadership or recognized success in a particular field or work; and/or contributed or volunteered leadership, time, effort and/or resources to benefit the greater Belleville area or other communities.

Graduates of Belleville High School who are deceased but meet the aforementioned criteria can be nominated for the posthumous category.

Nominations can be made by contacting the Van Buren Public Schools Communications Department at (734) 697-9123 ext. 224, or by writing to: Nomination-Distinguished Graduate Program, Communications Department, Van Buren Public Schools, 555 W. Columbia, Belleville, MI 48111.

**Deadline for entries is January 10, 2003!**

## PATRIOT DAY



Van Buren Township Hall flags at half staff in honor of the victims of 9/11.

On September 4, 2002, President George W. Bush declared September 11th as "Patriot Day". On this day we, as part of this great nation, will remember the terrible tragedies in New York City, the Pentagon, and in the skies over Pennsylvania. The men and women of the Van Buren Department of Public Safety will continue their prayers for all who lost their lives that day, and for all who must now continue without their loved ones. We honor the citizens, rescue workers, fire fighters, law enforcement personnel and military service members that responded with heroism and selflessness, compassion and courage. We share in our community's remembrance and observance of Patriot Day as a time to honor America's losses, and to celebrate America's spirit.

Al Smolen  
Deputy Director of Public Safety

## OPEN BURNING

The Township offices have received many inquiries about outdoor fires and open burning. The most common question is: "Is open burning allowed in Van Buren Township?" Yes. Van Buren Township allows small recreational fires (campfires) that are manageable (recommended no larger than three feet by three feet in size). The Fire Department will direct a homeowner to extinguish any fire considered unsafe, illegal, or determined to be offensive to neighbors. Use of gasoline, oil, or other chemicals in a fire are strictly prohibited and can result in a fine of up to \$500.00. Burning of leaves, grass, or other yard/household waste is prohibited at any time. If you have any questions regarding the issue of open burning please feel free to contact the Van Buren Fire Department at (734) 699-8930 or the Township's Ordinance Department at (734) 699-8958.

David Schuler  
Fire Fighter/Ordinance Officer

## SEASONAL SAFETY



"Sparky, the fire safety dog" outside of the Fire Safety House

This year's National Fire Prevention Week is October 6th - 12th. We have scheduled events in the community throughout the week, beginning with tours of our Fire Safety House at Walmart on October 6th from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. VBFD will tour all of the elementary schools during Fire Prevention Week to demonstrate fire safety to all first graders. Our goals include helping to set up escape plans, teaching "stop drop and roll," dialing 9-1-1, and identifying hidden hazards in the home.

With Halloween approaching, remember to always have adults or the police department check candy before allowing kids to eat it. Christmas is not far behind either, check your holiday lights for frays or wear, use the proper type and size of extension cords, and never overload your home's electrical system. Always secure your Christmas tree to prevent it from falling and keep it well watered so it won't dry out. Every year, fire departments respond to house fires caused by dry trees.

The Van Buren Fire Department would like to remind you to test your smoke detectors often and replace the batteries twice a year (when you adjust your clocks for Daylight Savings Time). If you do not have a smoke detector or believe you may not have enough to cover your home, please call the fire department. Through our Free Smoke Detector Program, we will assist with your questions, and if needed, come to your home and install a detector for you. Join the Van Buren Fire Department in making this busy time of the year safe and fun for all to enjoy. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at (734) 699-8930 and we will be happy to assist. Thank you.

Lt. David McNally  
Van Buren Fire Department



**SEPTEMBER DAYS SENIOR CENTER**

The Senior Center is a busy place these days! As the township grows, so does our membership. We signed 160 new members in the past year, with 95 of those living in new housing here in the township. We're delighted that many newly retired residents have chosen to join September Days. Whether you're a long-time member or a new resident, please drop by the center to see what today's "seasoned adults" are up to! One thing is certain - you won't find a bunch of "old people" sitting around in rockers. Quite the contrary! Our members are the busiest people I know. They're taking classes, taking trips, participating in special events, and volunteering right here in their own community. If you do not currently receive our monthly newsletter, please pick up a free copy here at Township Hall. They're available in the lobbies and in the senior office.



Charlotte Sopo and Jim Taratsas enjoying the Country Jamboree

Classes are in full swing for the fall session. Current offerings are: Crafts, Line Dancing, Ceramics, Dance Exercise, Crocheting, Square Dancing, Quilting, Variety Club, PACE (People with Arthritis Can Exercise), Music, Clay Sculpture, and Yoga. Some classes are offered at no charge and others are available for nominal fee. All classes are structured for seniors; however, non-seniors may participate as space permits. Call the center for more information at (734) 699-8918 or (734) 699-8919.

Linda H. Combs  
Director of September Days Senior Center



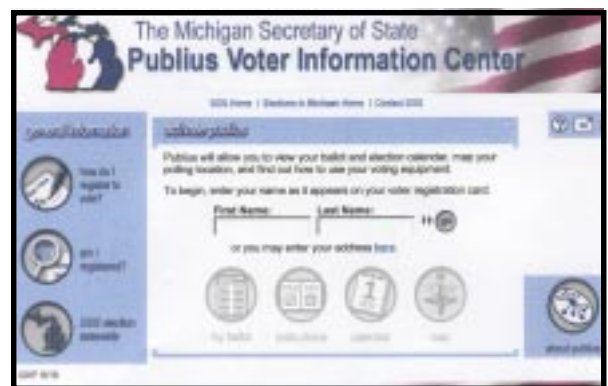
Linda Combs Senior Director and Erin Wiley, Senior Coordinator

I'm happy to report that with all this growth, our Township Board recently appointed Erin Wiley to the full-time position of Senior Coordinator. (Erin has been here since June 2001 as a part-time employee). If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting her, please take a minute to do so the next time you're in. She's been a welcome addition to our staff, and I'm pleased to have her as a partner. Together, we're committed to providing our "seasoned adults" with prompt, courteous service every time they visit September Days Senior Center.

295 members recently enjoyed a great Country Jamboree. Volunteers from the "Boots In Motion" dance troupe decorated the gym and volunteer Jim Taratsas called Bingo while VBT Trustee Walt Rochowiak, Al Bittner, and Brian McClinton roasted turkeys for us, (in the rain!) As always, the rest of the Board members were on hand to help serve the meal. After dinner, folks enjoyed the music of Dale Williams and we raffled off numerous prizes donated to us by local businesses. Our thanks to everyone who helped make the day a success for the 10th year in a row!

**CLERK'S OFFICE**

By: Joannie D. Payne, Clerk, CMC



The Michigan Secretary of State's office has a new web site where voters may look up their voter registration online. The web site asks for your name and will bring up your voting

**CLERK'S OFFICE**  
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**PUBLIC SAFETY**

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a disabled boater or the efficient and highly skilled medical care provided by members of the fire department at the scene of an automobile accident, I receive letters commending their actions weekly. But I have also heard the comments and suggestions on where we can do better. It is to this end that we are trying to keep pace with the unprecedented development in our community and the resulting public safety issues that are generated as a result of this rapid growth. We need your help just as much as you need ours.



Van Buren Police Department's new Harley Davidson Motorcycle

As the Township grows we are constantly evaluating our needs in the Department of Public Safety and trying our best to stay abreast of the needs and desires of the public we serve. Recently the department took delivery of two Harley Davidson police motorcycles through a special program for law enforcement agencies that reduces the leasing costs to \$300 per year. These costs were paid for through a very generous donation from two corporate sponsors in our Township. This has allowed us to patrol certain areas that before were not accessible by patrol cars. They have also been a very good public relations tool with the kids in the community.

Speaking of good public relations tools, another is our K-9 Units. We receive numerous requests to have the dogs and their handlers make presentations and give demonstrations of what they do for this department on a daily basis. They not only play hard but they work hard. These K-9 teams are an invaluable asset to the department and the community. The department currently has five K-9 teams (three on patrol and two volunteer/on-call) which perform many different tasks. They are used for tracking lost children, looking for criminal suspects, drug detection and bomb detection. The bomb dog was used just last week when a local retailer evacuated their store upon receiving information that an explosive device may have been in the building.

Our firefighters, the majority of them being paid on-call professionals, spend a large portion of their time responding to

calls, training exercises and conducting fire prevention presentations. This includes operating the "smoke house" for various events and organizations which serves to educate the participants on how to survive a fire and safely exit their residence. Recently we received a comprehensive report from McKenna & Associates, the planners for the Township, which outlined the optimal locations for public safety facilities which would serve the community for the next twenty or more years. Our current active fire stations are inadequate and are 50 to 70 years old. We have come up with some solutions and I encourage everyone to become familiar with them and to contact me with feedback and input.

Just to give you a small glimpse into what the dedicated professionals of the department face on a daily basis, I'll highlight just a few of the calls from the past week.

**Fire:**

Firefighters gave up a Sunday with their families to participate in a day of training in order to refine and expand their skills. This included participating in a live controlled burn to simulate actual conditions at the scene of a structure fire.

Firefighters responded to a report of a person who was shot and worked feverously to save the person's life. This is just one of many medical calls that they responded to over the past week.

Firefighters responded to a house on fire, which they quickly extinguished upon their arrival. They also actively attempted to revive a pet that had been in the house when the fire started.

**Police:**

Officers discovered several individuals in a local hotel parking lot with drugs. One of the subjects fled back into the hotel to their room. Officers arriving at the room discovered more drugs and a loaded weapon with the assistance of a K-9 unit.

Officers responded to a call and spent the next three hours conducting a surveillance which ended in the arrest of three subjects and the recovery of numerous car radios and vehicle accessories that they had stolen.

Officers and detectives responded to a bank robbery which fortunately was committed without any injuries occurring. Many hours have already been dedicated to the investigation.

**Animal Control:**

Animal Control Officers confiscated several abused animals,



## WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT

ensured they were provided with medical care and have already found potential owners for many of the animals.

### Dispatch:

No one single event stands out over the last week because our dispatchers do their jobs day in and day out with little fanfare. This is a high stress environment where all requests for service are channeled through our dispatch personnel and then routed to the appropriate units to respond as needed. Our dispatchers handle approximately 36,000 incidents and activities each year that they record in our computer aided dispatch system. They also answer over 105,000 telephone calls each year which include 9-1-1 and cellular 9-1-1 calls.

As the department continues to prepare for the future we are always soliciting input as to how we can better serve the community. We have responded to complaints about traffic related issues by setting up our radar speed trailer which is available to be located anywhere in the Township and can be done so by giving us a call and requesting its presence. We have also conducted periodic traffic enforcement details when specific problems are identified and brought to our attention. While our response to individual requests is dependent on many other factors such as availability of personnel and other higher priority or emergency calls, we will make every effort to address each request in a timely manner. Please don't hesitate to contact my office with suggestions on how we can better serve you - our customers.

With the Township's continually increasing populations combined with several other factors such as the closeness to two major highways, our police, fire and animal control services are being called upon much more frequently. It is an immense challenge and one that every member of the Department of Public Safety has undertaken with great vigor and determination. I am extremely proud of the men and women that serve this community. They have jobs that are extremely difficult and often very dangerous, yet they begin each day (knowing it could be their last), with the willpower and desire to make Van Buren Township an even greater place to live, work and play. I greatly appreciate and thank them for doing what they do for our community. I would ask you to do the same the next time you see a member of your Department of Public Safety.

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

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

The Water & Sewer Department is gearing up for a very busy autumn. In addition to our year-round maintenance such as hydrant repairs, sanitary sewer lift station preventive maintenance, sanitary sewer manhole inspections and sewer cleaning, customer service requests and inspections of installations of water and sewer taps, we have begun our annual hydrant flushing and winterizing program.

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

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

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

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SEWER BACKUPS OR BASEMENT FLOODING CLAIMS

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

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

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

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

## 2003 HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR

The 2003 Historical Calendar has gone to print and will be available for sale soon. Coinciding with the museum's current exhibit "Taking Care of Business: A History of Community Enterprise," the theme of the calendar will be old-time local businesses. Each month will feature a full-page historic photograph of a former business, including Hamilton Hardware, Huron Valley Dairy, and the Patterson grocery and gas station. The calendars are published as a fundraiser for the Belleville Area Museum and will be sold for \$6.00 each.

The calendars will soon be available at the museum and several local businesses. If you wish to place an order by mail, please call the museum at (734) 697-1944.

### 2 Photographs (from our 2003 calendar)



Huron Valley Dairy & Lunde's Ice Cream, Circa 1950  
Fred and Ina Lunde operated the Huron Valley Dairy in Belleville from 1946 to 1956.



Main Street, Circa 1940  
The Ford dealership occupied a prominent place on Main Street near Roys Street.

## BELLEVILLE HARVEST FEST

The second annual Belleville Harvest Fest will take place in the heart of downtown Belleville on Saturday, October 19 and will feature plenty of old-fashioned autumn activities!

The event will begin with a Harvest Fest Parade which will start at Belleville High School at 11:00 a.m. The parade will be followed by a full schedule of harvest activities lasting until 4:00 p.m. at the Belleville Area Museum, the Fred C. Fischer Library, and the Farmer's Market.

Hands-on activities on the lawn of the museum will include corn shelling and apple pressing. Antique bicycles and tractors will be on display as well as a 1910 buggy recently donated to the museum. A scavenger hunt will be held from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., and a leaf dig from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (children will search for nickels buried in a HUGE pile of leaves).

Grange Hall on the second floor of the museum will be the site of several demonstrations of such old-fashioned skills as spinning, rug hooking, and quilting.

The Dusty Fiddles, a dulcimer group sponsored by the Belleville Area Arts Council, will provide music on the first floor of the museum from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The parking lot behind the museum and fire station will feature a wide variety of children's games and contests as well as a "Be A Farmer For A Day" display where children will be able to gather eggs, dig for potatoes, etc.

There is no charge to participate in the Belleville Harvest Fest. Come join the fun!

### CLERK'S OFFICE

Continued from Page Seven

location, type of voting equipment used and a sample ballot for your jurisdiction. This is a great way to check your registration prior to Election Day. The web site is [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos). Should you have any questions regarding your voter registration, you may also contact my office at (734) 699-8909.

In addition, if you are interested in working as a precinct inspector, please contact my office. Election Inspectors are paid \$125 for precinct inspector, \$135 for a co-chairperson and \$145 for a chairperson. All training attendees are paid \$15.00. Requirements for precinct inspectors are 18 years of age or older and a registered voter in Wayne County.

As previously mentioned in the *Lake Ledger* Public Act 269 of 2001, which went into effect on March 22, 2002 has a provision for the elimination of straight party voting in our state.

**PLEASE WELCOME STEVE PUGSLEY**

This question will be on the ballot in November. I mention this because voters will be allowed to vote straight party in the November election and this could cause confusion.

I hope that everyone enjoyed their summer and are looking forward to the fall. Time spent with family and friends enjoying the warm weather and shared interests can't be beat.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- October 7 Last day to register to vote for November 5th Primary Election
- November 4 Last day to obtain an Absentee Voter's Ballot (until 4 p.m.) must be voted in Clerk's Office
- November 5 General Election Day - polls open 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- November 11 Township Offices closed in observance of Veterans Day
- November 28-29 Township Offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving holiday.
- December 24-25 Township offices closed in observance of Christmas
- December 31 Township offices closed in observance of New Year's Holiday

**VBTV 12**

We at the Cable Department have wrapped up another busy summer. Videotaping events left and right, we keep running out of space on our computer to edit them!

For those of you who have seen us videotaping an event, and are waiting to see it on cable, I assure you that you will be seeing it soon. Putting a program together or editing, is a long process. Almost the same as how they do it in Hollywood. They shoot a picture for three months and it takes them about another year to put it together so we can watch it on the big screen. Although it doesn't take us a year to edit a program, it still takes us some time.

I'd like to commend my staff for doing exceptional work this summer. They have worked very hard putting together programs, videotaping events, and helping out in the studio. The reasons our programs are getting better are because we have a great group of staff in our department, the township has allowed us to acquire better equipment, and also, there are a lot of exciting activities that go on in our township for us to videotape.

Please take some time to watch us at VBTV 12. We have our bulletin information board which runs twenty-four hours a day whenever a program is not airing, or check us out at the Township website ([www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org)) for program dates and times, and other township information regarding our community.

Ally Acosta  
Cable Operations Manager



Steve Pugsley, Planning & Zoning Administrator

Early this year the Board of Trustees approved the creation of the new position of Planning & Zoning Administrator as part of the Department of Planning & Economic Development. It is my pleasure to introduce you to **Steven E. Pugsley**, Van Buren Township's newest employee as **Planning & Zoning Administrator**.

The creation of this position represents the Board's sensitivity and response to increase the level of service to specific needs of the residents and land owners of the Township. Those needs are zoning & ordinance enforcement, site plan and land use compliance. The increase in development interest and growth has had its impact on the resources of the Department and Mr. Pugsley will be a very key and visible asset to the Township.

Steve brings over 30 years of professional planning experience to the Township, 17 of which includes planning and zoning administration positions in Calhoun County and Hamburg Township. His past duties have included ordinance enforcement and oversight, development of planning initiatives and language that addressed overlay districts, senior housing, quality residential and non-residential development standards, utility infrastructure planning, open space and park planning, and reviews of various land uses in the residential and non-residential arenas.

Equally significant and what makes Steve stand out more is that he served Van Buren in the capacity of a planning and zoning official for several months while employed by McKenna Associates, Inc. the Township's Planning Consultants in 2001. He will no doubt need little time to get acclimated to the Township and I am sure his impact will be felt immediately.

Steve, as well as all Department staff, can be reached at (734) 699-8913 or at [spugsley@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:spugsley@vanburen-mi.org).



## K-9 Klass

Join instructor Lila Warner for six weeks of one on one training with a trainer that has over 40 years in the training field. What to bring: Bring Fido, a training collar and a six-foot leash.

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.

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

Tuesdays, October 29 - December 3

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. \$20.00 per dog



## Wine & Food Pairing

Have you ever wondered how to really appreciate the taste of wine? Come to the Belleville 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.



October 24

November 21

December 19



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

Please Register at the Township Hall

\$30.00 per class

## 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

## Cooking Demonstrations

Second Thursday of the month  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

October 10

November 14

December 12



Must pre-pay at the recreation department. You will not be able to participate in this class if you have not pre-registered and pre-paid with the recreation department. Classes are held at the Belleville Bayou. The Belleville Bayou will not be accepting any payments for the class.

\$25.00 per person

## Trick or Treat Night

Come join us for Trick or Treat at the Community Center. Wear your Halloween costumes.

Thursday, October 24  
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



FREE! FREE! FREE!



## The 19th Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Show

Saturday, December 7, 2002

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

**ELECTRICITY IS NOT AVAILABLE!**

10ft. x 10 ft. space

\$30.00 bring your own table

\$35.00 6 ft. table supplied

8 ft. x 10 ft. space

\$25.00 bring your own table

\$30.00 6 ft. table supplied

## Holiday Crafts for Kids

Saturday, December 21

First Session: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Ages: 4-7

Second Session: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Ages: 8-12

Children can create festive, holiday craft creations. Each session is two hours long and children will create crafts within their age capabilities. Instructors will be two enthusiastic recreation staff members that will work with your child. Pre-registration is necessary! This class will fill up fast. A maximum of 12 children in each session.

**Please dress your child appropriately since they will be working with paint, glue, etc...**

Van Buren Resident = \$10 per child/per session  
\$8.00 each additional child

Non-Resident = \$15.00 per child/per session  
\$13.00 each additional child

## Holiday Lights Contest

The Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department, Wal\*Mart and *The View* are teaming up. We want you to win a \$100.00 shopping spree to Wal\*Mart. All you have to do is get into the holiday spirit and decorate your home with lights and other holiday cheer.

**Register at the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Community Center.**

Registration must be turned in two weeks prior to judging. The winner will be called Thursday, December 19th. The winner will also receive their decorated home's picture in *The View*.

## Teen Lock-In

Hey teens! Looking for something to do on a Friday night? Friday, November 15 come to the Van Buren Township Community Center to help us raise money for Project Youth. Project Youth is a program that will allow youth from low to moderate income families a chance to participate in the programs/classes that we offer.

This Friday will include music from a D.J. and some live bands, games i.e., basketball, ping-pong, volleyball, etc..., movies, and of course food. (movies will be PG-13).

**Cost: \$10.00** bucks a kid (all proceeds go to Project Youth Fund)

**Friday, November 15**

**7:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.**

Teens must be 13-17 years of age.

## Breakfast with Santa



**Sunday, December 1st**

**9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**



Proceeds go to the Van Buren Animal Shelter. Visit with Santa while you enjoy pancakes and sausage made from the talented King Brothers. Bring an item to donate to the Shelter and place it under the Christmas tree. Enjoy the holiday music as well.

Children = \$3.00

Adults = \$7.00

## Teen Haunted House Tour

**Friday, October 25**

The Van Buren Recreation Department will first take you to Van Buren Park where you will be scared straight as you wander through the haunted maze and spooky forest. Then our tour will proceed to Wiard's Orchards for a night filled with terror. Choose to get scared by five different haunted houses and one haunted hayride.

**Cost: \$20.00 per teen**

**Cost includes** transportation, Haunted Forest entry and Wiard's Orchards entry. Bring extra money for dinner. You may purchase food at Wiard's Orchards.

Arrive at the Community Center no later than 6:30 p.m. We will leave by 6:45 p.m. We will return at around 11:00 p.m.

Teens must be between the age of 13-17.

**Limited Space - Register Early!!**

## Make a Holiday Cookie House

Get in the holiday spirit! Surprise the family with a festive and edible cookie house. Learn to build, design, and decorate your own creation. Each student leaves the class with a beautiful holiday house that can be eaten or stored from year to year (if you can keep it from your family!). Supplies are included for the basic construction and decoration. The only thing you need to bring is a box to take your house home.



**Tuesday, November 19**

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



**Adults only class** = \$35 per student (ages 14+)

**Saturday, November 16**

**Adult class** = \$35 per person - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (ages 14+)

**Adult/Child class** = \$50 per child/adult pair - 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
(children age 7 & up must be accompanied by an adult)

This class is open to children aged 7 and over. Each child must be accompanied by an adult.

**Limited Space - 15 students/pairs per class!!!**

## Spooky Monster Magic at Van Buren Parks and Recreation

Van Buren Township, Michigan - shine up the spotlight and set the stage for fun! Magician Gordon Russ and his spooky Monster Magic Show is headed your way! Gordon's haunted magic trunk is chock-full of Monster Magic, Spooky Tricks and Hilarious Horrors and ready to entertain. So call your friends, tell your neighbors and bring the family to Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department for a magical time with Gordon!

**Saturday, October 26 at 1:00 p.m.**

\$2.00 per child



Pre-registration is preferred so we can plan accordingly.



Following the show enjoy Pumpkin Painting, cider and donuts.

Bring your own pumpkin or purchase one from us for a \$1.00

## Turkey Treasure Hunt

**Saturday, November 2**

It's turkey season, so let's go find some turkeys. Come out to Van Buren Park to find as many paper turkeys as you can. Once you find a turkey flip it over. The turkey will tell you what prize you will receive. One turkey per prize, and prizes will vary.

Age groups and times are as follows:

**Walking Toddlers - 4 year olds** = 10:00 - 10:15 a.m.

**5 - 7 year olds** = 10:30 - 10:45 a.m.

**8 - 10 year olds** = 11:00 - 11:15 a.m.

**11 - 13 year olds** = 11:30 - 11:45 a.m.

**14 - 16 year olds** = 12:00 - 12:15 p.m.

**\$1.00 per child**

## Managing Your Money Workshop

Saving money for the future of your children? Do you need some guidance on how to save for their college fund? Rafael Olvera, a Financial Consultant will be offering FREE workshops for you to attend. Also, Rafael Olvera will offer a FREE funding analysis for college education for your children.

Workshops are:

**October 30**

**November 13**

**December 11**

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**FREE!! FREE!! FREE!!**

This workshop is geared toward parents with children under the age of ten.





## Jazzercise

A 60 minute dance exercise class that offers a blend of Jazz dance and exercise science set to your favorite top 40, country, jazz, funk, and classic music.

Easy to follow choreography includes a gentle warmup, 30 minute aerobic workout, muscle toning and strengthening segment with weights, and a stretch finale. Please call instructor Patti Rikkila for class information at (734) 340-3686.

### Ongoing, Mondays & Wednesdays

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



### Ongoing, Saturdays

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



\*\*Please register the day of class with the Instructor\*\*

4 week EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) = \$35.00

8 week (cash or check) = \$80.00

Walk in \$8.00

## Project Youth

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

Applications will soon be available at the Van Buren Recreation Department. A copy of your household income must be submitted with the application. All information is confidential.

Children may qualify for one scholarship per season.

## Huckleberry Train Ride



Saturday, October 19



Van Buren Parks and Recreation will be taking a trip up to the Huckleberry Ghost Train.

There's gentle frights and spooky fun for all ages on this special Halloween visit. Climb aboard our Ghost Train Express for a scary good time. Collect goodies galore on a trick-or-treat tour of our haunted village. Children will have fun playing a variety of silly games of skill and chance.

Old-time Halloween movies in the Opera House and cider and a doughnut are also included in the fun.

Cost: 11 and up = \$25.00 per person

10 and under = \$20.00 per person

**Cost includes:** transportation, admittance to the Ghost Train Ride and Village; as well as a buffet dinner in the Witches Kitchen. Wear your Halloween costume and go Trick-or-Treating around the village. It'll be spook-tacular family fun!

Be at the Community Center by

3:15 p.m. at the latest.

The bus will leave at 3:30 p.m.

Dinner is at 5:30 p.m.

Trick-or-Treat/Shop 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Ride Train 7:30

Pre-register by Friday, October 11th

## The Not So Scary Haunted Forest Kid's Weekend

### ONLY

Friday, October 4 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 5 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Kids will enjoy games, pumpkins, face painting, arts and crafts events, friendly-scary characters and food. Kids will enjoy walking through the maze and forest.

Recommended age is walking toddlers to 11.

Cost: \$3.00 per child

50% of proceeds will go to help fund the Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department Project Youth.

## Family Enrichment Day

**Sunday, November 10**

Let's venture to the Detroit Science Center. This day will include the Marshall Field's Sunday Fun Day at the Detroit Science Center. Families will enjoy a scientific scavenger hunt. Families will search for clues in the Science Center to crack the case and have an opportunity to win a special prize. Also, families will have a choice to see a show at either the IMAX Dome Theatre or at the Digital Dome Planetarium. The IMAX and Planetarium are a separate cost. We will spend the day at the museum then head over to Johnny Rockets for dinner.

**Cost: Adults = \$8.00 Children (2-12) = \$6.00**

**Price includes** transportation to the Detroit Science Center and Johnny Rockets as well as general admission to the Science Center.

Dinner at Johnny Rockets will be paid individually at the restaurant. Johnny Rockets features made-to-order hamburgers, hand-dipped shakes and malts and American fries. Prices range from \$4.00 - \$8.00

Come explore with us!!!

**Pre-register by Friday, October 25**

We will leave the Community Center by 10:30 a.m. eat at Johnny Rockets at around 4:00 p.m., then return back to the Community Center around 7:00 p.m.

## 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 who may enter for free must accompany all children.

**Mondays and Wednesdays**

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

Ages: Infant to 5 years



**Van Buren Community Center  
(Gymnasium)**



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

## Morning Jazzercise

**Mondays and Wednesdays**

**9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

Recreation staff will be on hand to supervise your children while you jazz it up for only \$2.00 a child. Only available on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Prices are the same as the evening classes. See the listings above.

Register the day of class with the Instructor.

## 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

## Fred C. Fischer Library

**Celebrate the second annual Belleville Harvest Fest on Saturday, October 19, 2002**, at the library, museum, and farmer's market. Start the day watching the Harvest Fest Parade (11:00 a.m.). Dip candles, churn butter, make corn husk dolls, and go on a scavenger hunt. Help the Little Red Hen tell her story (front yard of the library at Noon). Meet Margaret Schmidt, the Farm Lady, and her friend Tom, the Traveling Turkey (library children's room at 2:00 p.m.) See this newsletter for a complete schedule of events or visit the web at: <http://www.belleville.lib.mi.us/friends.htm>.

**New hours coming soon to library near you!** Beginning December 7, 2002, the Fischer Library will be increasing Saturday hours. The library will be open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. This is the first step in our goal of having daily morning hours. (Current hours are Mon - Thurs 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Fri & Sat 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.).

**The library had record-breaking attendance (1,770) this summer** at our six week long summer reading program. The grade schoolers enjoyed Mystifying Animal Magic with magician Mark Rosenthal, Whizz-Bang Science with science wizard Mike Hill, and Ring of Steel, a theatrical combat troop. Preschoolers loved the Music Lady, Beverly Meyer, Ronald McDonald, and Geri's Jamboree. The library would like to thank all of the entertainers and volunteers for making this year's program a success. Special thanks to Fred C. Fischer librarian Patricia Jahr for putting together such a fun and exciting program.

**Holiday Story Time:** sign up begins October 21, for children ages 3 1/2 - 6:

Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m., November 5 - December 3  
 Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., November 6 - December 4  
 Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., November 7 - December 5  
 Call (734) 699-3291 to register your child.

**Explore the works of Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Donatello, Raphael,** and many more every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. from October 28 - November 18. Guest speaker, Suzanne Alexander, will take us on a tour through the creative world of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. This free program is sponsored by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts and the Friends of the Library.

**The next Friends of the Library Book Sale** will be Saturday, November 2, 2002.

## Fred C. Fischer Library

167 Fourth Street  
 Belleville, MI 48111

(734) 699-3291

## Christmas Is Coming!

Belleville Area Museum

## Festival of Holiday Trees

December 3 - December 27

December will bring the museum's 7th Annual Festival of Holiday Trees. The museum will be filled with Christmas trees and wreaths decorated by individuals and community organizations such as churches, schools, businesses, and service groups. If you or your organization would like to take part, please call the museum at (734) 697-1944.

## Upcoming Holiday Events

### *At the Belleville Area Museum*

- Friday, December 6: City of Belleville  
 Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies
- Saturday, December 7: Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Christmas Parade  
 (Museum open extended hours)
- Saturday, December 21: Children's Christmas Ornament  
 Workshops

## Belleville Area Museum

405 Main Street

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

## Closed Holiday Weekends

### Admission:

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

*Tous Appoint*

If you have any questions, please call the Belleville Area Museum at (734) 697-1944.





# River Friendly Lawn Care Workshop

Sponsored by:



Funded in part by the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Program

## Van Buren Twp. Hall

46425 Tyler Road

### Thursday, October 17th, 2002

6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Registration at 6:15 p.m.

## Topics & Speakers

### Healthy Soils, Soil Testing and Fertilizers

- *Kristine Hahn, Wayne County MSU Extension*

### Healthy Lawn Care Basics;

- **Landscape Endorsement Program**

*Rick Lazzell, Michigan Green Industry Association*

*Learn from the experts...*

*Grow a green lawn...*

*Reduce yard waste...*

*While protecting area lakes*

*and the Rouge River!*



Refreshments will be available

To register: Telephone Judy Holt (734) 326-3936 or e-mail at [jholt@co.wayne.mi.us](mailto:jholt@co.wayne.mi.us)

## WHY NOT TURN OVER A NEW (OLD) LEAF?

Fallen leaves carry 50-80 percent of the nutrients a tree extracts from the soil and air, including carbon, potassium, phosphorus, and other elements. These nutrients and elements are essential for plant growth.



What can be done with leaves? There are many options available. Here are five simple, earth-friendly ways to use your leaves - and enhance your own soils:

1. Compost your leaves. Mix leaves (50%) with grass clippings (25%) and soil (25%). Add sufficient water to maintain a compost pile as wet as a wrung out sponge.
2. Bag extra dry leaves to save for use in your compost pile during spring and summer.
3. In the fall, spread leaves over the vegetable garden or flower bed (sheet composting). Leaves may be chopped and partially mixed with garden soil to speed decomposition. In the spring, at least a month prior to planing, dig in (or move) any leaves that have not decomposed. These leftover leaves can be recycled under shrubs or trees to help reduce weeds.
4. Use leaves as mulch around your ornamental plants, bushes, and trees. Mulch maintains moisture, suppresses weeds, and adds tilth to your soil.
5. Let leaves lie where they fall and mow them into the lawn. Shredded leaves nourish the soil and do not harm the lawn.



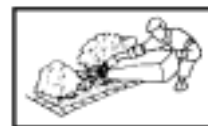
When leaves fall to the ground, earthworms and microorganisms naturally break them down. Humus (similar to compost) is the end result of the decomposition process. Humus is light and fluffy, and improves the structure of sandy and clay soils.



## WHY MULCH?

Here are some reasons:

- To reduce the need for watering and weeding.
- To reduce soil compaction
- To stabilize soil temperature.
- To hold moisture in the soil, while allowing rainfall to pass through.
- To enrich your soil through the gradual decomposition of natural yard materials.
- To increase yield and hasten maturity of plants such as tomatoes and peppers.
- To keep soil warm during the winter.
- To help control insects and diseases.



Mulch should be applied thick enough to inhibit weeds without depriving soil of water and oxygen.

A food mulch is readily available, inexpensive, and easy to apply. A good mulch fits your needs, yard materials, and landscape. Why not try different natural mulches and help reduce the yard waste sent to landfills?



**SELECT THE NATURAL MULCH THAT FITS WITH YOUR LANDSCAPE**

**SHREDDED LEAVES:** Chop or shred leaves with a mower or shredder since whole leaves may mat and prevent water from reaching the soil. Leaves help cool soil during the summer and warm soil in the winter. Leaves raked into a shrub border will gradually break down and help nourish the soil.

**GRASS CLIPPINGS:** Spread dry clippings in a one-inch layer under bushes or around plants. Keep clippings away from young seedlings. Avoid clippings with a herbicide residue or clippings with weed seeds.

**PINE NEEDLES:** Use pine needles around acid-loving plants such as rhododendrons and azaleas. Pine needles help form the same rich mat of humus that nourishes trees in the forest.

**COMPOST:** Compost can be placed around plants as a mulch, especially to hold moisture and enrich soil. Apply in 1-3 inch layers.

**HAY OR STRAW:** Hay and straw are useful mulches in the vegetable garden, provided that rodents are not a problem. Since hay contains many seeds, straw is often preferred.

**SHREDDED BARK OR WOOD CHIPS:** Spread in a thick layer around shrubs and trees to be effective as a weed control. Shredded cypress or pine bark, nugget pine bark, or wood chips are useful options.



**HOME COMPOSTING**

Through the natural process of composting, leaves and grass clippings from your yard can be transformed into a soil-enriching substance called compost. The steps for making compost outlined below reflect the experience of area master composters working in an urban setting.

**MATERIALS FOR COMPOSTING:**

Yes:	No:
Grass clippings	Dairy products
Leaves - shredded, if possible	Oils and fats
Spent flowers & garden clippings	Meat, fish, bones
Young weeds (without seeds)	Pet manure; cat litter
Hedge trimmings	Cooked food
Fruit & vegetable peelings	Diseased plants
Lettuce leaves	Black walnut leaves
Coffee grounds, filters, & tea bags	Bread
Fertilizers	Weeds with seeds
Soil or compost	Invasive weeds

For an ideal composting mix, combine shredded leaves (50% of total volume), green grass clippings, (25% of total volume) and soil or compost (25% of total volume). Start with the available yard clippings and add other materials, as needed, to balance the pile.

## BUILDING THE COMPOST PILE

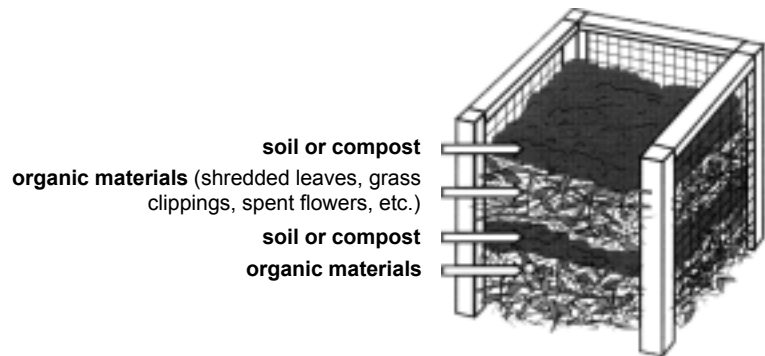
To build the pile, follow these steps:

1. Start with a layer of organic materials such as shredded leaves, grass, or other garden debris.
2. Water the layer until it is as *moist as a wrung-out sponge*.
3. Add 2"-3" of soil or compost - to provide microorganisms.
4. If possible, mix all materials together as you build the pile.
5. Continue the process of adding organic materials, soil, and water until the bin is filled. Add grass clippings in small amounts and mix in thoroughly.
6. Water each layer...and check moisture periodically.

Build the pile to a size of 3 feet x 3 feet x 3 feet or slightly larger - or fill the compost bin.

## TURNING THE PILE

Turning and mixing the compost pile with a pitchfork or compost turner adds oxygen and accelerates the rate of decomposition. The pile may be turned once a week, once a month, several times a year, or not at all. If the pile is **turned over, mixed from time-to-time, and kept moist**, finished compost is usually available in six to nine months.



## FERTILIZING

To help protect water quality, follow these three important steps:

1. Fertilize in the fall, not in the spring.
2. Choose a slow-release fertilizer.
3. Choose a fertilizer with little or no phosphorus.



Fall fertilizing promotes deep, healthy root systems, and minimizes weed and disease problems. Spring applications can actually harm lawns by promoting more blade growth than root growth, making the lawn more susceptible to drought. The amount of phosphorus placed on lawns is a concern because it is a major pollutant within our watershed.

\* *Some of the materials in this article were prepared by: the Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority, 3910 W. Webster Road, Royal Oak, MI 48083-2761. (810) 288-5150.*



## **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.

### **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!!

### **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.

## **ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS:**

Yard Waste Pick up **ENDS**  
the last week of **NOVEMBER!!**

Please be sure to have all your yard waste at the curb prior to the last week in November. Also, 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.

### **Stolen Containers:**

If your Waste Management Toter is stolen or missing, you will need to contact Waste Management at (734) 285-1579 to acquire a new one at a cost of \$85.00.

### **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 can not 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.

### 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 pastic bags!!**

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

## RECYCLE GUIDELINES

### Plastic

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

**Rinse and remove all caps.**



### Tin

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

**Aluminum:** Containers and foil.

### Glass

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

### Paper



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

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

**Brown Paper Bags:** Keep them separate from your paper.

### Cardboard

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

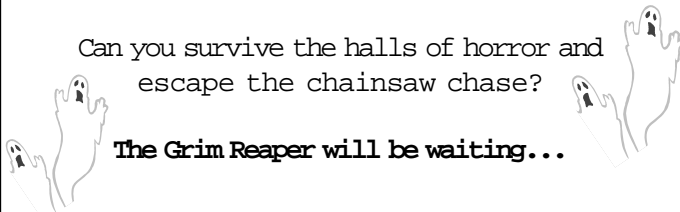


**Please Recycle!**



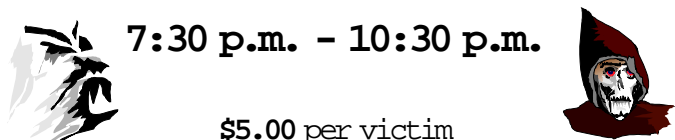
# Haunted Forest

Can you survive the halls of horror and escape the chainsaw chase?



The Grim Reaper will be waiting...

October 11 & 12, 18 & 19, 25 & 26



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

\$5.00 per victim  
\$3.00 for children 11 and under

(Not recommended for small children)

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

\*\* Group rates are available for 15 or more. Please call (734) 699-8921 in advance for reservations and information.

\*\* Volunteers appreciated\*\*

## 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.

### 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.

## Board of Trustees

**Cindy C. King** ([cking@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:cking@vanburen-mi.org))  
Supervisor . . . . . 699-8910

**Joannie D. Payne** ([jpayne@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:jpayne@vanburen-mi.org))  
Clerk . . . . . 699-8909

**Sharry A. Budd** ([sbudd@vanburen-mi.org](mailto: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

### Community Services

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

## Lake Ledger

Copyright 1991. Van Buren Township permission is granted to reproduce with recognition given.

### Editor:

Christina Harman  
Community Services Department

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

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