



Charter Township of Van Buren

Lake Ledger

A Big Thanks from Camp with a Cop



Camp with a Cop kids enjoy checking out a Van Buren Police Department Patrol car.

On August 20, 21, 22, 2004, the Van Buren Township Police Department welcomed back their 5th "Camp with a Cop" program. This year we had 68 kids ranging from the ages of 8-14 and 30 staff. On Friday, August 20th the weather started out rainy but that didn't stop the kids from arriving at 6:00 p.m. and by the evening the weather was beautiful. The evening started with everyone eating pizza and playing games and having fun interacting with other kids and with the police officers. The excitement of meeting new friends and being away from mom and dad, the last camper finally went to sleep at 3:30 a.m. On Saturday morning August 21st at 6:30 a.m. the kids and staff awoke to the smell of pancakes and sausage and proceeded to get ready for a fun filled day. The day began with relay games, kick ball, basketball, then onto a tour of the smoke house and other games.

Camp with a Cop

Continued on Page 2

Inside Info

- Voter Information** Pg. 4
- Police & Fire** Pg. 6-9
- Recreation Program** Pg. 12-16
- Senior Activities** Pg. 18
- Museum & Library** Pg. 19-21
- Trash & Recycle Info** Pg. 22-23

F a l l 2 0 0 4

CAMP WITH A COP PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD



Left to Right: Pam Fleming, Dave Cushing, Bruce Ross, and Officer Bart Devos receive the partnership award.

The Van Buren Township Camp with a Cop program received the National Recreation & Parks Association 2nd place Partnership Award at the NRPA Great Lakes Regional Council summer meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. Van Buren Township was one out of only 13 communities to be honored with this award. This also marks the first time in 15 years that the State of Michigan has received this award. This program is a perfect example of two departments, police and parks & recreation, working together for a common goal "providing wholesome leisure experiences" for the youth of Van Buren Township. Congratulations to the Police Department for a job well done.

Bruce Ross
Director of Recreation & Facilities

CAMP WITH A COP

Continued from Cover Page

The kids really enjoyed dunking their favorite officer in the dunk tank. By noon the kids were ready for lunch, which consisted of hot dogs and hamburgers. After lunch, all the kids gathered up their water balloons for our annual water balloon fight. Everyone had a great time at this game but I think this game ended up in a tie. The day continued on with visits from our local police officers who stopped by with a police car, which the kids really enjoyed. The older kids were given a basic CPR class while the younger kids finished the afternoon playing more games. Then onto dinner which was delicious (broasted chicken). After dinner, Med Flight paid us a visit so the kids could get a real live look at an emergency vehicle. The evening ended with a band called "QTMC" which everyone enjoyed. During the performance of the band, the kids were treated to the arrival of the ice cream truck. By 11:00 p.m. not a sound could be heard, the kids and the staff were exhausted. Sunday morning arrived and the kids and

staff enjoyed having doughnuts, milk and juice for breakfast. Kids were busy getting their stuff together and helping pick up getting ready to go home. The camp ended at noon. Each kid was overwhelmed by the fun they had and the friends they made and are ready to come back next year. This program has been a great success thanks to all the businesses that made donations. Their funds resulted in the program being held at no cost to the families.

On behalf of the staff of Camp with a Cop, we would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Director Bruce Ross and his staff and Director Bryce Kelley for their help and support for making this program a success.

Pam Fleming
Administrative Assistant
Van Buren Public Safety Dept.

VAN BUREN TO RECEIVE THIRD CONSECUTIVE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL AWARD

More than one dozen Michigan cities and townships will be recognized by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports for their work in creating a more physically active community. There are five possible levels of recognition:

- Level 1:** Communities have made a commitment to becoming a healthier place to live and have begun to take steps toward removing barriers to physical activity.
- Level 2:** Communities have taken significant steps toward making it easier for people to be physically active.
- Level 3:** Communities have achieved significant progress towards making it easier for people to be active.
- Level 4:** Communities can document outstanding achievements in making it easier for people to be active.
- Level 5:** Communities are models of commitment to healthy active living.

Van Buren Township will receive its first Level 4 award after receiving a Level 3 award in each of the previous two years. This award demonstrates outstanding efforts in promoting "Get Active" programming in the community. Van Buren Township will be formally recognized at the Designing Healthy Communities Conference on November 8, 2004 in Lansing, Michigan.

The Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports Promoting Active Communities Awards are granted to any city, township or village in the State of Michigan who completes an application and achieves a certain score level.

The Governor's Council is working in collaboration with the Department of Community Health and other organizations to increase physical activity levels and in turn enable Michigan's youth through seniors to enjoy good health. This program reaches a wide range of people in a systematic way helping people to maintain lifelong health and prevent chronic disease.

Bruce Ross
Director of Recreation & Facilities

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

Are you aware of Van Buren Township receiving a Level 4 fitness award from the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness for *outstanding* efforts to promote physical fitness? Were you aware that Wayne County has awarded the township a \$2 million grant for making improvements to township parks? Did you know that two police officers have been promoted to the rank of Sergeant, bringing us to a total of eight command officers? Have you heard of plans to build two new fire stations in the township to replace aging and small stations that are 40 and 60 years old? Have you experienced traffic slow downs on Ecorse Road near I-275 as work continues to widen that busy thoroughfare and improve the exit ramps? Were you aware of a Tim Horton's opening soon on Belleville Road? Did you hear about the opening of Grand River Printing, voted one of the County's best places in which to work, on Haggerty Road? Did you, or your parents, or your grandparents attend the Senior Country Jamboree along with 380 other area seniors? Did you know that Visteon has started operating at their Van Buren site? Do you know that a search is underway to find a Director of Public Safety? Did you hear that Camp with a Cop won a *national* parks and recreation award? Does it sound like there is much going on in our community?

As usual, the "status quo" does not exist in Van Buren Township. With every *Ledger* comes something new to report. Sometimes that includes information on new happenings in the township such as all of the above. Sometimes it includes addressing information making its way around the community that isn't accurate.

For instance, there has been no submission of plans for a racetrack or "racino" in Van Buren. Yes, a property owner has expressed an interest in such a use on property he owns, and has held focus groups to solicit public feedback, but plans have yet to be submitted. As another example, while a developer is interested in developing a residential project along the

Belleville/Ecorse/Van Born Roads area, (and participated in a "visioning session" to garner public opinion for the project), no application or site plan has been received by the township. These proposed uses could be significant and have a great impact upon the township. If plans for these uses are submitted, they will be given careful deliberation and public meetings will be held so you can voice your opinions.

As a final example, Visteon did receive a 12-year, 50% tax abatement (the maximum permitted by State law) from the township, but no tax breaks beyond the 12 years were or can be granted to the company. For the next 30 years, the taxes generated by Visteon, (at either the 50% abatement for 12 years, or the full tax collection after 12 years), will be collected by the Local Development Finance Authority, with the exception of taxes that will be sent to Van Buren Public Schools. These tax revenues (other than the school taxes) will remain in the LDFA to be used to fund public improvements (roads, sidewalks, streetlights, storm water management, etc.) and to pay off the 30-year bond that was issued to pay for the public improvements already or nearly completed at the site. In other words, the taxes Visteon will pay for the next 30 years (abated or in full) will be used to pay off the bond that funded those improvements already in existence in and around the site, or to make new public improvements. The taxes Visteon pays will be used solely within Van Buren Township, albeit within the Local Development Finance Authority District.

Topics such as this are never easy to explain or understand, but staff is always available to answer your questions. If you've heard something that is contrary to what you've read or heard elsewhere, or simply doesn't make sense, give us a call. Providing municipal service means making choices, many of which are difficult and complex. It is important that you know the facts surrounding those choices, especially those that include the use of tax dollars and have long-term and far-reaching effects. Planning for the future of our community is a top priority for this Board. Our objective is that these efforts demonstrate our desire to be cost conscious and result in valued service.

As time permits, I would like to encourage and welcome your visiting Van Buren Park. The fall colors are beautiful and plentiful. You can also spend your leisure time at the Fred C. Fischer Library and the Belleville Area Museum, two community treasures. There are many ways to spend your valuable free time, a lot of them are right here in your hometown. Enjoy!

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

CLERK'S OFFICE

Welcome to the Election Cycle, Part Two; I am hopeful that the November General Election will run as smoothly as the August Primary. Everyone who got out to vote is to be commended for his or her participation in the election process. If you took the time to exercise your right and privilege by voting in the Primary Election you are among 2,705 people who did - roughly 15% of the approximate 18,177 registered voters in the township. My office processed 1,145 requests for absentee voter ballots and looks for this number to significantly increase for the General Election. If you did not vote because you were out of town, remember that absentee ballots may be obtained by putting into writing your reason for requesting a ballot, the "send to" mailing address for the ballot and providing your name, registered address and signature for verification purposes. Please keep in mind that the preparation my office does for each and every election is the same whether 100 or 18,000 people cast ballots.

Preparing material for the election, program coding and testing our electronic tabulators, training seasoned election inspectors and processing absentee ballots keeps staff exceptionally busy during election season. Our website has our voting locations listed in addition to a colored precinct map to help voters check their voting location. Voters may also contact the Clerk's Office for this information.

I'd like to remind everyone that Monday, October 4, 2004 is the last day to register to vote for the November 2 General Election. I would encourage everyone to check his or her voter registration status prior to the close of registration to confirm his or her eligibility to vote in November. This may be accomplished by calling the Clerk's Office at (734) 699-8909 during regular business hours or via the Secretary of State website at www.sospublius.org/. This website provides a way to check your registration online as well as additional information regarding the type of voting system used and ballot information. While we're on the topic of websites, make sure to check out our website at www.vanburen-mi.org for a multitude of township information by department and topic, as well as the previously mentioned voting locations and precinct map. Finally, absentee voter (AV) ballots may be requested from now until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 1, 2004. My office will be open on Saturday, October 30 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to process AV requests.

Van Buren Township's website at www.vanburen-mi.org has been polling visitors on a number of topics related to living in Van Buren. Many of us at township hall spent a great deal of time helping to prepare the website and we believe it is an informative and useful tool for those of you searching the web for information on local government. E-mail addresses are provided for many of the employees at the township. Drop us a note and tell us what you think of the site, ways to improve it, suggestions for additional information and links, etc.

The Clerk's Office has employees who serve as notary publics. We can notarize documents for you during regular business hours - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. There is no cost for this service.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 4** Last Day to Register to Vote for November 2 General Election
- October 11** Columbus Day - Township Offices OPEN!
- October 12** Recreation Committee 7:30 p.m. Visioning Meeting at U of M Boathouse
- October 30** Clerk's Office Open 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. to accept AV Ballot requests.
- November 1** Last Day to obtain AV Ballot - must be voted in Clerk's Office
- November 2** General Election - Polls open 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- November 11** Veterans Day - Township Offices Closed
- Nov. 25 & 26** Thanksgiving Day holidays
Township Offices CLOSED

TOWNSHIP PRECINCT LOCATIONS

- Precinct #1** Fire Station #1 - Fourth Street
- Precinct #2** Fire Station #2 - Ecorse Road
- Precinct #3** Tyler Elementary School
- Precinct #4** Belleville High School
- Precinct #5** South Middle School
- Precinct #6** Belleville High School
- Precinct #7** Township Hall
- Precinct #8** North Middle School
- Precinct #9** Haggerty Elementary School

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Where did the summer go?

The treasurer's office is continuing to collect the 2004 summer school taxes. The Township Board did extend the deadline for collection until Thursday, September 30, 2004. We hope that helped, as everyone is busy getting back into the routines of fall.

My office is also starting to gather information for the 2004 winter taxes. If you have re-mortgaged 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.

Remember tax delinquent properties can now be auctioned off in two (2) years instead of five (5). Public Act 123 of 1999 shortened the amount of time property owners have to pay their delinquent taxes before losing their property. If you have delinquent taxes you may contact the office of the Wayne County Treasurer at (313) 224-5990 for payment information.

If you have a question about current taxes you may call my office at (734) 699-8903.

On a personal note when you come into the office you need to congratulate my Deputy Sean Bellingham. He has been notified that he has received his "Certified Public Finance Administrator" certification. This is a three-year educational program through the Michigan Municipal Treasurers Institute and Central Michigan University. His dedication to my office and the residents of Van Buren Township is something I greatly appreciate.

I hope you and your families get to enjoy the fall colors and the many activities the fall season brings. School is back in session and our children are back to studying, enjoying sporting events, returning to college, starting college, meeting new friends, catching up with the summer activities of old friends and families are busy, so be sure to take some time and look out for one another.

My staff and I are here to serve.



Sharry A. Budd
Treasurer

BELLEVILLE HARVEST FEST

Saturday, October 16th

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

Scheduled Activities

Farmer's Market	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Scavenger Hunt	11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Pie Eating Contest	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Leaf Dig	3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Harvest Fest Craft Show

Take home old-fashioned arts and crafts!



Ongoing Activities
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Petting Farm	Pony Cart Rides
Candle Dipping	Butter Churning
Indian Corn Jewelry	Corn Husk Dolls
Corn Shelling	Stenciling
Wood Carving	Quilting
Antique Tractors	Lace Making
Felt Making	Stained Glass
Face Painting	Apple Pressing
Apple Head Dolls	

All activities are free and take place on 4th Street at the Museum, Library and Farmer's Market.

Stop for Lunch! Homemade Soup & Chili, Hotdogs, Smoked Sausage & Sauerkraut, Chips, Drinks, Desserts

The work and donations of these organizations make Harvest Fest possible:

- Belleville Area Museum & Historical Society
- Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Belleville Area Council for the Arts
- Belleville Area Independent
- The Belleville View
- Business & Professional Women
- Friends of the Fred C. Fischer Library
- Wasem's Fruit Farm
- Fred C. Fischer Library
- City of Belleville
- Farmer's Market
- Central Business Community

NEW FIRE ENGINES



Van Buren Fire Department's new Pierce Fire Engines

On July 30, 2004, the Van Buren Fire Department accepted delivery of two new fire engines from the Pierce Manufacturing Company. As the front-line replacements for older and less capable vehicles, these two trucks have been engineered to serve our community for many years. Van Buren's Fire Fighters, having undergone extensive training in the operation of these engines have been busy installing an array of tools and equipment on the vehicles that will help mitigate the multitude of emergencies encountered. While each of these fire engines are quite expensive, Van Buren was able to save a significant amount of money by combining the vehicle engineering fees (since they are virtually identical) and by carefully matching the abilities of these vehicles to the needs of Van Buren. The Fire Department and Board of Trustees are proud to place these two fire engines into service as a long-term investment for the citizens of the Charter Township of Van Buren.

Allen Smolen
Fire Chief

FIRE FIGHTERS WANTED!!

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

Over the age of eighteen

A high school graduate

Possess a valid Michigan Driver's License



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

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

PROMOTION OF TWO SERGEANTS



Sergeant Kenneth Floro

Sergeant Jeffery Gueli

The public safety department is pleased to announce the promotion of two sergeants on September 7th. With the completion of the Public Safety report, the township board approved the testing procedure to hire and establish a list of future command officers within the department. The two top candidates were Detective Kenneth Floro and Officer Jeffery Gueli and they were promoted at the September 7 Township Board meeting.

Sergeant Floro is an eight year veteran of the department, an accident reconstructionist and has worked in the detective section. Sergeant Floro is a graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelors Degree in Social Science. Sergeant Floro also worked for the Meridian Township Police Department from 1993 to 1995.

Sergeant Gueli is a ten year veteran of the department. Sergeant Gueli has worked in the detective division as well as the DEA task force at metro airport, and has spent the last 5 years in the K-9 unit.

Both of these officers bring with them many years of experience and an exemplary work record. This new addition to the command staff will help to alleviate some of the concerns brought up in the report with supervisor burnout caused by overtime. Both of the newly promoted Sergeants will go through a two month training period, working with a veteran sergeant. They will then be assigned a shift to command.

Dennis Brooks
Sergeant

Fire Department Mission Statement

The mission of the Van Buren Fire Department is the protection of life and property from the adverse effects of fires, medical emergencies or exposure to dangerous conditions through fire suppression, rescue, disaster preparedness, fire prevention and community education.

The members of this Department, working together, will provide a professional and caring environment that is fair, honest, ethical, and that treats all individuals with respect and dignity.

9-1-1

What is 9-1-1?

9-1-1 (nine - one - one) is the emergency telephone number which connects you to Fire, Police or EMS in an emergency situation. Calling 9-1-1 helps you reach emergency services when you require immediate assistance.

9-1-1 calls are free of charge from any telephone, including pay telephones or cellular phones.

What happens when you call 9-1-1?

When you dial 9-1-1, your phone call is answered by a professionally trained Communications Specialist who can assist you with Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies. If the call is a Medical Emergency, you will be connected directly to Huron Valley Ambulance who has specially trained Emergency Medical Dispatchers who can assist you and provide over the phone instructions (i.e. CPR, etc.).

What is an emergency?

An emergency is **any situation when the safety of people or property is at risk** and requires immediate assistance. Examples of 9-1-1 include: a fire, a crime in progress or a medical emergency.

Approximately 25-35% of the 9-1-1 calls received in Van Buren Township are non - emergencies. Non-emergency calls include minor vehicle collisions, lost property and unintentional access of the system, resulting from programming 9-1-1 into home and cellular phones.

Avoid programming 9-1-1 into your autodial system.

Do not program 9-1-1 into your home or cellular phones and be sure to lock cellular phones. Experience has proven this to be the cause of unintended calls which unnecessarily burden the 9-1-1 system. There is also no significant time saved from programming the number into your autodial. In fact, there is greater potential for dialing error.

When using 9-1-1:

- Remain calm and speak clearly.
- Identify which emergency service you require (Fire, Police or Ambulance).
- Be prepared to answer the following questions:
 - What is the problem?
 - What is your location, address and major cross streets.
 - What is your name and telephone number.
- **DO NOT hang up!** The 9-1-1 call taker will dispatch the appropriate emergency service(s) that you require and may ask for additional information.

If you cannot speak or understand the 9-1-1 call taker:

The 9-1-1 telephone system has an Automatic Location Identification System (ALI) and an Automatic Number Identification System (ANI), which tells the Emergency Call Taker your address and telephone number as soon as you make your 9-1-1 call. This feature is available with cellular or other wireless telephones.

9-1-1 FOR KIDS

Some simple steps to follow when you need 9-1-1 assistance:

How to call 9-1-1:

- Pick up the phone and listen for a dial tone - or place the phone on a TTY machine (for the hearing impaired).
- Push the "9" button, push the "1" button again.
- Wait for the 9-1-1 call taker to answer the phone.

When to call 9-1-1:

9-1-1 is the number to call when you need help in an emergency!

An **emergency** is when something happens and you need a **Firefighter, Police Officer or a Paramedic**. For example, if you see your neighbor's house is on fire, that's an emergency! If someone falls and is badly hurt, that is an emergency too! But, if your cat is stuck in a tree, that's not an emergency!

9-1-1 is not the number to use if you just need help from an adult or for pets. You should only dial 9-1-1 in a real emergency - **never as a joke!**

What to do when 9-1-1 answers:

Here are some points to help you remember what to do when you are on the phone with 9-1-1:

- Remember to **stay calm** and **speak slowly**.
- Tell the 9-1-1 call taker **what's wrong** and **where you need help**.
- Speak up loud and clear when the 9-1-1 call taker asks you questions.
- **Stay on the phone** until the 9-1-1 call taker tells you to hang up.

If you ever need to call 9-1-1, a friendly call taker is ready to help you. Just remember that **9-1-1 is for emergencies only - never as a joke!**

Mike Long
Special Projects Coordinator
Van Buren Public Safety

“CLICK IT OR TICKET”

Do you wear your seatbelt and do you wear it properly?

At the end of August through the Labor Day weekend, the “Drive Michigan Safety Task Force” kicked off its safety campaign to ensure motorists were wearing their seatbelts in an effort to cut down on highway related fatalities.

In a nationwide effort to cut down on traffic related fatalities, eighteen counties, including State, County and Local agencies received grant funding to provide staffing of police officers to participate in the campaign.

Word went out warning the public via news radio, television, newspapers, and through the internet that verbal warnings just weren't changing the behavior so tickets would be written.

Officers from the Van Buren Township Police Department, Michigan State Police, Wayne County Sheriff and Romulus Police Departments joined together in a team effort utilizing “Seat Belt Enforcement Zones” in heavily traveled areas around the township and bordering roadways to enforce the use of seatbelts. “What is different? Strict enforcement of the Seat Belt Law.”

At any given time you could find 6-8 patrol vehicles positioned in a zone, enforcing the Michigan's Seat Belt Law. The officer's primary duty was to enforce the use of seatbelts. Officers while enforcing the Seat Belt Law enforced other traffic related offenses, including arrests for misdemeanor & felony violations/crimes.

Motorists while wearing their seat belts found themselves being stopped & ticketed for the improper use of a seatbelt. Seatbelts are to be worn properly and not tucked under the arm or behind the back (utilizing only the lap belt portion). In order to reduce injury or death, seatbelts must be worn properly, positioned properly over the hips and shoulders. Consumers should consult the manufacturer's user guide for properly securing the child restraint device.

According to the provisional figures compiled by the Michigan State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center, the statewide law enforcement crackdown on unbuckled motorists has helped drive down traffic related fatalities by 50% over the Labor Day weekend.

Officers heard many comments as to why the motorists were not wearing their seatbelt: “I was just going to the store,” “I just pulled out of the parking lot,” “I always wear my seatbelt,” and “do you not have anything better to do.” As this was not a ploy to antagonize motorists, but a plea for motorists to “Buckle Up,” those drivers who made an excuse as to why they weren't buckled up, were given a ticket as a reminder of “Click it or Ticket” and to always wear your seatbelts.

Myths & Facts about Seat Belts

Michigan's seatbelt law allows police officers to stop a motorist solely for not wearing a safety belt in the front seat of a vehicle. The law also allows police officers to stop a motorist if a child age 4 through 15 is not properly restrained, no matter where they are riding in the vehicle. The law also improves child passenger safety protection by requiring all children under the age of 4 to be properly restrained in an approved child safety seat.

The child passenger safety law covers children up through age 15. Children from birth through age three must be in a child safety seat in the front and rear seats. Children who are four years old but less than sixteen years old riding in either the front or rear seat must use a safety belt.

Each year the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) conducts a direct observation survey of front passengers in motor vehicles to measure compliance with Michigan's mandatory safety belt law. The most recent survey indicates 85 percent of Michigan motorists are buckling up.

Michigan's long-term goal is to reach 90% safety belt use. In order to achieve this goal, part-time safety belt users must be convinced that full-time use of their safety belt is in their best interest. Recent surveys commissioned by OHSP have suggested that in addition to the enforcement message, a unique approach may be needed to reach those who only buckle up on freeways, in bad weather or when they are in passenger cars.

Michigan Safety Belt and Child Restraint Laws Use Requirements

Ages 0-3 years: All passengers shall be properly secured in an approved Child Restraint System.

Ages 4-15 years: All passengers shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened seatbelt.

Ages 16 & Older: Driver and front passenger shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened seatbelt.

Mike Long
Special Projects Coordinator
Van Buren Public Safety

OPEN BURNING

What is open burning? Open burning is the burning of unwanted materials, such as paper, trees, brush, leaves, grass and other debris, where smoke and other emissions are released directly into the air. Potential problems associated with open burning include polluting of the air and posing a fire hazard. The air pollution created by open burning can irritate eyes and lungs, obscure visibility, soil nearby surfaces, and create annoying odors, other nuisance or health threats to you and your neighbors. Michigan air quality and solid waste regulations prohibit open burning that creates smoke or odor nuisances. According to air quality regulations, brush and trees may not be burned in residential areas in Wayne County.

An alternative for open burning is to compost your leaves and grass. Compost produces valuable soil fertilizer through the natural process of decomposition. Another alternative is to put your grass or leaves in compost bags that can be purchased at your local store and place them at your curbside for pickup on your normal trash day or take them to a local recycling center. Please choose to bag your leaves and grass instead of burning them. Think of your safety and your neighbor's safety. **Notice to those who choose to burn:** You are responsible for any fire, smoke, or odors created from open burning and for any damage that results from your fire. Also, you may be fined for your actions. Think of safety before burning any leaves or brush.

Anthony Karver
Fire Inspector

ANNUAL FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING PROGRAM

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

The hydrant flushing program is an important maintenance activity of the Department. Every fall, each of the approximately 1,850 hydrants in the township is operated to verify that the hydrant is in good operating condition. Minor preventive maintenance such as greasing the operating nut and making sure the fire hose nozzle caps can be removed easily in an emergency are also part of the program. Needed repairs are identified and scheduled for completion. We also make sure that the water in the barrel is pumped out so that the hydrant does not freeze and become inoperable in the winter.

We would like to remind our customers that a fire hydrant cannot be operated without a permit by any person other than Water 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 fund-raising car washes. Any person or company opening a fire hydrant without a permit will be prosecuted.

Patti Duha
Director of Water & Sewer

CABLE DEPARTMENT

Summer may be entering its final days, but Van Buren Cable is going strong. We have worked very hard this summer to bring programs to our community. Watch our bulletin board or check out the Van Buren website (www.vanburen-mi.org) for program dates and times.

This fall we will continue our regular line-up to bring you shows like the Chamber Report with Janet Millard, the Belleville Historical Society meetings and, of course, the Van Buren Township Board meetings that are broadcast live every first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. In addition, we will also cover many of the events sponsored by the Recreation Department, Department of Public Safety and the September Days Senior Center. Thank you for your continued support.

Ally Acosta
Cable Operations Manager

Trick-or-Treat Night at Township Hall



Thursday, October 28
starts at 6:00 p.m.



Wear your costumes and go trick or treating safely. Admission is FREE! Trick-or-Treat from room to room at Township Hall. Everyone must enter through the main door. If your business is interested in passing out treats, please call (734) 699-8921 to reserve your room.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE FORMED



Mission Statement: *The Mission of the Van Buren Township Open Space Committee is to promote protection of the Township's rural character, open spaces and natural areas, while respecting property rights and enhancing property value.*

At the April 20, 2004 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the formation of the Van Buren Township Open Space Committee to act as a research, advisory, and recommending body on matters pertaining to open space planning and preservation. Since that time the Committee has been seated and has begun researching the status of open space in the community and what steps the Township may want to take to protect sensitive areas.

The Committee has official representatives from the Township Board, Planning Commission, Environmental Commission, Recreation Committee, and residents at large. However, the committee is always looking for input and welcomes additional residents or interested parties to participate in the monthly meetings. The Committee meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Denton Room at Township Hall. Holiday conflicts in November and December may require re-scheduling, which will be posted in advance of the meeting.

The mission of this Committee is not something entirely new. The Township has already been actively planning and developing means for protecting open space in the community. Nevertheless, because of the increased development pressure the Township has seen in recent years, there has been a growing need to focus on open space protection. Protecting open space is a complicated issue, due to the strong property rights in the State of Michigan. The Township cannot simply say "NO" to new developments.

In order to manage growth the Township must adhere to the process outlined in the Zoning and Planning Acts. First, the Township must have in place a comprehensive and adequately researched Master Plan. Second, the Township needs to adopt ordinances that meet the requirements of the Zoning Act, are based on the Master Plan, and can be defended in court as necessary and reasonable.

The Township's existing Master Plan references the need and desire for open space elements in several locations. Several of the objectives in the Master Plan direct the Township to "Maintain and improve the environmental quality of all residential areas, strengthen and protect the viability of neighborhoods by... separating necessary commercial expansion from residential areas by open space and other buffers, improve living amenities in all residential neighborhoods through... access to convenient open space, and preserve natural features such as natural drainage courses, flood plains, wooded areas, and lands having critical soil conditions... and where possible, incorporate recreation sites of sizes which are practical to use and maintain."

To address the objectives in the Master Plan, the Open Space Committee has been researching additional implementation steps the Township may want to consider. Some of the topics discussed at recent meetings include adoption of a local wetland ordinance, development of a purchase development rights (PDR) program, acquisition of park land, and potential funding sources. For more information about the Open Space Committee and upcoming meetings you can contact Dan Swallow, Environmental Director at (734) 699-8913 or visit the Township website: www.vanburen-mi.org.

Dan Swallow
Environmental Director

COMMUNITY VISION + PLANNED ECONOMIC RESOURCES + DDA = NEW FIRE FACILITY

(And to top it off Van Buren Professionals
and Residents got the money)

In the course of building a community, much like a growing family decides to construct an addition to their home, the level and range of planning and services your Township government provides to its residents and business owners is constantly reviewed by the elected officials and Department staff. And in much the same way as a growing family makes the commitment to improve their home, Van Buren Township has made a commitment to improve the level and range of fire facilities and fire protection service in our community.

Over the course of the last year you may have followed reports in the media and at Township meetings describing a proposed project by Van Buren Township's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Board of Trustees. Both the DDA and the Trustees have been working together to plan the construction of a new fire station facility within the DDA District.

Near the end of August the DDA closed on its purchase of approximately 5 acres of land to be the site of a new fire

TOWNSHIP MILLAGE RATES LESS THAN CITIES

station replacing Fire Station #2 on Ecorse Road. The land is located on the east side of Belleville Road, between Robson and Ecorse Roads. Land transactions in the Township are more common these days, however, this DDA purchase is significant in how the funding was generated and community members who were part of the transaction.

First, the Downtown Development Authority receives its revenues from a portion of the property taxes paid within a specifically defined geographic area in the Township. *(For those of you who may not be familiar with the DDA district, it is generally on both sides of the Belleville Road bridge into the City of Belleville and as far north as Van Born Road.)* DDA revenue is "captured" from the property taxes collected in this defined area of the Township, it is not NOT an ADDITIONAL TAX or MILLAGE. The DDA does not increase property taxes, it works with a portion of the taxes that are already levied. As regulated by the Township and the State of Michigan the significant economic impact of this revenue generating authority is that more tax money paid by our residents stays in our community and is not given to other taxing jurisdictions such as Wayne County, the Community College District or the Metro Parks. Therefore establishing the DDA via state enabling legislation, Van Buren began looking down the road in anticipation of addressing the level and range of fire service and facilities in 1990 when it established the Downtown Development Authority.

Secondly, the DDA purchase was handled by a local real estate broker. Township money went to a Van Buren real estate professional who was instrumental in putting together this land purchase opportunity.

And lastly, the land was obviously purchased from community residents. Township funds went to Van Buren residents, Township tax money went back to the same persons who over the past 14 years paid their property taxes from where the DDA "captured" the funds to purchase these parcels. **And to top it off one of these residents served as a fire fighter for the Township years ago.**

Reports about the growth and planned government improvements are common but the "back-story" behind this land transaction, coupled with the Township's commitment to community planning, values and the level of services to its residents and business owners, is a real story about positive economic impacts and measurable returns to our residents and business owners.

Bryce Kelley
Economic Development Director

By now, you've likely paid your Summer 2004 Property Tax Bill. While you know much of the winter and summer tax bills include allocations that are sent to other governmental jurisdictions such as the local school district, Wayne County, the Wayne County Community College District and the Huron-Clinton Metro Parks system, did you also know that property taxes provide about 25% of the township's General Fund annual revenue stream? For 2004, this is over two million dollars. The property tax collection is a critical source of funding for providing services you may consider routine such as police and fire protection, code enforcement, recreation and senior services and administration. You may find it interesting to note that townships tax at lower rates than cities and villages.

Cities may impose an income tax and several do, and can levy up to 20 mills (some cities are limited at 15 mills). Home rule villages can also levy up to 20 mills with general law villages being able to levy up to 12 mills. However, townships tax at far lower rates.

If a township is "chartered" by a vote of the electorate, the township can levy up to five mills without voter approval. Townships that are chartered by Board resolution, as is the case with Van Buren, as well as general law townships are limited to a tax levy of no more than one mill. Any additional millage levied beyond one mill requires the approval of voters.

In Van Buren, one mill is levied for general operating, with voters approving three mills for public safety operations and six mills for water and sewer. Taking into account compliance with Headlee and the terms of Proposal A (approved by the voters in 1994), Van Buren levies less than 10 mills.

Many say that townships are the form of government closest to the people. Certainly permitting voters a say in millage increases is one method that demonstrates that relationship with the voters.

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

VAN BUREN CIVIC FUND

As you know, the Visteon Corporation opened its headquarters in August and has employees working at the site. Did you know that in their continuing efforts to be a good corporate resident, Visteon has established the Van Buren Civic Fund? The purpose of the fund is to support high quality services and projects in Van Buren Township. Visteon has

VAN BUREN CIVIC FUND

Continued on Page 17

Recreation Program - Fall 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.

Tuesdays & Thursdays
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Van Buren Residents = \$1.00/child
Non-Residents = \$2.00/child

The ABC's of Acting

Ages: 8-15



Mondays, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
October 25 - November 22

"Exit Stage left"...and many other theatre definitions are offered in this introduction to acting class that will teach hands on performance skills in theatre basics, how to audition techniques, theatre games and much, much more!

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

Youth Cheerleading

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

Mondays, November 1 - December 6 (six weeks)

5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. 6-10 years R = \$50.00
NR = \$65.00



6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. 11-14 years R = \$50.00
NR = \$65.00

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 15 & up R = \$55.00
(Includes gymnastics and tumbling) NR = \$70.00

Toddling Toddlers & Tunes

Ages: 18 months - 3 years

Must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Saturdays, October 23 - November 20
10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Toddlers will delight in music and movement while having fun engaging in listening, language and coordination skills. Together, parent and toddler will frolic and explore in creative fun-filled activities.

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

Special One Day Cheer & Tumbling Clinic

Come to a one day clinic to learn the fundamentals of cheering and tumbling!

Thursday, October 28 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 13 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Van Buren Residents = \$25.00 Non-Residents = \$40.00

Screamin' Teen Lock-In



Ages: 13-15

Friday, October 22
8:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Five hours of nonstop excitement at your recreation center. The night will consist of watching PG-13 scary movies on the big screen, basketball, ping-pong tournaments, volleyball, frightening good food, chilling drinks, and a little something freakish for you to take home.

\$10.00 per teen

Make it...Take it Creative crafts for ages (7-11)

Searching for all those creative youth who want to make an art project and take it home. Every other Thursday you can create an art project such as bubble painting, window art, paper mache, etc... or maybe you have a craft idea you'd like to do. We are always looking for other ideas.

**Thursdays: October 21, November 4,
November 18, December 2**



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



\$10.00 per class - please sign up a week prior to class so we can plan accordingly.

Please wear appropriate clothing for this program. Projects can get messy.

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 ****



Movin' and Groovin' Teen outing for a night of Laser Quest

Ages: 13-15

Friday, November 19

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Meet at the recreation center at 8:00 p.m., we'll grab a bite to eat then head over to Westland for a night of Laser Quest.

Parents please make sure you are at the township to pick up your teen no later than 11:30 p.m.

\$15.00 per teen



Free Teen Time

Ages: 13-17



Teens can now get recreation for free! Every last Saturday of the month teens can use the recreation center for such activities as basketeball, volleyball, ping-pong, board/card games, etc... Must show a picture I.D. to get this cool deal.

Skin Care & Make up Class

Tuesday, December 14

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

All ages welcome!

Laura Abney, former Miss Michigan, will teach basic skin care and make up techniques to help you look your best. Great for getting ready for prom, pageants, or just to feel wonderful! Learn what colors and styles look best on you. (If you want to match a specific outfit with your make up, please bring it or a picture of it to class.)

Van Buren Residents = \$10.00

Non-Residents = \$15.00

Turkey Tom's Treasure Hunt

Saturday, November 13

Turkey Tom has lost his treasure at Van Buren Park and he needs your help to find it. Come out to Van Buren Park and find as many gold coins as you can. Collect the coins and win a prize. One prize per person and prizes will vary.



Age groups and times are as follows:

Walking Toddlers - 4 years	10:00 - 10:10 a.m.
5 - 8 years	10:10 - 10:20 a.m.
9 - 12 years	10:20 - 10:30 a.m.



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

Theatre Movement



Ages: 8-15

Mondays, 7:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
October 25 - November 22



While exploring and creating, let Theatre Movement move you into beginning levels of theatre dance, stage movement, expressive movement and much more! Learn how to move like an animal to punching a nose without touching it!

Van Buren Residents = \$50.00

Non-Residents = \$65.00

Frankenmuth Shopping Excursion

Saturday, November 13 **** Pre-register by November 8th ****

Start or finish up your holiday shopping in Frankenmuth.
Meet at Van Buren Township Community Center at 8:45 a.m.

Tentative Schedule

9:00 a.m. - Leave at 9:00 from the Community Center
11:00 a.m. - Bronner's Holiday Store
12:00 p.m. - Arrive in Frankenmuth
5:00 p.m. - Depart Frankenmuth



Cost: Van Buren Resident = \$5.00, Non-Resident = \$7.00 per person for transportation - eating and shopping is on your own.

We are taking the Recreation van. If you are signing up an infant you must bring your own car seat.

**** A minimum of 14 patrons is needed for this trip to go ****

Brunch with Santa

Sunday, December 12
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Ho! Ho! Ho! Here comes Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus to the Van Buren Township Hall. Brunch will be buffet style. Seating times at 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. After brunch Mrs. Claus will read her favorite Christmas story for all the boys and girls to hear. All brunch items are being prepared by Affordable Elegance Catering in Belleville and include scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit and dessert.



Cost:

- \$10.00 = Adults (in advance)
- \$12.00 = Adults (at door)
- \$5.00 = Children 3 & up/Seniors (Special kid's buffet)
- FREE = Children under 3



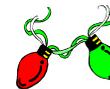
Tickets will go on sale November 15
Please specify seating time when purchasing tickets.

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

Toledo Zoo Lights



Thursday, December 9
Pre-register by: December 6



Venture with us to the Toledo Zoo to see all the holiday lights and shimmer. Families will also enjoy watching ice-carving demonstrations and listen to live radio stations. Radio personalities will be handing out 3-D glasses so you can see the "Lights Before Christmas" in a whole other way.

Arrive at the Community Center at 5:00 p.m., we will leave promptly at 5:15 p.m. Arrive at the Zoo in the recreation van and walk your way around to see the lights. If you are signing up an infant, you must bring your own car seats.

Children 11 & under

- Van Buren Residents = \$8.00
- Non-Residents = \$10.00



Adults

- Van Buren Residents = \$10.00
- Non-Residents = \$12.00

A minimum of 14 patrons is needed for this trip to go.

Kids in Motion

Ages: 3-6

Saturdays, 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
October 23 - November 20

Imaginations run wild as children enjoy expressing themselves using their voice and bodies in activities geared to enhance independent creativity and group play. Each class will offer activities based on a different theme.

- Van Buren Residents = \$50.00
- Non-Residents = \$65.00



Baby Bop n' Bach

Ages: Newborn - 18 months
Must be accompanied by Parent or Caregiver.

Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
October 23 - November 20

It's discovery time for baby and parent! Stimulate babies to learn visually and audibly while enjoying structured activities of music, movement, songs, rhymes and creative play.

- Van Buren Residents = \$30.00
- Non-Residents = \$45.00



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>

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

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

VAN BUREN CIVIC FUND

Continued from Page 11

pledged \$500,000 to the fund and is making another \$500,000 available in a "challenge" grant that will match the contributions of citizens and businesses dollar for dollar up to that amount.

The Civic Fund Board of Directors includes township residents. Serving on the Board is Beverly Jenkins, President; Bob Thorne, Secretary; Ann Porster, Treasurer; and Directors Norm Johnson, Scott Jones, Father John Hagan and myself. The Directors recently approved funding electronic, lighted speed limit signs near Tyler Elementary School and the purchase of an audio system for the Belleville Area Museum. The Civic Fund Directors believe funding these projects demonstrates their commitment to use this funding to improve the quality of life in the township.

Currently, the Directors are working on developing an application and review process, determining the level of annual distribution and strategies for fundraising.

If you are interested in making a contribution that will be matched dollar for dollar by the Visteon Corporation (up to \$500,000), checks made payable to the Van Buren Civic Fund may be remitted to the Supervisor's Office, Van Buren Charter Township, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Twp., MI 48111. All donations will be publicly acknowledged (unless you request anonymity) and 100% of all funds collected will be used right here in our community. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

PARKS NEWS

Fall is upon us. With that said there is still plenty of time left for that picnic, trail walk, or pick-up game. The weather is beautiful this time of year and perfect for enjoying just about any outdoor activity. Join us at Van Buren Park on a Friday or Saturday night in October for a trip through the Haunted Forest. Whatever you do make sure to get out and take advantage of the opportunities before the snow begins to fly.

As this goes to press we are beginning to break ground on a new park maintenance facility at Van Buren Park. The last life of the old pole barn has been rung out and we look forward to the new building which will allow us to do our jobs even better. With more space and other amenities we will be better equipped to complete the daily and annual upkeep of the parks.

Hopefully by the time you read this French Landing will have a newly paved entrance and parking area. In my two years in the township we have worked diligently at revealing the

beauty of that park and this is the next step to the process. With the pavement in place, our hope is that people will be more apt to park on the asphalt instead of the grass.



ADA walkway to Boathouse at Van Buren Park.

The ADA improvements have been completed at the U of M Boathouse. Now we have two handicap spaces and a paved walkway allowing everyone access to the building and bathrooms. Landscaping is being completed currently to beautify the area and prevent erosion.

As always there is no shortage of activity and improvement within the park system of Van Buren. If you haven't been out in a while make a point of stopping by. Also mark your calendars and try to join us for the public input workshop on October 12, 7:30 p.m. at the U of M Boathouse as we seek public opinion on the use of the \$2 million gift from Wayne County.

Vincent Averill
Parks Manager

Community Dance Socials

3rd Saturday of the month

October 16, November 20, December 18

Dance Lessons: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. \$4/person
Dancing: 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. \$7/person

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

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

Free snacks and great dancing!

SEPTEMBER DAYS SENIOR CENTER

Come join us for classes, trips, events and more!

Country & Blue Grass
FREE & Live, every Sunday
2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Featured Bands:

- October 24 *Side By Side*
- October 31 *Eddie Adkins & the Southerners*
- November 7 *God's Country*
- November 14 *Southern Flavor with the Saggy Bottom Girls*
- November 21 *Radio Gang*
- November 28 *No Music - Thanksgiving Weekend*

For more information, please contact the Senior Center at (734) 699-8918.

GRANDPARENTS DAY



Joan Haynes and 3 year old granddaughter Sidney

On Saturday, September 18, 2004, September Days Senior Center hosted its first Grandparents Day. Activities included basketball, golf, marble painting, noodle necklaces, face painting, and much more! A special thank you to the volunteers who made this event fun for everyone: Donalyn Campbell, Ray Florian, Judy Garascia, Nellie Kendzierski, Phyllis Queener, Addie Siler, Wayne Sole, JoAnn Super, and Jerry Tillman.

Classes & Groups

Ceramics - Meets Mondays from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 9:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. in the Craft Room. Instructor: Eleanore Hendrickson. This is a drop-in class for beginning and experienced students to learn about ceramics, glazing, and firing in the kiln. Fee: \$2 per session.

Computers - Consecutive classes meet Fridays between 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. in the Computer Room. Classes are offered for basic, intermediate, and advanced students. Instructor: Don McPherson. Call the center to sign up.

Copy Cats - Meets Mondays at 9:00 a.m. in the Craft Room. Class Leader: Verdys Shephard. This class does a variety of projects and shares craft ideas with each other.

Crochet - Meets Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Craft Room. This class is open to all skill levels. Please bring your own materials. Delores Schenk will teach while Millie Richmond recuperates - eventually we hope to have the expertise of both of them! FREE!

Dance Exercise - Meets Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, at 9:30 a.m. in the Dining Room. Instructor: Jan Oliver. Attend one or all three each week, it's up to you. Fee: \$2 session.

Jin Shin Jyutsu - Meets Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Craft Room. This class is taught by Carol Welhouse. Learn the ancient art of harmonizing the life energy in the body. FREE!

Line Dancing - Meets Mondays from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the Dining Room. A "slow and easy" session from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m., followed by a "fun and challenging" session from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Both sessions are a great way to get your exercise! Instructor: Sharon Hollandsworth. Fee: \$2 for one class, \$3 for both.

Painting - Meets Fridays from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Craft Room. Instructor: John Hodge, a member of the Belleville Art Colony. This class is for all skill levels and art interests. Fee: \$3 per session.

Quilting - Meets Tuesdays from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the Craft Room. This class is taught by Jackie Martin. This class is for all skill levels. Bring materials with you. Sewing machines are available or you may bring your own. Stop by and get in on the latest quilting project!

Yoga - Meets Fridays at 10:00 a.m. in the Senior Lounge. This drop-in class uses videos to perform stretching and range-of-motion exercises. New participants are always welcome! Bring a mat. FREE!

The Belleville Area Museum & Historical Society

Announce Its

2004-05 HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS

- Thursday, Oct. 21: **Plans for Riggs Heritage Park**
Vince Averill
VBT Parks Manager
- Thursday, Nov. 18: **“Simple Pleasures: Remembering Childhood Games”**
Keith & Ginger Bruder
Huron Valley Conservation Assoc.
- December 1-30: **Festival of Holiday Trees**
(No meeting)
- Thursday, Jan. 20: **“Y-oopers, Wolverines, and Buckeyes- The ‘Toledo War’ of 1835”**
Tom Barrett
Historian
- Thursday, Feb. 17: **“The Quirk Connection: The Quirk Family in Belleville & Ypsilanti”**
James Mann
Ypsilanti Courier
- Thursday, Mar. 17: **“The ABC’s of Genealogical Research”**
Pat Gee
Dearborn Genealogical Society

Upcoming Holiday Events
At the Belleville Area Museum

- Fri, Dec. 3 City of Belleville
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies
- Sat, Dec. 4 Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce
Christmas Parade (Museum open for extended hours 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.)
- Sat, Dec. 18 Children’s Christmas Ornament Workshops
10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m.



BRUNCH WITH BACH

Sunday, November 7, 3:00 p.m.

Presented by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts
at the Belleville Area Museum

Christmas Is Coming!

Belleville Area Museum
Festival of Holiday Trees

December 1 - December 30, 2004

Festival of Holiday Trees

December will bring the museum’s 9th 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.



Van Buren Township Hall, Constructed 1875

A State of Michigan Historic Site, this beloved landmark standing in the heart of the city’s downtown is now the home of the Belleville Area Museum.

2005 Centennial Calendar

The Belleville Area Historical Society is preparing a special calendar to mark the celebration of Belleville’s Centennial in 2005. Each month will feature a full-page local historic photograph of such early community institutions as the Old Red Mill, the Old North Bridge, and the Van Buren Town Hall. This keepsake Centennial Edition of the popular historical society calendars will be sold at a cost of \$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. Funds from calendar sales are used to support the projects and programs of the Belleville Area Museum.

**FRED C. FISCHER
LIBRARY**

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



www.belleville.lib.mi.us

Hours:

Mon-Thurs 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Fri & Sat 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Choosing, Planting, and
Growing Bulbs with Janet
Macunovich**


Janet Macunovich returns this fall with a seasonably appropriate program. There are so many bulbs to choose from in the fall, it can be overwhelming. This is especially vexing when all you want to do is get some of these ready-to-go flowers into the ground! Here's a quick lesson in major and minor bulbs, how to plant them for longest life and greatest beauty, and what to expect of them over the years once you've put them in the ground.

Please register for this free program so we know how many handouts to have ready. There will be two sessions on Thursday, October 7, 2004. The afternoon session will be from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. and the evening session will be from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

If you have never heard Janet speak, and only read her "Growing Concerns" column in the Saturday *Detroit News*, you are in for a treat! Not just incredibly informative, she is also very funny, and quite down to earth.

Sponsored by The Friends of the Library.

Halloween Magic Show:

Join us for a magical afternoon with Jason Hudy on Saturday, October 23 at 2:00 p.m. Jason will be tricking and treating the audience during his fun for all-ages magic show. No registration necessary.


Celebrate!

This year is the tenth anniversary of the Belleville Area Community Quilt on display at the library. Join us for a reception and special one day quilt show on Thursday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m.

The community quilt consists of thirty squares, each depicting a slice of life in the City of Belleville and the Townships of Van Buren and Sumpter. The scenes represent over 155 years of history in this area. For more information about the quilt visit: www.belleville.mi.us/quilt.htm.


Bursting at the Seams:

By the time you read this it will be too late to add your answer to Van Buren's Quick Vote for September featuring the library. But the answer to the question: "Is it time to start planning for a new library?" really is yes. Although the addition, in 1992, to our vintage 1953 building helped get us through the nineties, the library is again running out of space. Record setting community use, population growth, and new technologies all show the need for a much larger community library.

The new state standards for quality library service are .7 sq. ft. per person. The total population of our three communities is now over 40,000. This means a building for today's population should be over 28,000 sq.ft., a far cry from the 10,760 sq. ft. expanded Fischer Library.

iBistro

Visit our library's catalog (www.ibistro.tln.lib.mi.us) to place materials on hold, and to renew items you have checked out. First time to iBistro? Call the library, and we will be happy to assist you.

Art Discussion Series:

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts and the library will present two art appreciation programs at the library during the month of November.

November 11, 7:00 p.m.: "The Art of Diego Rivera." Presenter Wendy Evans, a Wayne State University art history professor and Detroit Institute of Arts docent, returns for another engaging program.

November 18, 7:00 p.m.: "Renaissance Art." Presenter Ericka Geiss, art historian, comes to us from the Charles Murray Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit.

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!!**

Please put your address on all containers!

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 Pick-up ENDS the last week of November and will RESUME the first full week of April.

Leaves and Grass Clippings

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

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

Do not use plastic bags!!



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

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 ****

2004 Holiday Arts & Crafts Show

Saturday, December 4, 2004
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Van Buren Township Community Center
46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Twp., MI 48111
(Gymnasium, Multi-Purpose Room, Craft Room,
Dining Room)



Juried Show

(All crafts must be hand made)

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

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

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

Additional tables may be available for an extra
\$5 per table.



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:
4th Thursday 7:00 p.m.

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

Board of Zoning Appeals:
2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee:
2nd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.

Recreation Committee:
2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
(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

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

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 18
Belleville, MI

Postal Patron

