



Charter Township of Van Buren

Lake Ledger

Spring 2002



A beautiful view of Belleville Lake

LIVING ON THE EDGE: SHORELINE STEWARDSHIP

By: Brian Ballard, Environmental Director

Many significant ecological and property management problems encountered in a lakeshore setting stem from landscape management practices. Practices from traditional backyards have been brought to lakeshore yards. Traditional groomed lakeshores cause shoreline erosion and sedimentation, excessive plant growth and algal blooms, loss of wildlife habitat, and promote the presence of nuisance animals.

Many of these lakeshore problems can be solved by creating a buffer zone along the shoreline. This is a main component of lakescaping for wildlife and water quality. Lakescaping is evolving among lakeshore owners as a strategy for managing sustainable lakeshore landscapes.

Buffer zones restore ecological functions and structural benefits that are important in the lakeshore environment. The buffer zone is an area that may extend from 25 to 100 or more feet from the water's edge onto the land and 25 to 50 feet into the lake, depending on the circumstances. It should contain native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, sedges and emergent and submergent aquatic plants. The type of native vegetation planted in the buffer zone depends on the ecological region as well as the slope, drainage, and soil type for the site, and the depth of water (4ft. deep or less). It has two components: aquatic plants in the water and moist-soil and upland plants above the water line.

LIVING ON THE EDGE:

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A RECREATION MOMENT

By: Jennifer Morris, Recreation Manager



Just a few of the smiling faces at Father/Daughter Dance

Hurry...is everything ready? Dim the lights. Are the flowers in place? D.J. you're on. The guests are arriving and to their delight an assortment of balloons float high above. White twinkle lights invite guests to stroll through the trees, entering a magical night. Music is heard all throughout the halls, and the scent of cotton candy fills the air. The words, may I have this dance? are echoed. After much dancing and twirling, Cinderella arrives to make the night even more enchanting. She is dressed in blue to match her eyes and a jeweled tiara is placed upon her golden hair. The children flock to Cinderella while staring in amazement.

The night is coming to an end and the light from the cameras' flash is all that can be seen. A lifelong evening of memories was made and will be cherished forever.

Another year has passed for the Van Buren Recreation Department's Annual Father/Daughter Dance. This year's dance was yet another successful extravaganza. The popularity of this event was so tremendous that we had it on both Friday and Saturday evenings. It was so much fun watching the fathers dance with their daughters. I know that the fathers were hoping the night would never end because who knows how long their little girls will want to dance with their fathers, hopefully forever. I can't wait for next year's event so fathers and daughters can make some more memories together.

In addition, spring and summer classes are now available. Residents and non-residents are encouraged to join the various classes that we offer. If you are interested in a class and we don't offer it, let me know and I'll see if I can arrange what you are looking for in a recreation class. I hope you will enjoy the new and old classes that we are providing here at your recreation center. Spring, jump, or hop on in and register.

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

By: Cindy C. King, Supervisor

Twice a month, the Township Clerk, Treasurer and I meet with department directors for the purpose of discussing various events occurring throughout our community. Primarily, these staff meetings are held to share information so all executive staff are aware of activities and issues outside of their respective areas of responsibility. It is also an opportunity to brainstorm new ideas and methods for improving our public service to you. Most recently, we have had discussions on the development that continues to occur and how to be better prepared during times of crisis.

As usual, there is much to report about our community. Likely, by the time you read this, VBT 12 will begin airing our "State of the Township, Year 2001 in Review" video. This video that will feature appearances by many of us here at Township Hall will include a variety of information about events of last year including new development, several grants which were awarded, work on master plan and the like. Produced in-house, I would ask for your kindness since none of us are professionals in front of the camera (although Director Ross does a better job than most), but all have good intention to keep you in the know.

Related to taxation, the Board of Review recently concluded a series of meetings with residents to discuss property assessments. While perhaps not the most welcome of topics, property assessments are, nonetheless, a fact of life, and one method by which we receive revenue to provide service to you. Considering the number of telephone calls my staff received, I suspect it is also a topic that generates a fair amount of confusion and for which an explanation may be helpful.

All laws governing taxation are set by action of the State Legislature. Van Buren is no different from any other Michigan community in that we have a responsibility to perform our duties in that regard in accordance with State law. All millages that may appear on your property tax bill are voter-approved; Van Buren Township does not have the ability to levy millage without seeking the vote of the people.

"Assessed values" or "state equalized values" (SEV) are terms used in the law to define value to property. Generally, assessed values or SEV represent 50% of the appraised market value of a property. Property can mean vacant land or land upon which a structure is built. Assessed values can increase (or decrease) each year based upon market conditions. There is no limit to the amount these values may change. Property owners do not pay taxes based upon the assessed value or SEV of a property.

"Taxable value" is another legal term that refers to the calculation of property taxes. This legal term is a result of Proposal

A that was adopted by the State Legislature in 1994 that resulted in a significant decrease in homestead property taxes paid by property owners throughout Michigan. It is the taxable value that is assessed to a property that determines the amount of property taxes you will pay for that property. The taxable value may increase each year as determined by the consumer price index (c.p.i.) or 5% which ever is less. Thus, the amount of property taxes you pay is determined by the taxable value of your property and may not increase more than 5% in any year (unless improvements are made to the property).

However, under Proposal A, once property is transferred (sold), the taxable value of the property becomes "uncapped" and the "assessed value" of the property becomes the basis for the next year's "taxable value." Typically, this results in the new owner of a property realizing an increase in property taxes the year after they purchase the property. It also can result in two properties being very similar in nature (same size house, same amount of land), yet paying two significantly different amounts in property taxes because one property has had the same owner for many years, and the other is newly owned. Upon transfer, the property then becomes "capped" again and future "taxable value" increases are limited to the terms of the law, at either the consumer price index or 5%, which ever is less, or when improvements or loss construction occurs.

Again, I understand this topic can be confusing and I hope this has provided you some understanding of this issue. The key point to remember is that State law holds the amount of annual increase in property taxes to 5% or less. If you have questions, my staff would be happy to assist you and can be reached at (734) 699-8910.

This spring you will notice work being done around the Township Hall as we get ready to do some routine maintenance on the outside of the building and resurface the parking lot. Van Buren Park will soon be the recipient of a new pole barn for use by Parks staff and DPW personnel. Other improvements include the building of a playscape at Van Buren Park - we'll be asking you to help! - and a gazebo at Quirk Park.

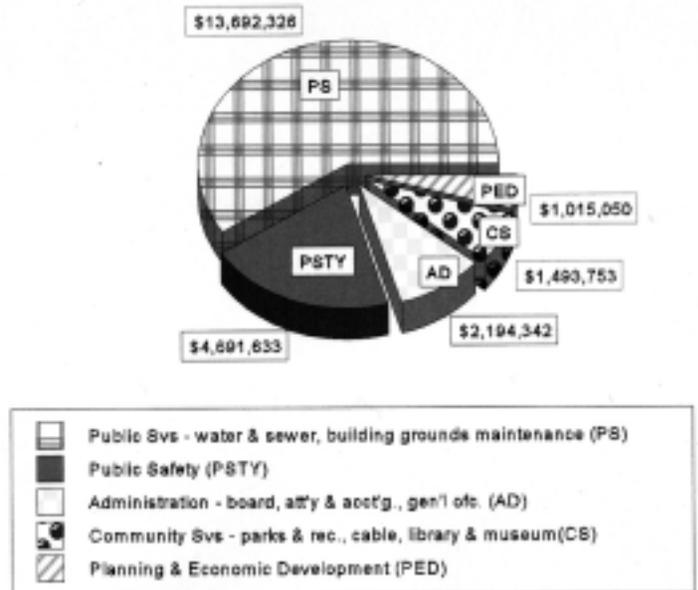
In this edition of the *Lake Ledger*, you will find a pie chart that provides an explanation of revenue sources and how that money is spent in providing public services. I think it is important for you to know how we spend the money we receive, and hope this chart provides that data in an easily understandable format.

As I close, remember, summer will soon be here. Take time to visit one of our parks - Van Buren, Quirk, French Landing. Say "hi" to the cop you see riding a bike in your neighborhood. Come help in building the playscape at Van Buren

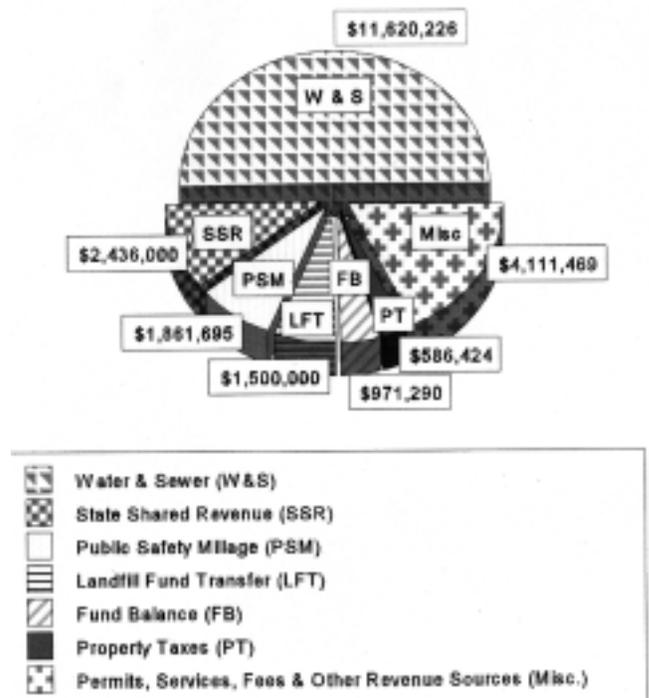
Park. Give us your ideas for making sure Van Buren remains a great community.

Van Buren Township Budget 2002

Expenditures



Revenue Sources



LIVING ON THE EDGE:

Continued from Cover Page

Here is a list of the traditional lakeshore problems that can be solved with a buffer zone:

Problem: Loss of wildlife habitat**Cause:** Manicured lawns

- A blue-grass lawn does not provide the basic habitat needs of food and shelter for most woodland and aquatic wildlife species.
- When native landscape is cleared, some trees may be saved, but the understory is often removed, taking away important food sources and nesting areas for a variety of species.
- Pesticides also degrade the surrounding habitat and eliminate invertebrates that are needed by many creatures as food.

Solution: Buffer zone

- A buffer zone replaces shoreline wildlife habitat that may have been previously lost. Once again the lakeshore becomes an area for wildlife nesting, feeding, brood rearing, perching and sunning, and travel.

Problem: Algal blooms and excessive plant growth

- Submergent plant growth is a nuisance when it becomes so extensive that it interferes with recreation.
- Algal blooms create a floating green, slimy mat on the water surface, or turn the water the color of blue-green paint.
- Algal blooms may block light from beneficial rooted aquatic plants.
- Algae also consumes oxygen during the decomposition process, depriving fish and other aquatic life of this essential element.

Cause: Growth of aquatic plants and algae depends on the nutrient supply in the water.

- Phosphorus is the primary nutrient that stimulates excessive growth of plants in lakes.
- Lawn fertilizers contain a great deal of phosphorus.
- The way a lawn is managed or mismanaged frequently contributes to widespread lakeshore problems - too much plant growth and nuisance algal blooms.
- The frequency and severity of algal blooms increase with the lake phosphorus concentration.

Solution: Buffer zones and phosphorus reduction

- A buffer zone will help filter run-off entering the lake.
- A buffer zone can reduce the size of a lakeshore lawn which will reduce the amount of lawn fertilizer.
- Using fertilizer with little or no phosphorus will reduce the amount of nutrients entering the lake.

Problem: Nuisance Animals

- Among the wildlife species most commonly considered as nuisances on lakeshore lawns are Canada geese, mallard ducks, and muskrats.

- Duck and goose droppings add nutrients to the water that can alter plant growth and also pose a threat for e.coli bacteria contamination.

Cause: Manicured lawns

- Well-maintained lakeshore lawns are ideal food sources for Canada geese, which are attracted to the continual supply of new green growth.

Solution: Buffer zone

- Nuisance animals, like Canada geese and mallards, will not usually cross a buffer zone from the water's edge to a lawn because they are reluctant to walk through tall grass that provides good camouflage for predators.

Problem: Erosion and sedimentation

- Erosion is one of the most common problems experienced by lakeshore owners.
- Erosion makes water murky or cloudy - this makes feeding difficult for fish and wildlife that rely on sight for hunting.
- Soil particles and organic debris from erosion settle on the lake bottom (sedimentation) and covers plants and bottom habitat required for invertebrates. Erosion also pollutes the water by releasing nutrients and other pollutants attached to the soil.

Cause: The main cause of shoreline erosion is wave action

- Waves wash against the shoreline and eventually wear away unprotected soils.
- The erosive action of waves against the shore is accelerated when bluegrass lawns replace the native plant species on the bank. Bluegrass is a shallow-rooted species that cannot protect soil as well as deeper-rooted native shrubs and perennials.
- Runoff from yards may also result in erosion of upland soils and sedimentation in the lake.

Solution: Buffer zone

- The roots of plants stabilize the soil and take up water from the lower soil layers.
- Once rainwater reaches the ground level, the complex structure of grasses and wildflowers slows the flow of the water and allows more of it to soak into the ground.

Problem: Loss of Leisure Time

- Americans on average spend 40 or more hours mowing their lawns. Mowing is especially time consuming when having to mow steep slopes.
- Additional hours are spent with other lawn maintenance activities such as watering, reseeding, applying fertilizers, and disposing of grass clippings.

Cause:

- People with large lawns are obligated to spend quality time with a lawnmower and lawn maintenance activities rather than spending quality weekend time relaxing and enjoying the lake.

Solution:

-- A properly designed buffer area can be very low maintenance once established and can be a beautiful design element that can add to the beauty of the property with a seasonal display of color, textures, aromas, and wildlife activity.

The Van Buren Township Environmental Department can point you to resources that can help you redesign your existing shoreline to make it more sustainable and water quality friendly. One good place to start is to pick up a copy of the manual "Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality", which is available at Township Hall. We can also give you a list of local landscapers and nurseries that can supply the materials and experience to help you do the job right. As you begin to think about redesigning and rediscovering your shoreline, remember that it is not necessary to take on the entire task at once. Once you have put together a master plan for your shoreline you can divide the project into workable small projects that can allow you to experiment with different elements to discover what works and what you like.

Redesigning your shoreline is an important first step in becoming a steward of Belleville Lake. When we talk about the concept of lakeshore stewardship, what do we mean? Webster's defines stewardship as "the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." Because of the close proximity to the lake, lakefront property owners are lake stewards that are entrusted with its care. Other stewards include everyone upstream and everyone that lives within the watershed of Belleville Lake. A watershed is defined as all of the land that drains into a certain waterbody. Many of us that do not live on the lake are directly connected by storm sewers, swales, streams, and creeks, which in essence makes all of our property "waterfront property." Remember that we are all part of the problem and part of the solution, by working together we can ensure that Belleville Lake will be a natural and recreational resource for now and for future generations.

CLERK'S OFFICE

By: Joannie D. Payne, Clerk

We are well into the year 2002 and staff of the Clerk's Office are preparing for another busy election cycle with elections scheduled for August 6 and November 5. The year 2001 was relatively quiet with only a school election and a special community college district election. This allowed time for staff to review processes used in 2000 and work on improvements for 2002.

Many changes have been made to the Michigan Election Law, which will have impact on how election processes are handled. There is one change, which will have, in my opinion significant impact on voters. Public Act 269 of 2001, which is scheduled to go into effect on March 22, 2002, has a provision for the elimination of straight party voting in our state. Petitions for a referendum election to reject Public Act 269 of 2001, which amended and added provisions to the Michigan Election Law to terminate the right of voters to choose to vote a straight political party ticket by a single selection on the ballot were collected and are due to be submitted to the Bureau of Elections by March 21. 151,000 valid signatures are required to put this item on the ballot. The State Bureau of Elections has 45 to 60 days to determine the validity of the signatures submitted and make a recommendation to the Board of Convassers. This is an item that I along with many other Clerks in the State are watching closely for its impact on our communities. Interestingly enough, Christopher Thomas, Director of the Bureau of Elections stated voters previously voted on this matter in the mid-sixties to keep straight party voting.

In addition, changes and improvements are being made to the Qualified Voter File, which is the computer database system used throughout the State of Michigan for voting. The Qualified Voter File ties voter information to the driver's license file. A change to one system prompts a change to the other. For instance, if you change your driver's license address or name it will also change that same information in the voter registration file.

Should you have any questions regarding your voter registration or you are interested in working as a precinct inspector, please contact my office at (734) 699-8909.

I along with six other residents from the community were appointed to a special Park Advisory Committee by the Township Board to research and make recommendation regarding opening Van Buren Park to the general public, rather than a residents only park. After almost six months of meetings, conversations with residents and research by the Park Advisory Committee we recommended the Township Board open Van Buren Park for use by all persons, regardless of residency. In December 2001, the Board approved opening the park to all people. Many wonderful activities and events are being planned for this year and I urge you all to visit our wonderful park.

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

EMERGENCY!

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

VBTV 12



A view of some of the equipment in the cable editing room

I'd like to encourage all of our residents who have cable to watch Channel 12 on a regular basis. It is one of the best places to get up-to-date township information. The bulletin board runs 24 hours every day and contains contact information for all township departments, meeting notices, special events and much more.

We have some exciting new programs that are shown several times each week including coverage of the 25th anniversary of September Days Senior Center and the Lake Shore Expo. We also have a new program created by Cable Staff Intern Stephen Toon, "Frog and Toad Survey."

Also, "The State of the Township: A Year in Review" will be airing in April and will feature Supervisor Cindy King along with each of the township's Department Directors. I encourage everyone to view this presentation as it showcases the hard work and talent of the many people who work so hard to make our community a wonderful place to live.

Tune in to VBTV 12 to find out when these programs and many more will be shown. This information can also be found on the township's website: vanburen-mi.org. Thank you.

Ally Acosta
Cable Operations Manager

TREASURER'S OFFICE

By: Sharry A. Budd, Treasurer

Spring is just about to be sprung. The robins are coming home, the trees are starting to bloom, flowers are pushing up all over and the grass is getting green. Time to maybe put the snow shovels and snow blowers in the back corner of the garage and get the lawn mower tuned-up. All this makes for a good part of being a Van Buren Township resident and able to enjoy the four very beautiful seasons offered in Michigan.

My staff has been busy getting the tax records in order, helping residents with tax questions and sometimes making extra copies of tax bills so everyone can make the April 15th IRS deadline. The tax books are balanced and on the way to the Wayne County Treasurer. A big thanks to my staff for a job well done. Now it's catch-up time to get all the little jobs done that had to wait. Hope your taxes are done and the refunds are in the mail.

This time of the year the auditors will be in Township Hall to do the annual audit. Auditors usually mean numbers and here are a few I thought were interesting. The Treasurer's Office handles about 7,370 real property parcels and 506 personal property parcels for tax billings. We collect over 5,800 water bills. Every time the Planning Department issues any kind of a permit it creates a transaction for the Treasurer's Office. All the seniors, park and recreation revenues generated by classes, programs, and park admissions are accounted for in my office. Over 15,500 transactions crossed our counter in 2001 which means about 1,209 a month or about 64 residents a day using the Treasurer's Office. We collected and disbursed over \$35 million dollars in the year 2001. Because we collect the amounts assessed by all the entities on properties in Van Buren Township, we are also responsible to see that those funds get paid to the proper source, such as the schools and the County. The Treasurer's Office works as the check and balance for all revenue as well as making sure funds are available to cover the checks issued for Township expenditures.

Van Buren Township is planning another drive-in dog clinic for Saturday, May 4th at the Van Buren Township Water/Sewer Building from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Residents will be able to get their dogs vaccinated and purchase dog licenses. Come and say hello to my staff, as we will be there to assist you.

The weather is getting warmer so get out and enjoy the season. Always be kind to each other and remember the Treasurer's Office remains committed to serving you.

AN ADVENTURE AWAITS YOU

Winter is almost over and much has been going on in the Parks Department. A little over a month ago, the Board of Trustees approved our application to Wayne County for the use of CDBG funds. Funds this coming year are being requested for senior services (a bus and activity garden), ADA improvements (pavilions, playstructure, picnic tables and grills), administration and planning (for our soon-to-be Riggs Heritage Park property). As always, if you have any questions about a particular project, feel free to contact me.

And while spring is here, the summer schedule is almost complete. We're continuing our work in prepping Van Buren

Park for the many family events, family reunions, picnics, weddings and graduation parties that we'll host this summer. While I can't give you all the events and dates, I'm including some to get you in the mood.



A beautiful scenic overlook of Belleville Lake at Van Buren Park

We start in May with events that will help us kick off National Fitness Month. Van Buren Parks and Recreation and Lower Huron Metropark have gotten together to bring a weekly activity to the Tri-Community area, Walk Michigan. This program begins May 1st and takes place on Wednesdays throughout the summer. All ages are welcome to participate. On each or any Wednesday, anytime between 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., just drop in and register at the pavilion next to the outdoor pool in Lower Huron Metropark. You can walk anywhere from 1-3 miles each day and for each mile you walk, you'll get one entry into a drawing to win a trip for two for 4 days/3 nights to Mission Point Hotel on Mackinac Island for Labor Day weekend. Thousands of people converge on Mackinac Island for the Annual Bridge Walk, this is the finale for this statewide non-competitive walking program. After you're done walking, take a dip in the pool or enjoy some free, healthy snacks. This will be the perfect summer program to give you that jumpstart on getting back into shape this summer.

Our next event scheduled takes place on May 18th with Wag & Walk. This is an opportunity for you and your faithful friend to come out and get in shape with a nice 3-mile walk/run, while raising money/supplies for a great cause - the Michigan Humane Society.

Our third event in honor of National Fitness Month takes place on May 19th from 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., when Van Buren Parks and Recreation and Wayne County Parks and Recreation sponsor a Family Olympics Day at Van Buren Park. The day will include competitions for families and individuals with the likes of sack races, water balloon toss, tug of war, and relays. There will be live entertainment, refreshments, and games for everyone.

All this in May, and that is just the beginning. This summer at Van Buren Park you'll also be pleased to know we'll have the following events:

CAMP 911 - offered by Huron Valley Ambulance, this program teaches youth ages 9-12 about safety, CPR, and 1st aid with the help of paramedics, police and fire department staff.

MUSIC IN THE PARK - our inaugural concert series begins on June 26th. The concert series takes place at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights throughout the summer and features various music including: Christian rock, oldies, 80's, swing, jazz, and classical. All of the concerts are FREE! And better yet, the first 50 people get free snacks and soft drinks. Concert days are June 26, July 10, 17, 24, 31, and August 7. Call the Parks Department for a list of the coming artists.



A photo from the Winter 2002 Rock Climbing Class

AWESOME ADVENTURES - this youth program was featured in the winter edition of the *Lake Ledger*. It includes various outdoor recreation activities like kayaking, caving, whitewater rafting, rock climbing, etc. Throughout the summer, working with local outdoor organizations, these activities will be taking place in and around Michigan, at a minimal cost to those participating. A finalized list of activities should be available by press time.

On a slightly different note, the Parks and Recreation Department, along with *The View* newspaper is sponsoring a "Community Visions" photography contest. The Parks and Recreation Department is soliciting photographs in the two categories of People and Environmental. All pictures must be amateur photos taken in Belleville, Sumpter, or Van Buren. Pictures should be submitted between April 18-May 9. Finalists will be chosen and published in *The View* for mail in voting by residents in May. Winners will be published in a June issue of *The View* and will win valuable prizes.

AN ADVENTURE AWAITS YOU

Continued on Page Nine

PROTECT AND SERVE

The acts of domestic terrorism we experienced on September 11th of last year shocked us all. While there have been domestic terrorist acts since the United States was created in 1776, none have been so violent and so devastating. We all share the loss and the pain.

The fire fighters, police officers, and communications officers of the Van Buren Department of Public Safety have a long history of training and preparation for large-scale emergencies. We have formed partnerships with numerous local, state, and federal agencies that share our concern for "home-land security."

While there is no reason to believe that our peaceful community would ever be the focus of savage attacks like those experienced in New York City or at the Pentagon, the men and women of the Van Buren Department of Public Safety remain solidly committed to "Protect and Serve" our fellow residents in time of sincere need. And, as always, we thank you for your continued support.

Christopher Elg, Director of Public Safety
Allen Smolen, Deputy Director of Public Safety
Kenneth Brooks, Lieutenant - Police Division

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SEWER BACKUPS OR BASEMENT FLOODING CLAIMS

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

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, you must file a written claim with the Van Buren Township Clerk, within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered. Notice must be mailed to Van Buren Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren, 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 under Departments, Water & Sewer or copies are available upon request by calling (734) 699-8925.

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

Spinning around the "Caution Tape", you turn the handle and peek past the front door. As you creep in, the strong scent of smoke and dirty water rushes towards you like a dog protecting its home. Moving farther inside, the door closes behind you, making the sun disappear into the night. At the end of the beam of your two-cell flashlight the remains of an early morning fire appears before you and like the Sunday paper's crossword there is a puzzle to solve.

Van Buren Fire Department's Fire Investigation Team is dedicated to determining the origin and causes of fires occurring in Van Buren Township. The importance and necessity of determining fire causes stem from requirements imposed by national, state, and local agencies who compile statistics to better protect you. These statistics, for instance, lead to national product recalls, revised fire and building codes, improved product safety features and fire prevention techniques.

Our Fire Investigators receive training, through the State Fire Marshal's Division, in Fire Behavior, Building Construction, Origin Determination, Utility Sources (i.e. Gas and Electric), Accidental Fire Causes, Incendiary Causes/Arson Motives, Vehicle Fire Investigations, Fatal Fires, and Legal Aspects. The legal and moral responsibilities that Fire Investigators face when assessing a fire's origin and cause allow an accurate determination to be made. Investigators eliminate accidental and incendiary sources, systematically, to determine the cause.

The Fire Investigation Team is made up of departmental members consisting of Daniel Besson, Douglas Doty, William Gage, and David McNally. In addition to working with outside investigators (i.e. Gas, Electric, Utility, State Fire Marshal, and Insurance) our Fire Investigators have several other responsibilities too, including:

- Collecting evidence, maintaining chain of custody and submitting evidence to the State Police Crime Lab, as necessary.
- Preparing and submitting written documentation, diagrams, and statements regarding ongoing investigations.
- Conducting public relations, public education, and fire prevention duties.
- Testifying in various court-related proceedings.

The Van Buren Fire Department Investigators strive to conduct in-depth and comprehensive fire origins and causes investigations, using systematic methods, to create accurate reports for statistical purposes and put the pieces of the "puzzle" together.

Daniel Besson
Fire Investigator

Fred C. Fischer Library

167 Fourth Street
Belleville, MI 48111

(734) 699-3291

Go the extra MiLE at the Fischer Library! The Michigan Library Exchange connects the catalogs of many public and academic libraries throughout the Detroit metro area including Eastern Michigan University, University of Michigan Dearborn, U of D Mercy, and many public libraries in Wayne, Oakland, Washtenaw, Livingston, and Macomb Counties. The program will allow library users to request items owned by MiLE libraries and have those items delivered to their local library. This program greatly extends the interloan capabilities of our Library Network. Funded with federal money, MiLE hopes to create a model program that can be expanded throughout all of Michigan Libraries.

For your convenience, loan periods on talking books, music CD's and non-fiction videos have been changed from one week to three weeks. Feature film videos and DVD's continue to have a one week loan and a dollar per day late fee.

New music CD shelving has been purchased by the Friends of the Library to help accommodate the ever growing music collection available at the library.

New magazine subscriptions have been added to the library, courtesy of David Brown Funeral Home. The titles are: *Disney Adventures, Family Circle, Fitness, Garden Design, Self, and Vibe.*

Spring Fever? The Friends of the Library Perennial Plant Swap will be held Saturday, May 4, from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the library courtyard. Indulge your gardening passions! Swap, barter, or give away those overabundant perennials while increasing the variety of plants in your own garden! All plants should be labeled and in a container.

Upcoming Friends Used Book Sales: Saturday, May 4, 2002, Saturday, August 3, 2002, and Saturday, November 2, 2002. All book sales run from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Experience the Magic...Read! Sign up for the Summer Reading Program begins June 3rd. Fun filled programs for grades 1-6 will be held on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. from June 18 - July 23. Read-To-Me programs for ages 3 1/2 - 6 will be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. from June 19 - July 24.

Visit the library's website (www.belleville.lib.mi.us) to find links to library programming, the Friends of the Library, community information, useful internet sites, and the library's catalog. With a library card and a pin number, you may renew books and check the status of your account from the web catalog.

Fred C. Fischer Library**Hours**

Monday	12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday	12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday	12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Thursday	12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday	12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

The Fred C. Fischer Library is located at 167 Fourth Street, take Belleville Road to Main Street and turn right on Fourth Street, the library is located across the street from Van Buren Fire Station No. 1.

AN ADVENTURE AWAITS YOU

Continued from Page Seven

We hope the programs we're offering meet your needs and you spend a day or two with us this summer. As always, I welcome your input when visiting any of our parks or taking part in an event this summer. Please offer your constructive comments to an on-duty staff member or feel free to call me at (734) 699-8921. Look forward to seeing you this summer!!!

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS REGARDING DELINQUENT WATER BILLS

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

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

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 feces report to the first class and register at the Van Buren Community Center.

Classes will be held at Belleville High School (Small Gym)



Tuesdays, May 14 - June 18
Tuesdays, June 25 - July 30
Tuesdays, August 6 - Sept 10

7:15 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. \$20.00 per dog

Pre-Registration is Necessary!

If you are interested in participating in any of the classes or programs offered, you must register early, class sizes are limited.



Pepsi Pitch Hit & Run Michigan Recreation & Park Association

On behalf of Major League Baseball and MRPA we would like to inform you that the program formerly known as Diamond Skills has been renamed to Major League Baseball Pepsi Pitch, Hit, & Run. The Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit, & Run Skills Competition is designed to encourage youth participation and emphasize the "FUN" element of baseball competition. Since there is no individual registration fee for this program, every boy and girl, ages 7-14 will have a chance to compete. Participants will compete in three important aspects of baseball: pitching, hitting, and baserunning.

Saturday, April 27th

Starting at 12:00 p.m.

Ages: 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14

FREE! FREE! FREE!

Program Mailing List

In an effort to update our mailing list, we are recreating our mailing list. If you would like to belong to our mailing list, please call or send in your address so we can add you to our files. Even if you are a current member of the mailing list still call or send in your address so we can make sure all information is correct. By us maintaining your information you will periodically receive a seasonal brochure, and flyers discussing the various programs and events at the Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department.

Parks and Recreation Program Mailing List

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Metro Youth Fitness 2002 Local Competition

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

Friday, July 19

11:00 a.m.

FREE!! FREE!! FREE!!

Adult Summer Basketball Tournament

Saturday, June 22 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Slam Dunk Contest at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 23 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Teams can be Co-ed 12 player Maximum

No residency requirements

\$180.00 per team Pre-register by June 19th



Mother/Son Dance (Hawaiian Luau)

Friday, May 10
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Van Buren Recreation Center presents its 6th annual Mother/Son Dance. This year the theme will be Hawaiian. Enjoy Hawaiian food, entertainment and of course music. Hawaiian apparel is desired but not required.

Van Buren Residents = \$10 per couple

Non-Residents = \$15 per couple

\$3.00 each additional child

Mother/Daughter Tea Party



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



To celebrate that special bond between mother and daughter we are having a mother/daughter tea party. Held at the Van Buren Community Center, mothers and daughters will take part in tea and sandwiches while creating crafts together. Door prizes will be given as well.

Van Buren Residents = \$10.00 per couple
Non-Residentes = \$15.00 per couple

\$3.00 for each additional child

Refund Policy

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

** No refunds after one week.**

Refund received within 4-6 weeks.

Wanting to teach a class?

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

Chalk Drawing Contest

Saturday, April 20
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Rain-date: Sunday, April 21
1:00 p.m. - 4:00p.m.

Let your imagination flow with creativity for this exciting special event. Participants will be broken into age groups: 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, 13-15, 16-17, 18 and up. We will be using the softball field parking lot located in the back of the township. There will be other activities to enjoy such as a hula hoop contest. Music and food will be part of the fun as well. There will be first, second, and third place winners for each division. Prizes will be given.

Ages: 4-17 = \$1.00 Ages: 18 and up = \$2.00
Pre-registration is necessary

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 Rukkila for class information at (734) 340-3686.

Ongoing, Mondays & Wednesdays

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



Ongoing, Saturdays

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

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

4 week EFT

(Electronic Funds Transfer) = \$33.00

6 week

(cash or check) = \$66.00

Walk in \$8.00



T'ai Chi, Chi Kung, & Meditation

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



Fridays, April 5 - May 31

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

Intermediates - 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



Fridays, June 21- August 16

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

Intermediates - 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Van Buren Residents = \$30.00

Non-Resident = \$45.00

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



Wag & Walk

Saturday, May 18

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Wag & Walk will consist of a three-mile walk/run with a dog and owner. This event is about getting you and your dog healthy and coming together as a community to raise money for the Michigan Humane Society, animals! The event will be held in the front of Van Buren Park.

Rules: Canines must have proof of rabies vaccination, clean up after your pets, dogs must be kept on a leash at all times and one dog per owner. Prizes will be given out for the owner that brings the most dog food and cat food, the dog and owner dressed in the most red, dog and owner look a like contest, more prizes will also be given out for raffles and such. Information will be on hand to help answer questions about your dog. Donations will be accepted for the Michigan Humane Society i.e., dry dog food, canned dog and cat food, cat and dog toys, blankets, kitten and puppy food, etc... Food and a D.J. will be there for every one to enjoy. Also get your dog's picture taken for a \$1.00. Pre-registration is desired but not required.

\$10.00 - pre-registration

\$15.00 - on-site registration

First 50 participants receive a free T-shirt

Cooking Demonstration

Join Owner/Chef of the Belleville Bayou, Ernest O. Prokos for two hours of cooking lessons. Classes will be held **every second Thursday of each month.**

- Thursday, April 11
- Thursday, May 9
- Thursday, June 13
- Thursday, July 11
- Thursday, August 8



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

Classes are held at the Bayou Grill, 404 Main St. Register at the Township Hall.

\$20.00 each class

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.

****Every last Thursday of the month****
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



- April 25
- May 30
- June 27
- July 25
- August 29

Held at the Bayou Grill in Belleville located at 404 Main Street Please Register at the Township Hall

\$25.00 per class

Youth Dance

Spring Session: Saturdays, April 27 - June 8
(No class May 25)

Summer Session: Saturdays, June 22 - August 10
(No Class July 6 or July 20)

Ages: 7 & up

- Beginner Jazz 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.
- Beg/Int. Ballet 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Beg/Int. Tap 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Van Buren Residents = \$30 Non-Residents = \$45

Ages: 4-6

- Kinder Jazz 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Kinder Ballet 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Kinder Tap 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Van Buren Residents = \$25 Non-Residents = \$40

Ages: 7 & up

- Intermediate Jazz 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

Babysitter Certification Class

Learn the proper techniques of babysitting from the American Red Cross. Must attend the entire session to receive babysitter's ARC certification.



Wednesdays, May 15 & 22
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Ages: 11 and up - **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

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

Eye on the Future

Learn the fundamentals of interviewing, how to write resumes and obtain vital information from guest speakers. Various companies will assist with interviewing and resume writing.

Wednesday - Friday May 1 - 3
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **FREE!! FREE!! FREE!!**

Ages 13 - 19

2002 Michigan Community Hershey Track & Field Local Competition

A physical fitness participation event for the youth of North America. Come out to Van Buren Park and try out for various events i.e., 50 meter, 100 meter, 200 meter, 400 meter, 800 meter, short jump, long jump, softball throw. Winners go on to compete at the state meet in Howell, MI. Youth must be between the ages of 9-14.

Try outs: Tuesday, June 18
11:00 a.m.

FREE!! FREE!! FREE!!

Van Buren Park is located on the S. I-94 Service Drive between Belleville and Rawsonville Roads.

2002 Wal Mart Kids All American Fishing Derby

In honor of "Take a Kid Fishing Week" and Father's Day, VBT & Ypsilanti Township are teaming up to bring kids ages 6-14 a chance to show off their fishing skills.

The event will be held at the North Bay Park in Ypsilanti Township. The event is free, however, participants will be asked to pay a fee of \$3.00 to enter the park.

Saturday, June 8
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Rules: Parents are asked to be present with their children at all times.

Participants must bring their own bait and tackle.

Please Pre-register by

Wednesday, June 5th

Each child will receive a certificate for competing in the various fishing contests.

Kids Safari Spy Camp

May 4 - May 25
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Van Buren Township and Tom Sly The Nature Spy offers your child a new and unique wildlife discovery program, 4 consecutive Saturdays only for kids 8-14. Naturalist Thomas Schneider and previous VBT day camp counselor Annalin Jasper will take a maximum of twenty kids to various parks within the local surrounding area to learn about their habitats and habitats in Western Wayne and Washtenaw Counties through a detective style search for their hidden hideaways.

Children are to be dropped off at the Van Buren Community Center at 9:00 a.m. and picked up at the center promptly at 3:00 p.m. Kids are required to bring a sack lunch, snacks will be provided. Children should dress appropriately for outdoor activity.

Look for Flickers, Foxes, and Frogs, Beetles, Barred-Owls and Bluebirds, snakes, squirrels, and spiders, owls, opossum, and osprey - just to name some creatures that you may spy on.

\$120.00 without Nature Kit; Bring your own supplies
\$150.00 with Nature Kit; binoculars and glass finder
(T-shirt included with each price)

Summer/Fall Softball

League starts Mid-Summer

Tuesday Recreational League = \$415.00 - 2 umpires
Wednesday Competitive = \$415.00 - 2 umpires
Friday Co-ed = \$390.00 - 1 umpire

Returning team registration:

begins Monday, May 6

New team registration:

begins Monday, June 3

A \$40.00 refundable forfeit fee is included in the price.

Games start at 6:15 p.m.

Games played at the Van Buren Softball Field

Managers meeting in July

Tae Kwon Do

Tae Kwon Do is a martial art from Korea. This class is designed for students of all levels, white belt through black belt. In addition to learning a scientific form of self defense, students will learn values such as respect, self control, and increased self esteem. Through training in class, students will speed reflexes, increase coordination, and develop a physically fit body.



Spring Session

Tuesdays & Thursdays
 April 16 - June 20
 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Summer Session

Tuesdays & Thursdays
 July 9 - September 12
 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Van Buren Residents = \$40.00
 Non-Residents = \$55.00

Family discounts available. Group discounts available. **Ages 8 & up.**

Adult Men's Flag Football

VBT is bringing you another organized sport activity... Flag Football!!

Managers meeting: Sunday, August 4

Deadline to register: Thursday, August 1

August 11 - October 20

(No games will be held on September 1st in observance of Labor Day weekend)

Minimum of 8 on a roster

\$500.00 per team

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

Co-ed Adult Kickball

Remember this? Gathering a team in the school playground and playing Kickball! Well it's back! Van Buren Township, Ypsilanti Township, Pittsfield Township, and the City of Ypsilanti Recreation departments are collaboratively hosting a Co-ed Adult Kickball League. Get your team and join the fun by registering by May 24th. For information, contact Van Buren Parks and Recreation at (734) 699-8921.

Registration = \$180.00 per team
 \$30.00 forfeit fee included in price
Registration deadline = May 24th



Team Meeting Friday, June 7th
 Contracts & Rosters due June 14th
 Games start Friday, June 21 - August 2
 Tournament = Saturday, August 17th

15 players per team - no residency requirements

**NEEDED - BELLEVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOKS**

Over the years, the Belleville High School yearbook has been published under several names, including LaBelle, Echoes, Blueprints, and for many years the Tiger Lore. The first known Belleville High School yearbook was published in 1917, and the Belleville Area Museum is proud to possess two copies of that early publication.

Although it appears that the yearbook was published sporadically during the early years, the museum has editions which appeared in 1919, 1920, 1923-28, and 1930. The yearbook was not published from 1931 to 1946 during the hard years of the Great Depression and World War II. Publication resumed in 1947 with a yearbook entitled "Reflections."

The museum is attempting to develop a complete collection of BHS yearbooks. These books are often used by researchers who are investigating the history of high school or looking for old advertisements, photos of family members, etc.

In order to complete our collection, we need yearbooks from the following years:

- The "missing years" between 1917 and 1930 and the year 1948, if such editions exist.
- 1980-89
- 1990-99
- 2000-01

If you have a copy from any of the above years that you would like to donate to the museum, please call (734) 697-1944.

The Belleville Area Museum is located at 405 Main Street and is open Tuesday through Saturday noon - 4:00 p.m.

It's not too early to mark your calendar for:

**The Fourth Annual
Belleville Area Home Tour**

**Sunday, September 15
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

Enjoy a personal tour of several of Belleville's most unique homes.

Tickets on sale in August
\$8.00 in advance
\$10.00 day of tour

**TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS
A History of Community Enterprise**



Belleville Area Museum Dime Store exhibit

If you remember shopping at the stores which once lined Belleville's Main Street, be sure to visit the latest exhibit at the Belleville Area Museum. Entitled "Taking Care of Business," the exhibit features artifacts from old time community businesses including restaurants, gas stations, funeral chapels, and hardware stores. Photographs of several long vanished local businesses are on display throughout the museum.

Highlight of the display is a replica of a 1940's/1950's dime store. Items on exhibit include a collection of aprons, handkerchiefs, ladies' gloves, children's toys, and old-time cleaning supplies including Fels Naptha soap and laundry bluing. The dime store also includes a restaurant area complete with jukebox. Museum visitors can even purchase some traditional five and ten cent items from a "sidewalk sale" in front of the dime store.

Featured in the exhibit are several items from Hamilton Hardware, a business operated by the Hamilton family from 1927 to 1986, as well as artifacts from the former medical practice of family physician Dr. Herbert Robb. The carriage and auto sales business of the Sumpter Randall family is also highlighted in the display.

Currently under construction for the new exhibit is a small replica of the Wabash Depot which formerly stood on Sumpter Road next to the railroad track. When completed, the depot will be used to display railroad memorabilia.

The Belleville Area Museum is located at 405 Main Street in downtown Belleville. Admission is \$1.00 for adults and fifty cents for children. Hours are noon to 4:00 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays. The museum is closed holiday weekends.

Diane Wilson
Museum Director

COMMUNITY GROWTH

The human and economic tragedies affecting our nation as well as the world over the last 7 months have certainly moved many of us to reevaluate those parts of our life that are dear to us. I know I have examined and modified my priorities as they relate to my family and professional goals, my habits and commitments, and I have started doing some of those always-talked-about-but-never-quite-followed-through with dreams. I am not surprised in my reactions and am well aware that I am not the only human being experiencing this, but what has pleasantly surprised me is the change in the manner in which members of the community and visitors to the Department interact and make decisions.

The Township has not seen any significant drop off in new home permit applications, none at least that can't be explained by the typical winter-weather slow down. Nor has the Department experienced a measurable decrease in residential addition and alteration permits. We are seeing plans that are a bit more detailed, a few more nicer amenities in and around homes. Developers and sales agents report that while foot traffic has dropped off a higher percentage of visitors are buying new homes. It appears that some of us have decided to buy those things that are important to us and to buy them now.

Non-residential development, retail and industrial, has slowed a bit. That should not be surprising and in the 32 years I have worked in and around development these cycles are typical, to be expected, and will pass. I have no doubt that somewhere in the near future momentum will once again grow and the non-residential sector will not only revive but come on strong.

The Visteon opportunity is still alive and well. The company, while announcing that Van Buren is their only desired location, is being extremely cautious and guarded about their decision to proceed and have not announced when and how that will happen. While we would all like to see the headquarters built here now, Visteon must evaluate its position in light of present day global economic conditions. Now more than ever international and the larger national companies are being scrutinized by shareholders, auditors, the market, and the Federal Government. When they do build here though I am sure that they will quickly realize Van Buren Township is the place to be.

The significant news that will affect the community and the Department is the new Airport Authority legislation enacted and enabled by the State Legislature over the past month. You will be hearing a new word, Aerotropolis, to describe a significant planning initiative by Wayne County to advertise and maximize the economic impact the new Metro Airport midfield terminal will have on the County and local municipalities. Both Metro and Willow Run Airports have the

momentum to bring outstanding opportunities to Van Buren. With the good comes the not so good, however, and the strength of the Township regulations as well as the input of its citizens will be called on frequently in the coming months to continue to demand careful and managed growth.

As always visit the Department, have a cup of bad coffee on us, and let us know what you think. You will get two free coffees if you can name each of the staff persons in the Department when you visit us.

Van Buren is a good place to be and right now is the best time to be here.

Bryce Kelley
Director of Planning & Economic Development

PHOTO OPS

Matt Forster and I have a mission to get some great photos of the Township this year. We have already passed the months of January, February, and March, so to help us we are looking for photo-opportunities. Here are the types of subjects we are looking for now:

1. Spring time natural features.
2. Tradespeople and their workplace.
3. Van Buren-esque scenes, places, features.

Drop us a line, email, or phone.

Thank you for your help.

Matt Forster
Bryce Kelley
46425 Tyler Road
Van Buren Township, MI 48111
(734) 699-8913
mforster@vanburen-mi.org
bkelley@vanburen-mi.org

Still Needed for the Business Exhibit:

A 1940/50's era bird cage
Soda fountain dishes
Milk cans

If you have any artifacts you wish to loan or donate to the museum, please contact the museum at (734) 697-1944.

VOLUNTEERS: The Foundation of our Success



September Days Volunteer Breakfast

An essential element of any successful organization is the level of commitment invested by its members. September Days Senior Center is one such group that has benefited from the time and talents of its members, and especially from the many exceptional volunteers. The interests and skills of this diverse population lead to a plethora of events and activities that promote and preserve emotional, physical, and mental health. The overall maintenance of this program is apparent in the efficiency of this senior association.

A study released by the University of Toronto describes the environment that is the basis for this success. "Organizations are more likely to have successful, sustainable initiatives if they define their own problems, search out solutions, control their own programs, and strategize to make change." At September Days, the senior members are active in both suggesting and implementing change. Volunteers are a key element in this process, and are active in all matters. The crew that meets monthly to assemble the newsletter is entirely made up of senior volunteers. Volunteers operate the gift shop, tend to kitchen duties, and run most of the classes. The experience, knowledge, and creativity of the volunteers is vital to the order and operation of the senior office. September Days has the advantage of volunteers who are both professional and personal. Gandhi once stated "the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Because April is National Month of the Volunteer, the staff at September Days would like to take this opportunity to thank those volunteers who have found themselves in servicing our community.

Erin Wiley
Senior Specialist

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.

All Homeowners:

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

Special Pickups:

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

Remodeling and Construction Material:

All remodeling and construction materials are not acceptable for curbside pick up. These items must be taken directly to the landfill in a non-commercial vehicle. The resident of the home must be present to show their driver's license at the front gate to prove residency.

Damaged Containers:

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

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 \$75.00.

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

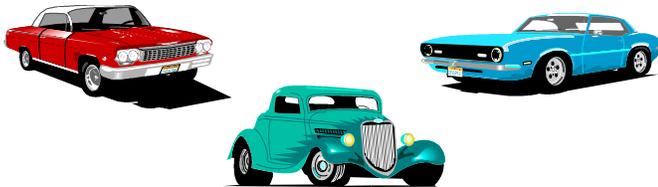
COMPOST GUIDELINES

<p>Brush</p> 	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Leaves and Grass Clippings</p> 	<p>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.</p> <p>Do not overload compost bags, and be sure to fold down the tops for easier lifting.</p> <p><i>Do not use pastic bags!!</i></p> <p>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 30 gallon can. 50 lb limit.</p>

RECYCLE GUIDELINES

<p>Paper</p> 	<p>Newspapers: Including all inserts, advertisements, and magazines that are delivered with them.</p> <p>White Paper: Including office paper, computer paper, and envelopes.</p> <p>Brown Paper Bags: Keep them separate from your paper.</p> 
<p>Tin</p> 	<p>Tin Cans: Remove all labels and rinse them out before placing in bin.</p> <p>Aluminum: Containers and foil.</p>
<p>Glass</p> 	<p>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.</p>
<p>Plastic</p> 	<p>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.</p>

20th Annual Midnight Cruisers
 Rod and Custom Car Show
 3-day Swap Meet



Friday, August 23rd, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 24th, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 25th, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast

Sat & Sun, August 24 & 25, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 Adults = \$5.00 Children 10 & under = \$4.00

Van Buren Park

S. I-94 Service Drive (between Belleville and Rawsonville Roads)

Admission: \$2.00 per person
Children 12 & under are FREE!!

For further information, please call the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department at (734) 699-8921.

Township Meetings

Board Meetings:

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

Work Study Meetings:

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

Environmental Commission:

2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission:

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

Water/Sewer Commission:

4th Monday 7:00 p.m.

Downtown Devel. Authority:

2nd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.

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 Committe:

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)

Supervisor 699-8910

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Jeffrey Jahr

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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

Brian Ballard, 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

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