

Charter Township of Van Buren

# Lake Ledger

Winter 2002



*Happy New Year!*

## HOLIDAY CRAFTS FOR KIDS

By: Jennifer Morris, Recreation Manager

This year our annual Holiday Crafts for Kids program fell on the same day as the Holiday Arts and Crafts Show. This was convenient for the parents because they had the chance to drop their child off for the craft workshop while they shopped around the craft show. Some of the crafts the children created were snowflake wreaths, pinecone Christmas trees, Santa Claus picture frames, and reindeer necklaces. The children had a pleasant time celebrating the season with these crafts. Holiday Crafts for Kids is a great chance for kids to use their imagination and cooperation with kids their own age.

Helpers, Recreation Staff Members, Carrie Shannahan, Tim Wortz, and Ryan Cottongim made sure the children received the special attention they needed with their crafts. Two sessions were available for children to join and both filled up. Hope to see everyone again next year and even some new faces too.

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## SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

By: Cindy C. King, Supervisor

It's hard to believe it's been a year since I took office as Supervisor for Van Buren Charter Township. The past year has been an extraordinary one. We have witnessed the building of several new homes throughout our community, the grand openings of WalMart, the Willow Creek Assisted Living Center, and Horizon Travel, a widened Rawsonville Road, and the installation of additional traffic control devices along Haggerty Road.

As I reflect upon the past twelve months, it has been a whirlwind period of sustained activity. During my first four months on the job, four key members of management chose to leave Van Buren for other opportunities. One, Bryce Kelley, chose after a few months to come back to Van Buren, something for which I am grateful. In October, the Board filled the Public Safety Director's position and I am pleased to report that Christopher Elg has hit the ground running and finds his days busy and challenging. I've heard many positive comments about his efforts from members of the department, other township staff, and some of you. I look forward to his expertise in leading the township's largest department and ensuring those in our community receive quality and valued public safety service.

In January, the Board hosted an unprecedented public informational meeting to disseminate information about the proposed expansion of the Environmental Quality (EQ) landfill on the North Service Drive. Based upon the advice of independent engineering and environmental consultants who reviewed the application for expansion, I believe our mutual concerns about adequate environmental safeguards are in place and the new landfill will be constructed utilizing the latest technology available in cell design. In a related matter, EQ established the Community Involvement Council (CIC), as required by the EPA - issued Toxic Substances Control Act permit. In November, this group met for the first time. Upcoming meetings of the CIC will be posted at township hall and on our website at [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org). I look forward to their efforts on behalf of our community.

Many new programs debuted in 2001 including the well-received Teen Camp, the Seniors Appraisal Fair and the Joy of Birding. 2001 also saw the addition of new faces here at Township Hall. Among them are Recreation Manager Jennifer Morris, Parks Manager Jason Camis, Water & Sewer Superintendent Larrie Ordu, Ordinance Enforcement Officer David Schuler (also a paid-call fire fighter), Senior Center Specialist Erin Wiley, Patrol Officers Stanley Switala and Christopher Valinski and Communications Officer and paid-call fire fighter Christopher Neilsen. In addition, Tammy Cunliffe, a part-time clerk in my office was hired as were fire fighters Gerald Wojtanowski, Jesse Marcotte, John Henderson, Jesse Brown, and Brian Bidwell, and Account Clerks Sara Smerek and Jennifer Parker.

In April, the University of Michigan Women's Crew Team hosted the Big 10 Championship on Belleville Lake, an event that highlighted this beautiful natural resource in our community to people from throughout the country. In June, September Days Senior Center hosted a 25th Silver Anniversary Dinner Dance that was well attended and an event that area seniors will be talking about for years to come.

In October, Environmental Director Ballard, and Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley hosted a workshop on land conservancy and preserving open space. Although resident participation was modest, this foray, a joint venture with the Michigan Land Conservancy, furthers our efforts at ensuring Van Buren preserves as many natural features as possible considering we are a community located in Michigan's most populated county.

As another example of preserving natural amenities, the Township Board approved the Planned Residential Agreement (PRD) with Creative Land Design, a subsidiary of Crosswinds Community, for the building of Country Walk, a residential development near Martinsville, Savage, and Lenmoore Roads. The township's first planned residential development, this innovative land use is designed to be compatible with neighboring properties and respectful of the natural environment. The site encompasses about 300 acres of which 53% will remain undeveloped and will comprise 536 residential units, 120 of which will be attached townhouses, four units per building. Interesting facts about this development include 86% of all units abutting some type of open space (75% of the single-family, detached units), units are to be located 200' from the road right-of-way along Savage and Martinsville Roads and there is to be significant buffering along the railway. Sidewalks will be built throughout the open space areas and along the perimeter of the property. Other amenities include two parks, gazebos, tot lots, picnic tables and significant landscaping and berming along the Martinsville and Savage Road entrances. Also of note is the proximity of this development to the first phase of our regional trailways plan that begins at the Lower Huron Metropark and ends at the Riggs Heritage Park, roughly 31 acres of land Creative Land Design is conveying, as part of the PRD Agreement, to the township for public use.

Always mindful of the need to seek alternative funding sources, Van Buren was successful in 2001 in receiving grant funds for developing a trailways plan and constructing Quirk Park located behind Township Hall. We were awarded a \$38,700 grant from the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan to develop one phase of a regional trailways system,

## SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

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## 2002 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

At the Board's October 16 regular meeting, a \$10,061,197 general fund budget was approved with a final revision in December adjusting the 2002 budget to \$9.98 million. While expenditures total just over ten million dollars, the budget anticipates maintaining a healthy fund balance ("savings account") at year's end.

2002 revenues include property taxes of \$586,424, public safety millage of \$1,861,695, \$898,800 in license and permit fees, state shared revenue of \$2,436,000 (a number that may require adjustment due to an anticipated reduction being made by the State), utilizing reserved and unreserved fund balance monies of \$971,290, a \$1.5 million transfer from the Landfill Fund, and other sources totaling \$1,734,926.

Planned expenditures include typical operating costs, among them employees wages, fringes, funding for training, supplies, equipment maintenance and utilities. Capital expenditures include the continued investment in the Public Safety Department's computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system, the development of Quirk Park, a new pole barn at Van Buren Park, new police patrol vehicles, cable equipment, and a truck for use in the Fire Department.

The township is required by law to have a balanced budget. In Van Buren, the process for developing the next fiscal year (in our case, the fiscal year is the same as the calendar year) budget begins in the spring of each year. Treasurer Budd coordinates this budget development effort with the Supervisor and Clerk compiling information on various expenses such as fringe benefits and projecting anticipated revenues. Direction is given to management staff with respect to the submission of budget proposals. Proposals are expected to be thoughtful and thorough. The Board's expectation is a written narrative explaining the funding requested and outlining any new programs or significant capital outlay proposals. In August of each year, the Board then meets individually with department directors over a series of 2-3 days during what is termed "budget preparation meetings." These meetings, open to the public, allow the Board an opportunity to informally meet with managers to discuss their services to the community. Various budget line items are fine-tuned; purchases prioritized and new ideas are given consideration. No later than November 1, the Board must take action to adopt a proposed General Fund budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

### REMINDER:

**Yard Waste season has ended** and will resume on April 1, 2002.

## NEW DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY CHRISTOPHER L. ELG



Christopher L. Elg, Director of Public Safety

On November 5, Christopher Elg commenced his career in Van Buren as Director of Public Safety. Formerly the Police Director of the Carteret Police Department in New Jersey, Mr. Elg comes to Van Buren with nearly eighteen years experience in both the police and fire professions. Starting his public safety career as an explorer, Director Elg holds a master's degree in public administration and another master's degree in administrative science. He is a graduate of the FBI executive command college, is nationally certified as an emergency medical technician and is a member of the U.S. Coast Guard. Director Elg served as Chief of Police in Medical Lake, Washington and spent ten years as a New York State Trooper. During his time in Medical Lake, Chris also served as a fire fighter/EMT and in Congers, New York, he served the department in the capacity of Assistant Fire Chief/Training Officer. Most recently, Director Elg was appointed to the Executive Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. In December, Director Elg earned certification to be a law enforcement officer in the State of Michigan.

Chris has made his home in Van Buren along with his wife, Rose, and son Eric. Chris plans to be active in our community so if you bump into him, please extend a warm welcome.

### 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.

## 2001 HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW



Parks Manager Jason Camis and EMU Staff serving concessions



Craft Show in the Gymnasium

The 18th Annual Holiday Craft Show was a huge success! This event brought in 50+ crafters with various hand-made crafts to present to the public. The crafts ranged from painted bird-houses to hand-made jewelry and wooden bowls. The day was a crafters paradise because the crafts were so assorted. The doors opened at 10:00 a.m. and in walked an abundance of gracious customers. The craft show brought in approximately 3,000 people who were all ready to purchase that special gift for someone or for themselves.

Now I have been to numerous craft shows and I'll tell you this craft show had so much warmth and friendliness. We had crafters who have been here for many years and we also had quite a few new crafters join the show as well. Whether the crafters were old or new they all acted like they had known each other for years. Even the customers were enthusiastic about the day. This craft show certainly had a hometown feeling with plenty of charm. Of course I am bias being from Van Buren Township.

Crafts were not the only attraction of this event. September Days Senior Center held a bake sale. Some of the baked goods were sweet breads, cookies, and cakes. In addition to the bake sale other foods could be purchased as well. Park Manager, Jason Camis and volunteers from Eastern Michigan University's Parks and Recreation Management Department sold food. Hotdogs, polish hotdogs, soup, and pop were just some of the variety of foods customers and crafters could buy. The proceeds collected from selling the food went to help fund a new program coming soon for kids, Adventure Camp.

Another feature that added excitement to customers and crafters was a raffle drawing. Raffle tickets were sold and in return the winner win items donated by restaurants Cracker Barrel and Dos Pesos, Jazzercise, Holiday Inn Express, and

## 2001 HOLIDAY CRAFTS SHOW

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## CLERK'S OFFICE

By: Joannie D. Payne, CMC, Clerk

The holiday season has now passed and it is time to look forward to 2002. For the Clerk's Office that means gearing up for the 2002 Election Cycle. As a result of the 2000 Census, changes are being made to governmental unit district boundaries for many communities, including Van Buren Township. The State of Michigan will lose one congressional seat [from 16 districts to 15 districts] in Washington due to the 2000 Census. Currently, we are part of the 13th Congressional District and our representative is Congresswoman Lynn Rivers (D), however, as part of the redistricting process, we will be part of the newly created 11th Congressional District. The reason it is called "newly created" is because based on the reconfiguration of the district boundary lines, there will not be an incumbent candidate running for this seat in the 2002 Election. The 8th State Senate District will become the 7th State Senate District based on the same redistricting process and we will continue to be served by Senator Loren Bennett (R). No changes have been made to the 21st State Representative District.

The Clerk's Office will mail out new voter identification cards to all registered voters within the new two to three months. The new cards will identify the new district number and list your voting location for governmental elections. School voting precincts may differ from governmental precincts and voters will need to contact the school for their specific precinct location.

For those residents interested in the voting process, the Clerk's Office is always looking for election inspectors. Interested persons may contact the Clerk's Office at (734) 699-8909 or via email to [jpayne@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:jpayne@vanburen-mi.org). Finally, this would be a good time to check your voter registration status, particularly if you have recently moved into our community, changed your name or moved within the township.

## SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

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and \$206,250 from the Clean Michigan Initiative Grant for Quirk Park. Also much appreciated were the generous contributions from the township's Downtown Development Authority and the Environmental Quality Company to assist in the development of Quirk Park.

The Township Board adopted the Ecorse-Haggerty Road Corridor Plan in 2001, a plan whose purpose is to create a boulevard along Ecorse Road from Haggerty Road to Willow Run Airport, to provide an improved traffic flow and a more aesthetically pleasing view for the various uses that exist along that busy road. Further, we approved the establishment of the Van Buren Park Advisory Committee, a group of residents meeting with the objective of making a recommendation to the Board about whether or not Van Buren Park should remain a

## VBTV 12

park open only to township and City of Belleville residents. I would be remiss not to mention the possibility that Visteon, the world's second largest automotive supplier, may soon make Van Buren the location of their world headquarters, and the decision by Ricardo, Inc. to locate their North American Headquarters in Van Buren. Finally, the Downtown Development Authority's \$1.3 million streetscape plan to plant trees and install streetlights along Belleville Road is well underway. I have heard many positive comments from you about our new monument sign at the Quirk Road triangle near the bridge and this project.

Are things "hoppin" in Van Buren? You bet. I hope our efforts to improve the quality of life in Van Buren reflect the type of community you want to call home. Let us know what you think, and take time to find out what's going on in Van Buren. Remember to check us out at [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org).

My best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a new year full of promise.

### VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP PROPERTY OWNERS

As many of you are probably aware, for the last two years the Wayne County Assessment and Equalization Department has been reviewing and computerizing the real property assessment data in Van Buren Charter Township. The purpose of this project was to confirm the accuracy of the existing records and future computerized data.

The results of this process have generated a new appraisal (estimated market value) for each property. In accordance with Michigan's Constitution, assessed values shall be no greater than 50% of fair market value.

Wayne County's Assessment Equalization staff members have put many hours into validating the accuracy of the assessment records. The project is now nearly completed with the final results being reviewed by Van Buren Township's Assessing staff.

To help alleviate any potential concerns or questions by property owners, soon after the first of the year this office will be mailing out a notice informing each property owner of an increase or decrease in the assessed and tentative taxable values. This will allow you a chance to review the information with the Wayne County Appraisers. Information regarding this review will be included in the mailed notice.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact the assessing office at (734) 699-8946 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



Some of the many programs produced by VBTV 12

At VBTV 12, we pride ourselves in keeping our community informed and entertained with an information bulletin board which runs twenty-four hours each day whenever a program is not airing; programs highlighting the classes and activities around the township; and live broadcast of Township Board Meetings. You can also check us out at our website, [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org) for program dates and times and other information regarding our community.

This winter we will continue with our regular line-up to bring you shows like the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce Interview with Janet Millard, the Belleville Historical Society meetings and, MDOT Today. If you wish to own a copy of a program you've seen on VBTV 12, give us a call at (734) 699-8912 x 322. The cost to purchase a video is \$15.00.

Don't forget to tune in to VBTV channel 12 to catch our exciting programs, and for up to date township information so that you can participate in all of the exciting opportunities our community has to offer. Also, watch for the State of the Township to air soon.

Ally Acosta  
Cable Operations Manager

### 2002 Historical Society Calendar

The 2002 Historical Society Calendar is available for sale at the Belleville Area Museum. Each month features a full-page historic photograph from the local community, including scenes such as Susterka Lake, the 1920 Belleville High School girls' basketball team, and the Arcade soda fountain on South Street. The calendars are published as a fund raiser for the Belleville Area Museum and cost \$6.00 each.

The calendars are 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.

## UNDERWATER SEARCH AND RECOVERY TEAM



A few members of the Van Buren Dive Team.

The Township of Van Buren has within its boundaries both Belleville Lake and parts of the Huron River, which provide year round activities to thousands of residents and visitors.

In the late eighties, the Department of Public Safety saw a need for a specialized unit that could be available within a short period of time to provide search, rescue, and recovery services in the bodies of water within the township. The team initially consisted of a small group of both police and fire personnel that would respond to an incident with their own personal SCUBA gear. As the use of the team began to increase, so did the need for standardized equipment. Through the support of the township, fundraisers, and a donation of a trailer by Huron Valley Steel Corporation, we now have a modern up-to-date team and equipment. The Dive Team is now prepared to respond to all water related emergencies in the community.

Dive Team members are highly trained personnel that have met very demanding requirements. All members of the team are available twenty-four hours a day and are trained in water rescue, evidence recovery, ice diving, night diving, small boat operation, vehicle recovery and swift water rescue. The team has a training day once a month and currently consists of five police officers, four fire fighters, and one Metropark Ranger.

In 2001, Belleville Lake was only one half hour away from reaching the official end of summer without losing anyone to drowning. On Labor Day at approximately 4:30 in the afternoon that goal was lost. A man fishing near the Harbor Club boat launch went into the water and did not resurface. The Van Buren Underwater Search and Recovery Team was activated and in approximately 30 minutes a diver had located the victim and medical personnel began attempts to save his life. Sadly the victim was unable to be revived.

The Dive Team can relate other incidents that highlight the value of their services including two boats that sank and were

recovered. Two vehicles went into the lake while launching boats and were recovered. A search was made in a green swamp for a weapon. Speaking of green swamps, Anthony Karver who is a member of the dive team, caught an elusive alligator from a rather pungent green pond in Van Buren Township.

Dive team members hosted four boaters safety classes last year that were well attended.

Dates for boaters safety classes this year are February 23, 2002, March 23, 2002, and April 27, 2002. To register for a class contact the Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department at (734) 699-8921. These classes are good for all boaters and are mandatory to operate a personal watercraft in the State of Michigan if you were born after December 31, 1978. A boaters safety class may also reduce insurance costs for watercraft insurance.

Van Buren Dive Team

## NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE



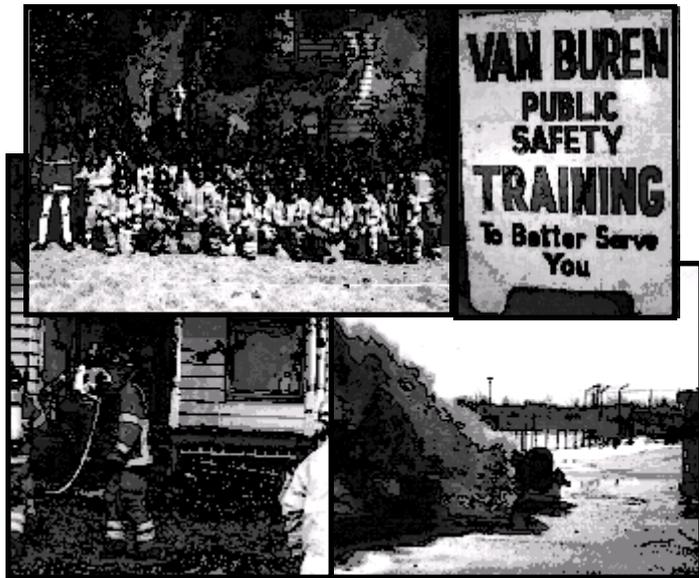
Back view of Utility 424



Front view of Utility 424

This Fall, the Fire Department took delivery of a new emergency response vehicle. Given the designation "Utility 424", the truck was built by Pierce Manufacturing on a Ford F-550 Super Duty Chassis. It is equipped with the "Jaws of Life," specialized rescue tools, high-powered scene lighting, compressed breathing air storage, a pump for water and foam, and many additional features that will serve our community for years to come. Fire Department crews are currently training with the vehicle and will begin using it at all emergencies in the very near future.

## PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT TRAINING



Fire Fighters on training burns

As seen in the above photos accompanying this article, the Van Buren Department of Public Safety places a heavy significance on training to meet the emergency needs of our community. As you travel through Van Buren, you may see groups of us on the lake (when it's water or ice) or columns of smoke rising from planned fires. When you see our training sign, the men and women of Public Safety are rehearsing the strategies and actions needed to provide you with the best emergency care possible.

Al Smolen  
Fire Chief

## PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2001, our fire fighters and police officers have taken classes and courses designed to improve their skills in the delivery of emergency services. We would like to acknowledge the following public safety personnel for their hard work in attaining new levels of certification:

### Jason Ling, Battalion Chief - Fire Station One:

Graduated from the Eastern Michigan University School of Fire Staff and Command.

### David Traskos, Fire Fighter - Fire Station Two:

Became licensed by the State of Michigan as an Emergency Medical Technician.

### William Gage, Fire Fighter - Fire Station One:

Became licensed by the State of Michigan as an Emergency Medical Technician.

### Daniel Besson, Fire Fighter - Fire Station One:

Became licensed by the State of Michigan as a Paramedic.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The new Director of Public Safety, Christopher Elg, is now on board and very busy making Van Buren Township a safer place to live and work. On behalf of the public safety officers I would like to welcome Director Elg. We look forward to a long and harmonious working relationship with him.

Winter's snowfall is just around the corner and that means it's time to prepare. Citizens should be thinking about getting their vehicles tuned up, checking their fluid levels and getting an emergency road kit together. Each vehicle should have extra warm clothes, a blanket, and a 5 pound coffee can with a candle for warmth in the event you are stranded without heat. Don't forget matches or a lighter. The kit should also contain first aid supplies along with some type of help needed sign. Water and a small snack might not be a bad idea also.

This year the Public Safety Department has joined a national effort in saving children's lives by stepping up enforcement of safety belt and child restraint laws. Van Buren Police have a zero tolerance policy for child restraint laws so buckle up your children and help make this holiday season a safe one.

The Police Department will once again join MADD in their effort to tie one on for safety. The Police Department will also be stepping up enforcement on drunk driving laws. All the police units will be tying on red ribbons to show support for the effort. Citizens can pick up red ribbons for their vehicles at the front desk of the Police Station.

Winter sports can be dangerous, please take and use the proper safety equipment and don't forget the rights of all citizens when using motorized winter recreation equipment.

From all of us in the Public Safety Department, have a safe and happy holiday season. Remember 911 is for emergencies only. The business line is (734) 699-8930.

Sgt. Dennis Brooks  
Public Safety Department

### FREE SMOKE DETECTORS

The Van Buren Fire Department will provide and install smoke detectors in homes of Township residents at no cost! Applications for this free smoke detector program are available at the Public Safety Department's Records window at Township Hall weekdays from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., or call 699-8930 to have an application mailed to your home.

We proudly offer this service in conjunction with local businesses and individuals that have generously donated the smoke detectors.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT WINTER SAFETY

With winter upon us, the Van Buren Fire Department would like to help protect you, your family and your home from the potential threat of fire during or after a winter storm. You can greatly reduce chances of becoming a fire casualty by being able to identify potential hazards and following the outlined safety tips.

### SOME TYPES OF FIRE RELATED HAZARDS PRESENT DURING AND AFTER A WINTER STORM.

- Alternative heating devices used incorrectly create fire hazards.
- Damaged or downed utility lines can present a fire and life safety hazard.
- Water damaged appliances and utilities can be electrically charged.
- Frozen water pipes can burst and cause safety hazards.
- Generators are often used during power outages. Generators that are not properly used and maintained can be very hazardous

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- If your home has sustained flood or water damage, and you can safely get to the main breaker or fuse box, turn off the power.
- Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. This includes cable TV feeds.
- Exposed outlets and wiring could present a fire and life safety hazard.
- Appliances that emit smoke or sparks should be unplugged then repaired or replaced.

### GENERATOR SAFETY

- Use a generator or other fuel-powered machines outside the home. Carbon Monoxide (CO) fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors.
- Use the appropriate size and type power cords to carry the electrical load. Overloaded cords can overheat and cause fires.
- Never run cords under rugs or carpets where heat might build up or damage to a cord may go unnoticed.

### HEATING SAFETY

- Do not use the kitchen stove/oven to heat your home. In addition to being a fire hazard, it can be a source of toxic fumes.
- Alternative heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least 3 feet away.
- Only use the type of fuel recommended by the manufacturer and follow the suggested guidelines.

- Never refill a space heater while it is operating or still hot.
- Refill heaters outdoors.
- Use a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace to prevent sparks from igniting nearby carpets, furniture or other combustible items.

### AND REMEMBER...

- Be careful when using candles. Keep flames away from combustible objects and out of the reach of children.
- Some smoke alarms may be dependent on your home's electrical service and could be inoperative during a power outage. Check to see if your smoke alarm uses a back-up battery and install a new battery at least once a year.
- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of snow and debris for easy access by the fire department.

Anthony Karver  
Fire Inspector

### 2001 HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW

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even crafts donated by some of the crafters. The proceeds from selling the tickets went to the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department Teen Camp. This money will help the teens in the summer enjoy various experiences.

I would like to extend a big thanks to everyone who helped in making this day pleasant and fun. It certainly made it easier on me since this was my first time putting this spectacular event together. I'm already working on ideas for next year.

On a side note I would like to extend an invitation to all to come and join our winter classes. Even if you can't join right away some of our classes can be prorated, so you can join them in the middle of the winter season if that works best for your schedule. Our classes are here for you to enjoy so please take advantage of them. Recreation doesn't take a vacation but you can take a mini one perhaps on a Birding class or go on an Antiquing trip and don't forget about our special events that will be very relaxing and fun. Everyone deserves a vacation even if it is just a short one. So come see us and join a class today. See you soon!

Jennifer Morris  
Recreation Manager

## 2001 SENIOR CHRISTMAS PARTY



Santa & Mrs. Claus visit the seniors after dinner.



Members with smiles waiting for dinner

September Days Senior Center held their annual Christmas Party on December 7. A record crowd of 377 seniors joined together with the township and senior staff to celebrate this festive event. Santa and Mrs. Claus also made a special guest appearance. The food, decorations and music complemented the mood of the participants. The evening was a great success. The air was thick with the sounds, smells and sights of the holiday season. However, the atmosphere held a slightly different air this year. There was a depth and sincerity that was very palpable. Perhaps the September 11th tragedy brought additional meaning to the spirit of this holiday season. A love and solidarity flowed through the waves of people, reflecting the strength and courage that was called on in ages past, when another great evil threatened to sever our common bonds and even our basic freedoms. After all, the Christmas season has always been a season of thanksgiving and a celebration of all the good that has happened in the past year to everyone. Sometimes in our busyness, we lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. The senior Christmas party revealed a fresh outlook. The winds of change have blown back the selfishness and recalled the selflessness of the "Greatest Generation," and it was evident that this generation will model again the unity and bravery they had shown in the past.

Erin Wiley  
Senior Specialist

## LOCAL BUSINESS EXHIBIT PLANNED FOR BELLEVILLE AREA MUSEUM

The Belleville Area Museum is planning an exhibit of old-time local businesses to open in 2002. We are looking for any item that has the name of an old local business on it, such as signs, advertising, invoices, receipts, matchbooks covers, promotional items, etc. We are also looking for photographs of old businesses as well as items that were purchased locally. Although we will accept artifacts from any era, we will be focusing on the time period from the 1960's and before.

### Do You Remember these Old Local Businesses???

Below is a list of various old-time Belleville businesses and some suggested items that we need. We will also accept items from other businesses or similar items that are representative of the time period.

**Detroit Edison** - appliances, bills  
**Madelyn's Beauty Shop** - chair/dryer, hair goods, pump chair, mirror  
**Manning's Dept. Store, Moss Bros., Kureth's, Mary Agnes Shop** - clothing, hat boxes, shopping bags, etc.  
**Robert Bros. Furniture & Funeral Home** - funeral programs, memorial cards, furniture  
**Huron Valley Dairy/Lunde's Ice Cream** - milk bottles, menus  
**A & P** - Eight O'clock banks  
**Belleville Feed Mill** - feed sacks  
**Local gas stations**  
**Belleville Bakery**  
**Kirk's Drugs** - medicine bottles, etc.  
**Hamilton Hardware**  
**Belvil Theatre** - tickets, advertising posters  
**Alban/Ammerman Lumber Co.**  
**People's State Bank**  
**J.C. Pullen & Son**  
**Spriggs Drugstore**  
**Rice Hardware**  
**Martin Theatre**  
**Sunnyside Lunch**  
**The School Store** (Carpenter & Schaal)

### 5 & 10 Cent Store

The centerpiece of the business exhibit is to be a scene, which will display the interior of an old five-and-dime store. For this display, we are looking for such artifacts as:

**Children's toys**  
**House dresses, aprons**  
**Yard goods**  
**Sewing notions, such as patterns, needles and buttons,** (preferably still on their original cards)  
**Stationary**  
**Hair nets, barrettes**  
**Stockings**  
**Comic books**  
**Golden books**  
**Greetings cards**  
**Bird cage**  
**Fish bowl**  
**Housewares, such as dishes, pots, potholders, mops, brooms**  
**Cosmetics**  
**Strips of photos** (photo booth)  
**Jewelry**  
**Racks for displaying comic books, greeting cards, etc.**  
**Popcorn Machine**  
**Soda fountain items - dishes, scoops, stools, dispensers**

If you wish to loan or donate any items for our exhibit, please contact the Belleville Area Museum at (734) 697-1944.

## Recreation Program Winter 2002

### T'ai Chi, Chi Kung, & Meditation

T'ai Chi Chaun 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, January 11 - March 8**  
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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

### 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 increase self esteem. Through training in class students will speed reflexes, increase coordination, and develop a physically fit body.

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
**January 8 - March 28**  
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Ages: 8 and up**

Van Buren Residents = \$40.00  
Non-Residents = \$55.00  
Optional Uniform fee = \$30.00

Family and group discounts  
are available.

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

**Mondays & Wednesdays**  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Ages: infants to 5 years

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

\$1.00 each additional child

### It' a Snowman Building Contest!!!

Families, come on out for our first snowman building event. The most original creative snowman wins. After building the snowman come on inside. Enjoy hot chocolate and munchies to warm you up. It'll be free, fun, and perhaps frigid, so please dress accordingly.

**1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place winners!!**

**Sunday, February 24**  
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**FREE FREE FREE**

## 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 classical music. Easy to follow choreography includes a gentle warmup, 30 minute aerobic workout, muscle toning and a strengthening segment with weights, and a stretch finale. Please call Instructor Patti Rukkila 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.**

**4 week EFT**  
 (Electronic Funds Transfer) = \$33.00

**6 week EFT**  
 (Electronic Funds Transfer) = \$66.00

Walk in = \$8.00

\*\*Please register the day of class with the instructor.\*\*

## Line Dancing

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

**2nd Tuesday of every month**  
**6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**  
**Starting January 8**

Van Buren Residents = \$5.00  
 Non-Residents = \$6.00

## Gymnastics

Learn the Fundamentals of Gymnastics.

March 9 - May 25

**Tot Tumbling** Ages: 4-6

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Van Buren Residents = \$50.00

Non-Residents = \$65.00

**Beginners** Ages: 7 and up

1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Van Buren Residents = \$55.00

Non-Residents = \$70.00

**Intermediates** Ages: 7 and up

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Van Buren Residents = \$60.00

Non-Residents = \$75.00

## Ballroom Dance

Learn the basics through advanced beginner dance styles. Couples welcome, partners not guaranteed. Please wear comfortable shoes.

Wednesdays, January 23 - March 13

**American & Latin Style Combo**  
 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Foxtrot, Waltz or Disco, Hustle, Cha Cha, Rhumba, Tango & more.

**Swing Dance Class**  
 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 1/2 time, full time and triple East Coast Swing.

	<b>Individual Class:</b>	<b>Both Classes:</b>
Van Buren Resident =	\$45.00	\$55.00
Non-Residents =	\$60.00	\$70.00

## Saturday Night Dance Parties

January 12 & 26

February 2 & 23

March 9 & 23

April 13 & 27

May 11 & 25

Dance Lessons: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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

**\$4.00 Lessons per person**

**\$7.00 Dancing per person**

Spacious Dance Floor...  
Plenty of Lighted Parking

Enjoy FREE snacks and great dancing,  
please bring your own refreshments.  
NO alcoholic beverages!!

## Mardi Gras Extravaganza

Mardi Gras Night will be an event filled  
with food catered by the one and only  
Belleville Bayou Grill.

**Friday, February 1**

7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Buffet is \$25.00 per person and  
includes appetizers, salad,  
jambalaya, and pop, etc...

Also enjoy free jazz music and dancing!

**Residency not required.**

**Pre-Registration is Necessary!!**

## Ladies' Superbowl Sunday Movie

Let the men stay home to watch  
the Superbowl. It's a girl's evening out  
to watch a free movie with popcorn  
and punch.

Enjoy Disney's The Princess Diaries

**Sunday, February 3**

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**FREE! FREE! FREE!**

## Mid-Break Winter Won- derland Crafts for Kids

Parents are you looking for something  
fun for your child to do during their mid-  
winter break? Kids are you ready to  
have some fun while creating winter  
crafts? Then don't hesitate and come  
to the recreation center to register for  
this special event. We will make crafts  
that are influenced by nature  
and winter.

**Saturday, February 23**

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. = Ages: 4-6

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. = Ages: 7-9

Van Buren Residents = \$10.00

\$8.00 each additional child

Non-Residents = \$15.00

\$8.00 each additional child

Michigan Recreation & Park Association

## **2002 Hoop Shoot Basketball Competition**

**Saturday, February 23**  
Starting at 1:00 p.m.

**FREE! FREE! FREE!**

Ages: 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, & 14-15

Must be between the age of 8 to 15 as of  
December 31 2002.

Must have Birth Certificate.

Can only use the Recreation Center's  
Equipment.

## **Boaters Safety Class**

Saturday, February 23  
Saturday, March 16  
Saturday, April 27

**FREE**

\*\* Each Class is limited to 40 students \*\*  
\*\* Need Social Security Number \*\*

**In Michigan a boaters safety certificate is  
MANDATORY in the following circumstances:**

A person who is over 12 but less than 14 may  
operate a personal watercraft if he or she has  
obtained a boating safety certificate.

Persons born after December 31, 1978 shall not  
operate a personal watercraft unless they obtain  
a boating safety certificate.

The operators of a personal watercraft must carry  
their boating safety certificate and display it  
upon the demand of a peace officer.

Violation of the above law is a misdemeanor,  
punishable by imprisonment up to 90 days or a  
fine of not more than \$100.00, or both.

## **All About Michigan Birds**

This educational class for beginner and  
advanced birders will help you discover  
the excitement of learning about familiar  
and not-so-familiar native species in a  
fun atmosphere of hand-outs, games,  
videos, and actual field experiences.

Indoor sessions will be followed by a  
Spring all-day field trip to a Lake Erie bird  
sanctuary, transportation included.

Learn about identification skills, bird  
habits and habitats, nest-building, etc.

A good bird field guide should be  
brought to each class.

**Tuesdays, January 22 - February 26**  
7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

**Cost: \$85.00**

(Cost of recommended birding  
books is additional.)

Your bird guide, Thomas Schneider, is a  
professional birding instructor for the National  
Wildlife Federation. His bird photos appear  
regularly in numerous nature publications,  
including the MI Audubon book, "Enjoying  
Birds in Michigan."

## **Gym I.D.'s**

Open gym participants can now  
purchase a monthly or yearly pass.

### **Monthly Passes:**

Van Buren Residents = \$20.00  
Non-Residents = \$35.00

### **Yearly Passes:**

Van Buren Residents = \$120.00  
Non-Residents = \$135.00

## Secrets of Successful Photography

Want to learn the best techniques for taking professional-quality photos of people, pets, and parties? Can you operate your camera equipment to maximize its potential? Bring your camera (35mm is preferred) and come join in the fun of making better pictures. Instruction will include info on proper equipment and film, subject selection and lighting, composition and exposure, etc. Participants have the opportunity to learn by doing assignments with in-class models and entering national photo contests.

**Thursdays,**  
**January 24 - February 28**  
7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Cost: \$85.00  
(Cost of optional reference book is additional)

## The Adventure of Antiques and Antiquing

Are you an avid collector of "old things", or want to know more about your collectibles, whether they really are true and valuable antiques? Do you understand the honest and not-so-honest methods of antique buyers, sellers, dealers, etc? How do you go about finding quality antiques for reasonable prices? Come learn about the exciting hobby and business of collecting and enjoying all sorts of antiques, bring your own items to have evaluated. Join us in shopping and browsing for antique items in southeast Michigan stores. Special speakers will inform and help you understand this fascinating field. Indoor sessions will be supplemented with trips to antique malls, etc. Maybe you have your own field of expertise to share.

**Saturdays, January 26 - March 2**  
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Cost = \$125.00  
(Transportation Included)

Your Instructors, Nancy and Thomas Schneider, have been avid antique collectors for over 20 years, and bring a constantly growing knowledge and experience to this class.

## Registration and Waiver Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: (h) \_\_\_\_\_

(w) \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 liable for any loss, damage or injury to any 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 Township, MI 48111

## FROG AND TOAD TRAINING SURVEY WORKSHOP

Help us monitor the health of our streams, creeks, and natural areas by listening for frogs and toads in your neighborhood. This is an activity that the whole family can take part in - kids, teens, adults, and seniors. It's easy, fun, and important for the future of our community's natural features.

Friends of the Rouge, in partnership with Van Buren Township and other Rouge River communities, is seeking volunteers to participate in its fifth annual Frog and Toad Survey program. Information from the past four years of the Frog & Toad Survey by nearly 400 volunteers has given hints about the relationship between land use and the quality of wildlife habitat. For example, there were fewer species found in areas with large amounts of impervious surfaces (roads, rooftops, parking lots, etc.).



Bullfrog



2001 Frog & Toad Training Workshop

During the Spring of 2001, Township residents made 53 observations at 13 different survey locations in the Township within the Rouge Watershed. The results indicate that we still have some healthy habitat in the Township because of the diversity and number of species heard. We must continue to take proactive steps to protect our remaining natural features because they provide wildlife habitat, ecological services, and quality of life benefits. Having volunteers make observations at the same locations each year can help us access how we are doing in protecting these resources. Thank you to all the volunteers that participated in the 2001 survey and the February 20, 2001 training session held at Township Hall!

Volunteers of all ages are asked to go outside in the evening in designated areas near their homes to listen for the calls of eight species of frogs and toads that call from early spring through mid-summer. By noting what they hear on a map, the volunteer data can provide information about the locations of wildlife habitat that can be saved from development, protected or enhanced. Frogs and toads serve as indicator species, like canaries in a coalmine, to help us assess the relative ecological health of an area.

A free training workshop for new volunteers will be held on Wednesday, February 20, 2002 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Canton Township Summit on the Parkway, 46000 Summit Parkway (located off Canton Center Road). For more information, contact Brian Ballard, Van Buren Township's Environmental Director, at (734) 699-8913 or by email at [bballard@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:bballard@vanburen-mi.org) or Sally Petrella of Friends of the Rouge at (313) 792-9621 or by email at [picoordinator@therouge.org](mailto:picoordinator@therouge.org).

## ADOPT A STREAM PROGRAM IN VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

Did you know that we have high quality waterways that flow through our community? When many of us think of water in the Township we think of Belleville Lake or the Huron River, but we also have some wonderful creeks and streams. One such exceptional stream is commonly referred to as the Griggs Drain, although it did not always have such a utilitarian name. It was once known as Woods Creek and according to a local book of history, *Water Under the Bridge*, in 1827 at a site near Woods Creek the first Township meeting was held. Woods Creek is located in the Southern end of our Township and the creek's watershed (the land area that drains into the creek) covers almost the entire bottom third of the Township! This means that activities that take place on all of that land area directly affect the water quality of Woods Creek and the Huron River. To help us monitor the health of Woods Creek and other important waterways throughout the Huron Watershed, the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) has organized an Adopt a Stream program with the help of many volunteers.



Griggs Drain

### Adopt a Stream Program in Van Buren Township

Continued on Page Sixteen

## Adopt a Stream Program in Van Buren Township

Continued from Page Fifteen

### What is the Adopt a Stream Program?

In the spring and fall, volunteers venture into the local waterways in search of insect larvae to learn more about the stream conditions. These young insects play a role similar to canaries in the mine in that they react to poor environmental conditions before we do. Aquatic insects depend on healthy streams for their survival. Their sensitivity to changes in the chemistry, flow characteristics (such as velocity and depth), and bottom substrate makes them valuable measures of stream conditions. The volunteers and HRWC scientists measure different components of the insect community to learn more about potential problems and the overall ecological health of the site.

### How long has Woods Creek (Griggs Drain) been monitored?

Volunteers with the Adopt-A-Stream Program have monitored Woods Creek where it enters the Huron River in the Lower Huron Metropark since 1996. Results show that this creek supports a diverse animal population and is in acceptable ecological quality. Habitat assessments have identified some bank erosion, trash, and a lack of pool habitat as physical challenges to the animals living in this creek.

### What are the results of the latest sampling survey?

In April of 2001, volunteers found two prong-gilled mayflies (family: Leptophlebiidae) living in Woods Creek. Because this type of mayfly is especially sensitive to organic pollution (fertilizers, animal waste, etc.), its presence indicates this stream is in good condition. Of 56 study sites in the Huron River Watershed, Woods Creek ranks #18, meaning it is in better biological quality than 38 other study sites.



Adult Leptophlebiidae



Larva



Griggs Drain sampling

### What about winter sampling?

In January, volunteers look for a specific group of insects called the winter stoneflies, which are expected to be living in creeks unless there has been a disturbance. The life cycle of a winter stonefly makes them relatively immune to metabolic stresses during the summer, and climatic conditions in the winter usually ensure adequate oxygen even in moderately polluted sites. For us, their absence is an indicator of toxic pollutants, the effects of which might be masked the rest of the year by low oxygen or other metabolic stresses. Volunteers have found winter stoneflies in Woods Creek since beginning to monitor for them in 1997. In the past two winters, volunteers have found more groups of winter stoneflies.

### Is the chemistry of the water measured?

One way that chemistry is measured is with conductivity. Conductivity is an indication of the concentration of dissolved ions (for example salt, metals, toxins) present in the water. It is measured with a conductivity meter, which measures how easily electricity can flow through the sample water. If the average conductivity measured at a site is 800 microSiemens ( $\mu\text{S}$ ) or less, it is considered natural for stream water.

At some of our sites with high levels of development and impervious surfaces (roads, driveways, roofs), rainwater washes chemicals, such as fertilizers and pet wastes, from the developed landscape into the creek. Development can lead to a conductivity above 800  $\mu\text{S}$ , which is considered excessive and may indicate the presence of toxic substances. (Realize that many toxins, although harmful, are not measured by conductivity.) The average conductivity at Woods Creek is 759  $\mu\text{S}$ , within what is considered natural for stream water.



Winter Stonefly

## How can I get involved in this program?

There are many ways that you can get involved in this rewarding program that requires only a small time commitment and provides the benefit of learning about and helping to monitor a significant resource right here in our backyard. Here are the activity dates for the first half of 2002:

January 19 1 - 4 p.m.

**Stonefly Search** - Join a team that searches for stoneflies in creeks to learn about water quality in the Huron River.

April 13 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**River Roundup** - Join a team and search in creeks for creatures (macroinvertebrates) to learn about the river's health.

April 28 noon - 3 p.m. or 2 - 5 p.m.

**ID Day** - Learn about the creatures collected in the Roundup as you help to identify and count them.

May 5 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

**Wonderful Water Festival** - Be a part of an educational festival celebrating water and exploring our relationship to it.

June 2 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Creek Mapping Workshop** - Learn how to "Read the River" while you assess and record physical conditions of a creek.

### Who can I call for more information?

For more information or to pre-register for any of the above events, call the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) at (734) 769-5971 or email [tdakin@hrwc.org](mailto:tdakin@hrwc.org). Visit them on the web at [www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org).

## What else can I do to help protect water quality in the Township?

There are many positive actions that you can take to help us improve upon and maintain our significant natural features such as our waterways. These actions involve many of your day-to-day activities and include maintenance and design of your lawn and landscaping, proper disposal of your household hazardous waste, awareness of your storm drain system, maintenance of your septic tank, and others. The Township has concise information available at Township Hall, including our series of 13 environmental factsheets for homeowners, which are available for you to use as a reference. We also have comprehensive information on a number of environmental issues on the Township website ([www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org)) under the Environmental Department. Also, be sure to tune into the Township Cable Channel (Channel 12) where we are showing 15 different programs related to environmental issues. To check the programming schedule look on the Township website under the Cable Department or they can be reached at (734) 699-8912.

### Youth Dance

We are pleased to introduce our new youth dance instructor, Jennifer Valinski. Jennifer has various experience working in dance. She has been actively involved in classical ballet, jazz, modern and tap since the age of five. Jennifer has also been a member of Curtain Call for numerous years and has danced with the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble for three years at Oakland University. Her experience does not stop with just dance as she also has a strong background working with children of various ages. Jennifer has instructed Tumble Bunnies Gymnastics and Dance, which involved physical involvement with children. Also she taught dance to children ranging in ages 5-12 at the Juliart Dance Studio in Auburn Hills. Currently Jennifer works as a school age childcare instructor for grades 3rd - 6th. We are very pleased to welcome Jennifer aboard and hope you will take advantage of

her talents and sign your child up today for Youth Dance Classes!

<b>Beginner Jazz</b>	Ages: 7 and up	9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.
<b>Beg./Int. Ballet</b>	Ages: 7 and up	9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
<b>Beg./Int. Tap</b>	Ages: 7 and up	10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Van Buren Resident = \$55.00 Non-Resident = \$70.00

<b>Kinderjazz</b>	Ages: 4-6	12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.
<b>Kinderballet</b>	Ages: 4-6	12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
<b>Kindertap</b>	Ages: 4-6	1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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

<b>Intermediate Jazz</b>	Ages: 7 and up	1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
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Van Buren Resident = \$60.00 Non-Resident = \$75.00

Call the Van Buren Recreation Department with any further questions at: (734) 699-8921.

**Registration Form is on Page Fourteen.**

## HEALTHY LAWN AND GARDEN WORKSHOP



Van Buren Township in partnership with Wayne County is proud to present a series of free workshops on the art of obtaining and maintaining a healthy lawn and garden. Healthy lawns and gardens can provide numerous benefits to the homeowner and to the environment by lowering maintenance costs, lowering materials costs, minimizing nuisance pests, lowering chemical/fertilizer runoff, and maintaining a healthy appearance. The Township will be offering both a spring and fall workshop each addressing seasonal issues associated with lawns and gardens. In August, Wayne County will also be hosting a Master Composter class in the Township for residents that would like an in-depth look at the how-to's of composting and yard waste reduction (stay tuned for more details).

### Topics Covered:

#### Healthy Soils and Fertilizers

*Kristine Hahn, Wayne Co. MSU Extension Service*

- Soils and soil testing
- Benefits of organic material
- Benefits of slow-release and low phosphorus fertilizers
- Understanding fertilizer labels



#### The Basics: Grasscycling, Lawn Watering, Professional Lawn Care Services

*Tim Doppel, Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association*

- Mowing, lawn watering
- Importance of soil health, core aeration
- Weed/pest control, minimizing pesticides

#### Native Plants and Landscaping

*Speaker: TBA*



- Native Plants 101
- Benefits of Native Plants
- Local Suppliers/Nurseries

**Spring Workshop Time/Date:** March 21, 2002, 6:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

**Fall Workshop Time/Date:** October 17, 2002, 6:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Van Buren Township Hall, Otisville-Sheldon Room

**To Register Contact:** Judy Holt - (734) 326-3936

### Sponsored By:

Van Buren Township  
Wayne County Department of the Environment  
Wayne County Michigan State University Extension Service  
Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association  
Friends of the Rouge  
Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project



## VAN BUREN PARK

Happy New Year! The year 2002 looks like it will be an exciting one. First I'd like to recap this past fall/winter. Our annual Haunted Forest was as successful as it could be, considering it rained 5 out of the 8 nights. The Parks and Recreation Department owes a big thanks to our local Tae Kwon Do group, Eastern Michigan University's Recreation Leadership class, the Student Recreation Organization at EMU and the Van Buren Township Police Department for all of their volunteer and staff time. We estimate that our Haunted Forest had close to 2,500 people come through and the volunteers logged over 1000 hours of their Friday and Saturday nights throughout October.

We kicked off December by providing concession services at the Township's annual craft show. Again using volunteers from EMU, we were able to raise approximately \$450 to put towards our new adventure program in 2002. However, the best news came in late November when the Michigan Recreation & Park Association (MRPA) notified us that we had received a grant for \$5,000 to begin our "Awesome Adventures" program. The grant is a joint venture by MRPA and the Michigan Department of Community Health as part of their "Get Michigan Youth Moving" initiative. The four objectives of the program are:

- Increase the number of youth involved in healthful physical activity throughout Michigan.
- Increase the number of adult supervised activities for youth 6-18 years of age during summer and after-school periods.
- Foster knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote sportsmanship, conflict resolution, substance free lifestyles, and lifelong healthful physical activity.
- Demonstrate the usefulness and practicality of partnerships between Public Health and Recreation agencies in promoting physical activity.

"Awesome Adventures," as it will be offered by the Parks and Recreation Department, aims to offer alternative physical activities that are not typically accessible for a majority of our youth. The "adventures" that we'll be providing will be activities like rock climbing, hiking, kayaking, canoeing, whitewater rafting, mountain biking and more. They will be offered as a series of one-day events throughout the spring and summer on Saturdays and Mondays during day/teen camp. Each youth will have the opportunity to sign up for 2-3 different activities during this time. They will get supervised instruction, information on healthy choices in nutrition as it relates to each activity, and resources to continue participating in the activity. Look for a schedule and details in our spring program brochure and get ready for our kickoff with a family whitewater rafting trip in the spring.

Lastly, we are currently preparing for the annual Community Development Block Grant process. The process includes gath-

ering information on possible projects from Township employees, community members, and local organizations. We estimate that we'll have about \$142,000 to put towards good use throughout the township. I encourage each of you to think about issues that need to be addressed in the township and contact me with your ideas. This is a program from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is meant to benefit our community. Some projects in past years have included: new ADA play structures in parks, equipment for our public safety department, upgrades in the township's senior center, and rehabilitation work on various homes in the community. As part of the process the township holds two public hearings on proposed projects at which I'd love to get input on the projects. And please feel free to contact me about issues or possible projects we need to address and we'll see if they fit the program's requirements. Only with your help we can continue to build a "premier" community.

Jason Camis  
Parks Manager

### WINTER STORYTIME AT THE LIBRARY

The Fred C. Fischer Library in downtown Belleville announces open registration for **Winter Storytime**. Children aged 3 1/2 - 6 may sign up now to enjoy five free programs of stories, poems, games, and crafts at the library. Children reinforce listening and speaking skills, improve eye/hand coordination, experience group dynamics...and have fun!

Parents may choose either the morning programs, which begin on Tuesday, January 22 at 11:00 a.m., or one of two evening programs which begin Wednesday, January 23, or Thursday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m.

**Spring Storytime** dates are also available, sign up will begin March 4, 2002. Parents may choose either the morning program, which begin Tuesday, March 19, or one of two evening programs which begin Wednesday, March 20, or Thursday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m.

For additional information or to register children for the **Winter Storytime**, stop by the library at 167 Fourth Street or call 699-3291 during library hours.

**Van Buren Recreation Department**

- Proudly Presents -

The 7th Annual

**Father/Daughter  
Dance 2002**

**Friday, February 15** (if Friday fills, Saturday, February 16 will be available for registration)

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

Van Buren Community Center (Gymnasium)  
46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township

**Van Buren Residents** = \$10.00 per couple  
\$3.00 each additional daughter

**Non-Residents** = \$15.00 per couple  
\$3.00 each additional daughter

Please register early, **LIMITED SPACE!!**  
(Prepayment with advanced registration is required)

\*\* Father: Dad, Stepdad, Uncle, Cousin, brother, etc.

For further information, please call the  
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.

**Board of Zoning Appeals:**

2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

**Environmental Commission:**

2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

**Planning Commission:**

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

**Water/Sewer Commission:**

1st 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)

**Lake Committee:**

4th 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](mailto:cking@vanburen-mi.org))

Supervisor . . . . . 699-8910

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

Clerk . . . . . 699-8909

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

Treasurer . . . . . 699-8903

**Phillip Hart**

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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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**Editor:**

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