



Charter Township of Van Buren

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## PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE RENEWAL INFORMATION

By: Christopher L. Elg, Director of Public Safety



Public Safety at work: firefighting, Dive Rescue team and D.A.R.E. visit to Day Camp.

The men and women of the Van Buren Department of Public Safety would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy, healthy, and safe 2003. This new year has begun in much the same way as last year had ended. World strife, domestic terrorism and catastrophic events have crowded our headlines and affected our daily routines. Significant measures have been enacted to protect our homeland on Federal, State, and Local levels. Your Public Safety Department has taken an active role in these protective measures, and yet still remains committed to serving your day-to-day needs.

### PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE RENEWAL

Continued on Page Two

### Information

September Days . . . . .	Pg. 13
Recreation Program . . . . .	Pg. 14-18
Environmental . . . . .	Pg. 21-23
Library Information . . . . .	Pg. 25
Trash Guidelines . . . . .	Pg. 26-27

**PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE RENEWAL**

Continued from Front Page

We are proud to deliver quality services to our community with the five Public Safety Divisions. Emergency Communications (9-1-1 Dispatch Center), Fire/EMS services, Police protection, Animal Control and Emergency Management are just some of our responsibilities. Public education and public awareness programs are in-place for us and our families. These functions help to make Van Buren a safer and healthier place to live, work, and play, but provision of these services does come at a cost.

As the following graphs indicate, your public safety tax dollars are dedicated to providing public services in many ways. With the current 1997 operating millage about to expire this year, the Township will hold a special election on May 6th seeking a renewal of this funding source (no new taxes are proposed). Please take the time to vote on this critical ballot issue. Your input is very important in determining the course of Public Safety Services.

**Current Millage Collection**

3 mills are assessed which equates to \$3.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value of property.

**Examples:**

- \$100,000 Home Value - PS Millage = \$150.00 annually
- \$150,000 Home Value - PS Millage = \$225.00 annually
- \$200,000 Home Value - PS Millage = \$300.00 annually
- \$250,000 Home Value - PS Millage = \$375.00 annually

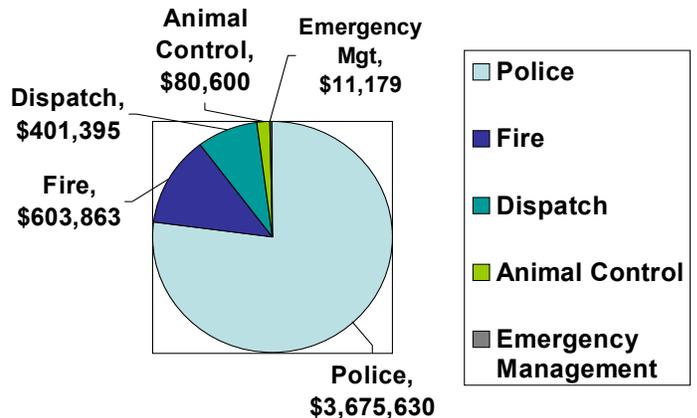
**Public Safety Budget Funding**

**Total Budget \$4,772,667**

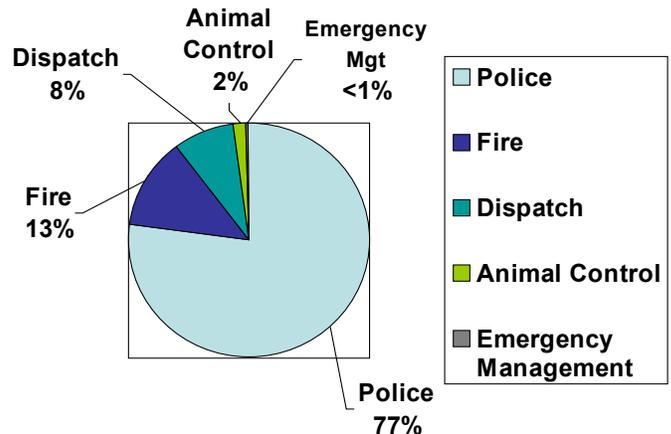
**52%**

**48%**

**Public Safety Budget**



**Public Safety Budget**



**Police Line Item**

## 2002 STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

The Year 2002 will be remembered as a watershed moment in Van Buren Charter Township's history. In reviewing the events of the past year, there are many notable ones. Perhaps of most significance was the announcement that the Visteon Corporation, a major Tier 1 supplier, would be locating their world headquarters and research and development operations in Van Buren on a 260 acre assemblage of land generally bounded by I-275, Ecorse, Hannan, and Tyler Roads in the northeast part of the township. Visteon employs 79,000 people in 25 countries and had 2001 sales revenue of \$17.8 billion. Visteon is Wayne County's second largest employer with 7,500 individuals (*Crain's* 2-10-03) working at various Visteon locations. During groundbreaking ceremonies, I suggested that when the sequel to *Water Under the Bridge* is written, this announcement will be considered a defining moment in the history of this rapidly changing township located in Wayne County, Michigan's most populated county. Already, developers are pointing to Visteon as the reason for their movement into Van Buren or for developing land they have owned here that is currently unused. Much the same way the once rural communities of Allen Park, Trenton, and Canton have developed into bustling urban centers, history will demonstrate that Van Buren, too, is unlikely to remain in a rural state. For many, this change has been difficult and not all of us are comfortable with the consequences of living in an urban setting, but Van Buren is simply experiencing what others have experienced before and what similar communities such as Chelsea, Dexter, and Green Oak Township are witnessing today. Managing this development to ensure it is of high quality with appropriate infrastructure in place and that some portion of the township keeps its rural flavor continues to be the highest priority for the Township Board.

The Visteon headquarters, to be completed in late 2004, will be a \$270 million campus-type facility, employing about 3,500. The site, overlooking what is today known as Grace Lake (a former gravel quarry), is expected to have a village feel with buildings being no higher than four stories, with a walking path around the site's perimeter and with numerous trees being preserved. A recreation area for the public's use is proposed on the southern portion of the site. I am convinced when complete, the Visteon project will be an excellent example of making good use of land whose past use was less than respectful to the environment.

As incentives to entice Visteon to locate here, the Township Board granted Visteon a 12-year tax abatement, and established a Local Development Finance Authority for making needed public improvements in the area of the Visteon property. Visteon was also awarded employment tax and state investment tax credits, and a \$5 million site development/public improvements grant from the Michigan Economic Grant

Authority to build their headquarters in the State. The creation of an LDFA permits the "capture" of future tax monies to be paid by Visteon for funding of public improvements within the Authority's boundaries while holding harmless the capture of school taxes that the company will continue to pay. In early 2003, the LDFA will consider a project plan and a bond issue for the use of those tax monies that will include site and road improvements, correct drainage problems and provide for sidewalks and streetlights in this area of the township. Steve Pugsley, the township's new Planning & Zoning Administrator, also serves as the Executive Director of the LDFA and he is working hard to ensure public needs are adequately addressed.

In late 2002, Ricardo, Inc. moved into their new North American headquarters located on Haggerty Road. Upon approval of a ten-year tax abatement in 2001, Ricardo, a research and design firm based in the United Kingdom, commenced construction of a 77,000 square foot facility at a cost of about \$15 million. The Board appreciates the investment Ricardo, a company employing 350 whose 2001 sales totaled \$50 million, had made in the community, an investment that should result in new high paying jobs and an operation that is in keeping with the township's Premier Community Amenities Plan.

Daikin Clutch, a long-time Van Buren business, was granted a six-year tax abatement to expand upon their industrial facilities located along Haggerty Road. Their intentions are to consolidate other sites to their Van Buren facility and to hire additional personnel because of growth in their business.

Other new developments in 2002 include the opening of Applebee's Grill & Bar, Advance America, Kadea-Kay Getaway, Champion Powersports, the newly renovated Belleville Road McDonald's, and while not technically in Van Buren, the Chamber of Commerce's new offices on Main Street in Downtown Belleville. Residential development continued to be strong through most of 2002 with houses continuing to be built in many of the township's newer subdivisions. As the *Detroit Free Press* reported in its February 2, 2003 edition, Van Buren made up 6.5% (242 new homes) of the 3,730 new home sales that occurred in the communities of Canton, Dearborn, Northville, Plymouth and Van Buren with top prices passing the \$300,000 mark.

The township continued work on its Geographic Information System approving the purchase of additional software and fine-tuning how the system will be used by each department. 2002 was also the year the township purchased a new software

## 2002 STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

Continued on Page Four

NEW SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR



Meghan Mutch, Special Events Coordinator

The Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department is happy to welcome Ms. Meghan Mutch to the department as the new Special Events Coordinator. For over two months the department has searched for a coordinator to fill the position. We received over 30 resumes for the position. Ms. Mutch has the experience and background that separated her from the rest of the candidates.

Ms. Mutch will be responsible for implementing all special events in the department. She will be responsible for the current events, Haunted Forest, Marshmallow Drop, Awesome Adventures, Fireworks Display, the Concert series as well as many other new and exciting special events. She is a graduate of Wayne State University and also a member of the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association.

The department is very grateful to have this new position. Hopefully this season you will meet Ms. Meghan Mutch at the many special events she has in store for the entire family.

Bruce J. Ross  
Director of Recreation & Facilities

VBTV 12

“The State of the Township: A Year in Review” will begin airing this spring. This video highlights the events of 2002. Featured in the program is Supervisor Cindy King along with several other people who have made significant contributions to the township during the year 2002. I encourage everyone to view this presentation as it samples a variety of people, businesses, and organizations that make Van Buren Township a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Ally Acosta  
Cable Operations Manager

2002 STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

Continued from Page Three

system at a cost of about \$250,000 for use by all departments at township hall. The Board approved the purchase of software from Springbrook that will provide general ledger, payroll, accounts payable, building permitting and utility billing management; and the purchase of the Equalizer software from BS&A for property tax administration. Equalizer has been used in the Assessing Department for a number of years. This investment should provide the township an improved system for managing the many important records of the township and should do so in a more effective manner than the initial software system that had been in place for 20 years.

In January, the Board authorized participation in the Downriver Sewer System Joint Management Committee, a group of municipal officials from the downriver communities and Wayne County who meet to provide oversight over that sewer system. I currently serve as Secretary to the Committee and Water & Sewer Director Patti Duha is the township’s representative on the Downriver Sewer System’s legal, financial and technical committees.

Throughout the year, Planning & Economic Development Director Bryce Kelley and I met with County officials and neighboring communities as the future of Metro and Willow Run Airports was considered. The County contracted with Dr. John Kasarda of the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise from the University of North Carolina, to strategically plan and address potential economic opportunities for the area between the two airports, and his work is ongoing. I applaud the County for their forward thinking in ensuring this land is well managed economically, and from a land use perspective will be of benefit to not only the communities most directly impacted but by the entire County as well. I assure you Van Buren will be closely monitoring this matter of aerotropolis as well as the newly created Airport Authority to ensure our interests and objectives are heard.

During 2002, the Department of Developmental Services had a total of 407 new housing permits issued, 248 for single family homes and 159 for condominiums. This compares to 497 new housing permits in 2001 (317 for single family homes and 180 for condos). 2002 saw nine new site plans approved compared to six site plan approvals in 2001. As you can see, the slowdown in 2002 attributed to less revenues from permits coming to the township, a situation we will be carefully monitoring in 2003.

The Department of Public Safety continued its emphasis on proactive methods to ensure Van Buren is a safe place to

live, work and raise a family. In late 2002, the Board approved accepting a U.S. Department of Justice grant to place a school resource officer in the schools to complement the SRO from the City of Belleville and our current contingent of D.A.R.E. officers from Sumpter and Van Buren Townships. Clerk Payne, Treasurer Budd, Public Safety Director Christopher Elg and I attended numerous DARE graduations as well as the annual South Middle School "Manners Dinner" and we are proud of the youth of our community. In 2003, we look forward to the results of the work of the SR Officers as they spend time in all of our schools, counseling faculty and administrators, mentoring students and providing a welcome source of information to those who may desperately need it.

The Department was able to lease two Harley Davidson motorcycles in 2002 and they have been used in a variety of ways including routine traffic patrol, crowd control and in parades. Needed equipment was also purchased for use in the department and include a new motor for the marine boat, bullet-proof vests for police officers and in the fire department, a thermal imaging camera, portable oxygen tanks and firefighter turn out gear which we were able to purchase after being awarded a \$163,000 federal grant. The department also moved into the pet adoption arena, receiving Board approval for an ordinance that would permit stray animals to be adopted if not returned to their owners. A key component of the ordinance requires all animals adopted out of the shelter to be spayed or neutered. The Board also established a one-year Animal Control Endowment Committee to make recommendations to the Board on how to best use funds that were generated as a result of contributions the township received from many generous and kind animal lovers to help a stray dog that was struck by a car in Van Buren. The nearly \$54,000 raised from 747 contributors helped to fund "Hop-A-Long's" needed surgery, and left about \$47,000 for the Committee to put to use in other ways to benefit animals.

In comparing activities in the department for years 2001 and 2002, Van Buren was fortunate in realizing decreases in many categories of incidents. For instance, in 2001, 1,033 accidents occurred compared to 1,021 in 2002. The Department was far more aggressive in traffic enforcement in 2002, issuing 9,979 citations as compared to 4,523 in 2001. The department also saw 2,395 arrests in 2002, an increase over 1,740 arrests in 2001. Breaking and enterings, larcenies, auto thefts and damage to property incidents were all lower in 2002. Crime prevention instead of responding after the fact remains a top priority for the department.

327 animals were impounded in 2002 compared to 123 in 2001 and more citations were issued for violations. Animal Control saw a decline in cruelty complaints, animal bites and dogs at large.

In the Emergency Management Division, exercises were conducted that included a simulated failure of the French Landing Dam and a simulated disaster at the Fermi nuclear power plant. These training sessions included not only Van Buren personnel, but also various federal, state and county agencies including the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the MDEQ, and county health departments. Other entities such as the American Red Cross, DTE Energy and various law enforcement agencies were also involved.

In the Fire Division, the department continued to utilize the Fire Safety House, delivering safety programs to over 3,000 local schoolchildren, and to offer blood pressure checks to area seniors. The Department partnered with the Make a Wish Foundation, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and Goodfellows to provide assistance to families in need. With regard to alarm statistics, the department continues to respond primarily to medical emergencies of which 737 of the total 1,300 calls that occurred in 2002 were. Vehicle crashes is the second highest call for help with the department responding to 195 crashes in 2002, an increase over the 158 crashes that occurred in 2001. In 2002, Friday was the busiest day of the week for calls for service with the highest demand taking place between the noon and 6 p.m. timeframe.

In 2002, the board approved seeking millage for both operations and capital improvements namely, new fire facilities in the Public Safety Department. The November General Election saw two ballot questions; one to seek .6 mill for capital improvements and a slight increase in our current operating millage to 3.4 mills for general public safety operations. Despite what we felt was a reasonable, well-planned request, the voters felt otherwise with both questions being defeated. Considering our current 3.0 mills for general operating funds about 48% of the department's operations with the remainder

## 2002 STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

Continued on Page Seven

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

**EMERGENCY!**

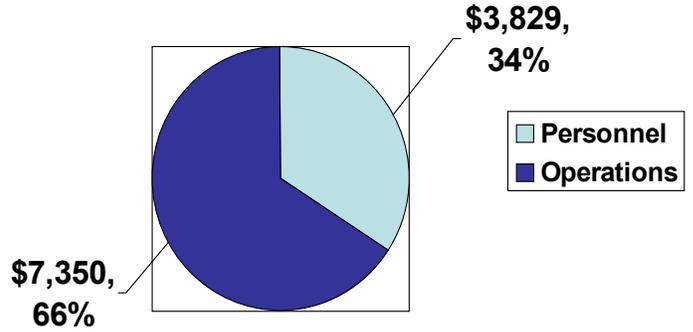
For all non-emergencies, please call (734) 699-8930.

PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE RENEWAL

Continued from Page Two

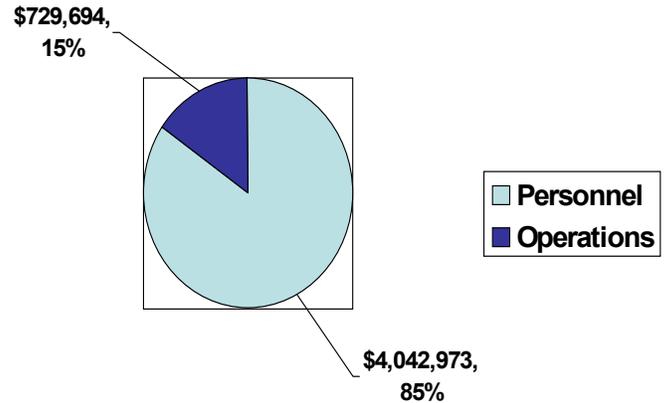
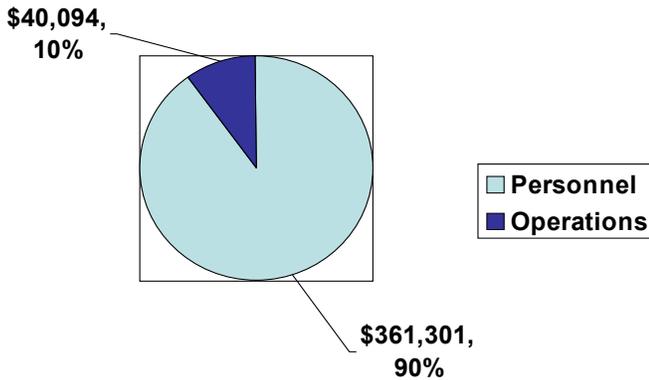
Fire Line Item

Emergency Management Line Item



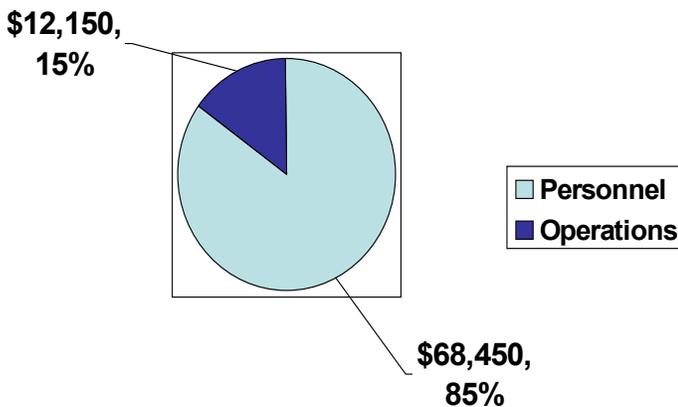
Dispatch Line Item

Total Public Safety Budget



Animal Control Line Item

Police Services



- 24/7 Patrol
- Investigations
- Records
- Marine Patrol
- Crime Prevention
- Special Operations
- DARE & SRO Officers
- Training

PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE RENEWAL

Continued on Page Twenty Four

**2002 STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP**

Continued from Page Five

coming from general fund (which includes the Landfill Fund transfer), the Board approved seeking a renewal of the existing operating millage in a May 6th Special Election. Lastly, contract talks with the Police Officers Labor Council took place throughout 2002 and while they have yet to be resolved, I remain confident that we can achieve a mutually beneficial collective bargaining agreement.

Revenue sources, or to be more accurate, declining revenues, affected Van Buren along with all communities throughout the State as we realized a reduction in state-shared revenue, revenue generated in communities that is sent to the State and then returned back to the locals to assist in funding municipal operations. On August 13, Clerk Payne and I traveled to Lansing and joined several thousand other municipal officials to decry the cuts as proposed by then Governor Engler. While the Legislature supported our endeavors that warm, sunny day, things were quite different in December when municipal officials learned state-shared revenue would indeed be reduced - in Van Buren's case by about 5% or about \$83,000 (which we'll realize primarily in 2003). Recently, the cuts municipalities have seen in state-shared revenue have totaled 20% with local government having little ability to generate revenue from other sources. The loss of state-shared revenue, along with a sizeable reduction in interest earnings on investments, a downturn in the national economy, and a decrease in building permit revenues, resulted in a sizable decrease in total revenues in 2002. This resulted in a final amendment to the 2002 General Fund budget of about \$400,000 to be taken from the township's General Fund "savings" known as fund balance to ensure a balanced 2002 amended budget.

As always, ensuring township operations are run cost effectively and that we prudently manage your tax dollars is something the Board considers a serious matter. Over a six-month period, time is spent in addressing the next fiscal year's budget and ensuring the current year's funds are well managed. I assure you this is no easy task. It is a task shared by the Board and department directors in concert with guidance from the township's accounting firm and adherence to State law. Monthly financial reports are provided to the Board and directors, and work on the next fiscal year budget begins in May. In late August, the Board met individually with department directors over a two-day period to review current year operations and discuss in detail funding services for 2003. Treasurer Budd and I spent the next couple of months meeting again with directors and fine-tuning the budget for presentation to the Board in October. As required by law, the Board adopted a balanced budget.

The State Equalized Value of all property in the township was valued at \$929,122,374 in 2002, resulting in a Taxable Value of \$756,409,970. A mill in Van Buren generates about \$669,301. Millage returned to Van Buren for general operating, public safety, and water and sewer debt equals 9.8642 mills (accounting for Headlee Rollback). Van Buren's homestead millage rate is 31.1186 mills and the non-homestead millage rate is 49.1186, millage rates that are less than some of our neighboring and other comparable communities. (Belleville, Huron, Romulus have higher rates, Sumpter's is lower, Plymouth City higher). Van Buren's largest taxpayers include Occidental Development (Southport and West Lake Apartments), Ashley Capital and Bank One.

Community Development Block Grant funds, one of the least sources of federal funds returned to the local communities, amounted to \$169,900 for the FY 2002-03. In Van Buren, \$60,000 was spent to purchase a new bus for the Senior Center and the senior activity garden to be planted at Quirk Park. \$77,100 was allocated toward ADA improvements including doors at the museum, a play structure located at French Landing Park, amendments to the township's ADA Plan and providing ADA-accessible picnic tables and paving pavilions at Van Buren Park. Lastly, \$31,900 was allocated for the development of a Riggs Heritage Park Master Plan and for administration. The township certainly welcomes this revenue source for making improvements that might otherwise be delayed or not funded at all.

Related to finances, the Board in January 2002, approved a land swap with the Visteon Corporation whereby about 11 acres of never before used township land behind our dog pound and Fire Station #3 on Tyler Road was traded for 2.2 acres of land at the busy intersection of Hull and Sumpter Roads. Potential uses for the Hull Road site include public safety facilities, park area or some other township facility. The agreement permits the township to use the land in whatever manner it deems appropriate or the township could choose to sell the land. The Tyler Road property has been incorporated as part of the Visteon project site for their world headquarters.

Also relative to finances, the Board was pleased we were able to achieve ratification of a new AFSCME collective bargaining agreement in 2002. This agreement sets forth working conditions, wages and benefits for 37 individuals employed as water and sewer field crew, DPW, and clerical workers, some of whom have been employed with Van Buren since 1974.

**2002 STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP**

Continued on Page Ten

**FIRE FIGHTER ACADEMY TRAINING COMPLETION**



Robert Wilkins



Michael Shores

Van Buren Fire Fighters Robert Wilkins and Michael Shores completed their State of Michigan Firefighter I & II academy training on February 27, 2003. Both fire fighters excelled in the classroom and practical phases of the Washtenaw Area Mutual Aid Association's academy which was conducted in Pittsfield Township. The training exceeded two hundred fifty (250) hours, and included basic & advanced fire fighting techniques, safety awareness and practices, and hazardous materials emergencies. Each will now concentrate their efforts on studying to be State-certified in emergency medical services. As new members, Robert and Michael are fine additions to the professional men and women serving the community as Van Buren's Fire Fighters.

Al Smolen  
Fire Chief

**FIRE FIGHTERS WANTED!!**

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

**Over the age of eighteen**

**A high school graduate**

**Possess a valid Michigan Driver's License**



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

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

**PARTNERS IN PREPAREDNESS**

Our daily news stories contain an ever-increasing volume of possible threats to the American Public. All-to-familiar natural catastrophes like floods, storms, and tornadoes are now joined by human induced afflictions. Acts of violence, biological and nuclear events are not new, but they remain in the public forefront as major concerns. The Van Buren Department of Public Safety is not alone in the process of contingency planning for all of the above mentioned misfortunes. We have joined in collaborative preparation efforts with dozens of Local, Regional, State, and Federal agencies sharing the very same concerns. Specialized training, advanced technology, and dedicated professionals are significant resources for the citizens of Van Buren, but the most important community resources are that we are informed, aware, and involved. Collectively, we can continue to keep Van Buren a great place to live, work and raise our families.

Al Smolen  
Emergency Management Coordinator

**BUILDING CODES AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

Not too long ago, we were all horrified as we watched the aftermath of a fire in a crowded nightclub on our television sets. Nearly one hundred people died in a matter of minutes. Many more will live with the physical and psychological trauma of this tragedy.

Creating safe environments in public buildings is a complex science involving various governmental agencies, associated organizations, and painful lessons learned from the past. The Van Buren Department of Public Safety closely works with the Department of Developmental Services and its associated advisory agencies to protect you and your families in our community's public facilities. Plan review, on-site inspections, and the enforcement of national safety codes are a part of the daily services provided.

A few precautionary measures should be standard for all visitors in public buildings. They include: being aware of your surroundings, know where ALL of the emergency exits are located, know where everyone in your group is and how to communicate with them, and most importantly, when you witness an unsafe environment, leave and immediately report your observations. The Van Buren Fire and Police Departments can be reached at (734) 699-8930. The telephone number for the Van Buren Department of Developmental Services is (734) 699-8913.

Bryce Kelley  
Planning & Economic Development Director

Al Smolen  
Fire Chief

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO)**

Ryan Bidwell, SRO, Van Buren Public Safety Department

There is a new tool at the disposal of the Van Buren Public School District. Starting the week of March 3rd the Van Buren Department of Public Safety assigned an officer to the school district as a School Resource Officer (SRO).

To simply say that the schools now have an SRO leaves things a bit open ended to say the least. Following are some of the most common questions asked about the position and hopefully the answers you need to give you some insight on the SRO program.

**What is an SRO?**

An SRO is a fully certified police officer who has volunteered for this position and has been jointly selected for the position by the administrative staffs of both the Department of Public Safety and the Van Buren Public School District. The SRO was selected because he possessed the necessary education and character for the position as well as a demonstrated ability to work with young people.

**How is the SRO position funded?**

The SRO position is funded through a Federal Department of Justice grant that was awarded to Van Buren Township Department of Public Safety as well as to the City of Belleville Police Department. The grant covers the salaries of one officer from each department to be assigned full-time to the school district.

**What does the SRO do?**

The SRO will be making rounds of all the schools within the district to assist the school administration in many matters. Some of which include but are not limited to the following:

- Assessing safety issues in every building.

- Active as a teacher, mentor and counselor to students.
- Serve as a resource for teachers, parents and students.
- Appear before groups to provide information on topics related to law enforcement including information on drug and alcohol abuse.
- Addressing any criminal matters which may originate on school property involving staff and/or students.
- Reduce instances of truancy within the district.

The SRO will be continuously training to keep up to speed on all matters dealing with the field of law enforcement and its interactions with the educational field.

**What is not part of an SRO's job?**

The SRO's job description defines him as "an extension of the principle's office". This means that the SRO is on campus to assist the administration with day to day school operations in order to provide the very best environment for the students to learn. The SRO has not been placed in this position to act as the school's disciplinarian. The disciplining of students will still remain the individual school's responsibility.

**Who is the new SRO?**

To be quite frank...I am. I am Officer Ryan Bidwell, a relatively new member to the Van Buren Township Department of Public Safety. I came to Van Buren approximately one year ago from the Lower Huron, Willow and Oakwoods Metropark where I was a Park Ranger. I am a 2000 graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in Criminology/Criminal Justice. Although I am not currently a resident of Van Buren Township, I have been active in Canton where I live, as a girl's fastpitch softball coach for the Plymouth Canton High School since 1994. I look forward to my new position and working with school, city and township officials as well as the community to create and continuously refine this program to best serve its customers...the students. I am going to do my very best to eliminate the sometimes negative image of law enforcement our children are taught when they turn on the television. Van Buren Township D.A.R.E Officer Jim Miller, Belleville SRO Kristen Faull and I will be working together to create new and exciting programs to help our community continue to grow and remain a place to raise a family.

**What does the SRO need from you?**

This is a new program for our community and it is being built from the ground up, and as with any new program it is going to have some bugs to be worked out. What I am asking of this

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

Continued on Page Ten

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

Continued from Page Nine

community is to please be the same patient and understanding folks that I have dealt with every day while on road patrol. There are over 6200 students attending the schools within the Van Buren Public School District. Most of these students live in Van Buren but there are others that live in Belleville, Sumpter, Canton, Romulus and even Ypsilanti. That's a lot of ground to cover! So, please continue to be the fine parents, neighbors and role models for the youth of our community that you have been. Finally, remember that turning our children into intelligent, responsible and law abiding adults is a full-time job that requires everyone's help.

**How do I contact the SRO?**

Telephone: Van Buren Township Department of Public Safety (SRO) at (734) 699-8930 ext. 754 or email: [rbidwell@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:rbidwell@vanburen-mi.org). Please feel free to browse the Charter Township of Van Buren's website for important news and information from every township department at: [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org). Be on the lookout for the new School Resource/D.A.R.E. page on our website to be up and running soon.

Ryan Bidwell  
School Resource Officer

**Looking for an outing for your club, church group, school class, or scout troop?**

Call the **Belleville Area Museum**  
To arrange a guided tour

**(734) 697-1944**

Currently On Exhibit:

**Taking Care of Business:  
A History of Community Enterprise**

Featuring local community businesses  
Such as a five-and-ten-cent store  
Dr. Herbert Robb's medical office  
And items from early car dealerships, gas stations,  
funeral homes and restaurants.

Funds raised from this endeavor will be used to support the projects and programs of the museum.

Join the

**Belleville Area Historical Society**

For a Trip to the

**Monroe County  
Historical Museum**

**Saturday, May 17**

Monroe, Michigan was the home of General George Armstrong Custer, famed commander of the Seventh Cavalry at the Battle of Little Big Horn.

The Monroe museum holds an extensive collection of Custer memorabilia as well as a large collection of 18th and 19th Century artifacts relating to southeast Michigan history.

The museum is located in a beautiful Georgian style building constructed as a post office in 1910. There will be no admission charge, and the museum's gift shop will be open.

If you wish to join the historical society on our guided tour of the Monroe Museum, please call the Belleville Area Museum at (734) 697-1944.

**2002 STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP**

Continued from Page Seven

The Water & Sewer Department was able to obtain Federal Emergency Management Agency Grants for the installing of backup emergency electrical generators to be used at the township's nine sanitary sewer lift stations and related construction commenced in 2002. Obviously, should electricity to these lift stations be lost during inclement weather, etc. these generators will ensure the lift stations continue to operate. The township was also awarded a FEMA Grant to address flooding along the North Service Drive and in the Venetian, Jeanette and Dewitt area of the township. The Water & Sewer Department will be working closely with those residents living in that area as many of you have expressed concerns with regard to ditches, road widths and other matters related

to alleviating this situation. It is our hope that the "Lake Wendy's" situation on the North Service Drive will cease to exist. Expect work to commence in earnest in 2003.

The Water & Sewer Department also commenced a sanitary sewer master plan study and a water distribution system master plan study in 2002. Further, the department continued its work on a rate study, a study whose results should be disseminated in 2003. These master plans for the township's three sanitary sewer systems and water system are long overdue. The rate study is critical because the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department has passed along significant rate increases to purchase water but Van Buren has had no rate increases to those who use this water, including industrial, commercial and residential users, in over 10 years! After ten years, these costs can no longer continue to be absorbed by the Department. Once complete, the master plans will serve as land use tools to assist in managing the development that continues to occur in Van Buren. It is important to note these plans are not simply a form of government bureaucracy or "reports." Master plans are vital tools communities use when making important decisions regarding financing these essential elements of our infrastructure and ensuring these services can adequately serve the community. Of course, the public will be given opportunities to view these master plans and the rate study and to offer comments on them.

Parks and Recreation debuted their "Music in the Park" series in 2002 with weekly concerts taking place free of charge on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer. Under Director Ross' capable leadership, Van Buren was awarded a Level 3 Community Service Award by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness for our efforts to improve physical fitness in Van Buren. The department continued its efforts to improve upon service offering many new classes including Cooking Classes held at the Belleville Bayou Grill and Dulcimer lessons, a Family Olympics Day, and calling for community help in building a new playscape at Van Buren Park. On a warm Saturday in June, nearly 100 volunteers, including forty from Visteon and area girl scouts, arrived at the park to assist in building a large, rambling play structure for the youth of our community. After about 12 hours time, the structure was complete and another welcome feature was added to your park. Funds for the playscape came from a donation made by the Visteon Corporation. In 2002, work also commenced on erecting a concession facility at Quirk Park, a project that will be completed by Spring 2003. In August, the Board approved renaming the ball field behind Township Hall to the Brinkerhoff Coleman Memorial Field to honor two residents, who recently passed on, but whose contributions to the community and the sport of baseball will not be forgotten. Of course, 2002 continued to see the department offer

the ever popular craft show, teen and day camps, and Trick or Treat at Township Hall.

Things continued to hop at September Days Senior Center as membership soared to over 1,400 members, a dramatic increase since we first achieved 1,000 paid members in December 2000! Erin Wiley Alston was promoted to Senior Coordinator of the Center, a full-time position that includes responsibility for management of the Center in the absence of Director Combs. The Center was able to obtain a new bus in 2002 and realized a record-breaking 10,992 seniors participating in Center offerings throughout the year. September Days was also the recipient of several donations of exercise equipment and used Endowment Funds to purchase two Nu-Step recumbent steppers and a recumbent bicycle.

In the environmental arena, work continued on the Greenways Initiative, a plan to create a pedestrian pathway from the southeast part of the township near Lower Huron Metropark to the Riggs Heritage Park located at the corner of Huron River Drive and Martinsville Roads. The greenways committee met regularly in 2002 including holding public informational meetings on the progress of the development of a pathways system in Van Buren. Our ultimate objective would realize the creation of a path from Lower Huron Metropark to our western border with Ypsilanti Township/Washtenaw County.

Sponsored by the Environmental Quality Company, the township once again hosted a Household Hazardous Waste collection day providing residents a means of discarding hazardous waste that cannot be thrown out with one's regular household rubbish. The township is grateful to EQ for funding the costs of such an important and welcomed community service that in 2002 realized 339 vehicles delivering a variety of hazardous materials including 34 flammable drums, 1,000 pounds of aerosols, 4,800 pounds of car batteries, and 450 pounds of computer equipment.

**2002 STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP**  
Continued on Page Twelve

<b>Belleville Area Museum</b>	
405 Main Street	
Adults - \$1.00	Children - 50 cents
Open Noon to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday <b>Closed Holiday Weekends</b>	
<b>Tours By Appointment (734) 697-1944</b>	

**2002 STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP**

Continued from Page Eleven

Each year the Environmental Department is required to file an Annual Municipal Solid Waste Stream Report with Wayne County. In 2002, the township reported a 5% reduction in waste generated. Materials sent to the landfill declined by 6.59% and material recycled declined 4.19%. This decline is likely due to the sluggish economy.

In March 2002, the Board authorized the Departments of Planning & Economic Development, and Environment to enter into discussions with Ford Land Development with respect to acquiring about 60 acres of land directly north of Township Hall. The Township's objective is to maintain this heavily wooded acreage in a natural state and to erect pathways throughout the site for use by our residents. Later in 2002, the Board approved applying for grant funds through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to develop a new park on this site. In January 2003, the township was notified that our application was one of 27 applications selected for funding with the township required to match the MNRTF award financing 25% of the cost of the project.

A fourth amendment to the Host Community Agreement between the township and Waste Management was approved in April. This amendment acknowledges Waste Management's intent to design the last remaining land that comprises their original site plan for landfill operations at Woodland Meadows. Of course, Waste Management must receive all regulatory approvals required for operating this area as a landfill from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, a process that could take several years. Among the many benefits to the township, should the MDEQ approve WMI's application, are the continuation of free weekly curbside garbage collection and disposal, a service that would likely cost Van Buren taxpayers about \$2.5 million annually, free curbside recycling and composting and all other terms previously negotiated in the original Host Community Agreement and three previous amendments. In addition, Waste Management agreed to donate land in the rights-of-way they own along Ecorse Road that could assist in the development of the Ecorse-Haggerty Road Corridor Plan to boulevard Ecorse Road. WMI also agreed to fund the cost of erecting a monument sign at the intersection of Hannan and Ecorse Roads and to contribute trees for planting throughout the township. The sign, not yet designed, will resemble the brick signs that exist along Belleville and Tyler Roads, and near the bridge heading into Belleville. Again, all of these improvements are contingent upon the State's approval of the WMI application.

2002 was the year the Fred C. Fischer Library operated under a revised funding agreement. Previous funding calculations provided for funding from the City of Belleville, and

Sumpter and Van Buren Townships based upon a rolling 5-year usage formula. The new formula provides for funds to be calculated based on three criteria: 1) a community's population, 2) a community's SEV and 3) a community's usage of the library. The result has been an increase in funding that permitted the library to make some modest improvements to service including opening earlier than the long-time noon start time and the hiring of a children's librarian. Many of you continued to participate in the Read to Me Story Times, the summer reading club and other activities at the library including the Council for the Arts-sponsored Italianate art presentations. Still the best bargain of any Michigan public library, the library remains a warm and vibrant place to visit and a great service to the three communities.

In the Cable Department, the Board approved a budget that will provide for purchasing a new camera system for use in the Board Room. The cameras, which should be installed in early 2003, will greatly improve upon the viewing quality of Board of Trustees' meetings, allowing for close-ups and better picture resolution. The township negotiating team spent a considerable amount of time in negotiating the renewal of the township's franchise agreement with Comcast Cablevision. Among the improvements to the agreement are those that address customer service standards, senior citizen discounts, reporting and auditing requirements, and a \$155,000 equipment grant for use by the township. In Comcast's latest report, we saw residents taking advantage of the senior discount. We believe the franchise is a good one and one that protects the township's interests, but residents must know the rates they pay for service are set via the federal Cable Act. It merits note the Comcast franchise is not exclusive which means the township may enter into similar agreements should other cable providers decide Van Buren is a good place to do business.

With an ongoing objective of responsibly maintaining your community assets, the Board approved the repaving of the Township Hall parking lot and making needed corrections to drainage problems that occur at the Museum. With an objective of enhancing your community's image, the Downtown Development Authority realized the achievement of the \$1.3 million Belleville Road Streetscape commencing at Tyler Road and heading south to the Belleville Road Bridge. The streetscape included the planting of trees and flowers along the roadside as well as streetlights to provide welcome lighting to travelers using this busy thoroughfare. Monument signs identifying Van Buren were also erected at either end of Belleville Road, and in late 2002, residents saw banners go

**2002 STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP**

Continued on Page Nineteen

## September Days



Kenneth Cloutier at Tuesday morning Golf Class

### Seniors Add New Classes

If you're looking for a change of pace, check out the new Senior Center class schedule. We have many new classes available, along with some old favorites. One class that has proven to be quite popular is *Jin Shin Jyutsu*. This class teaches the ancient art of harmonizing the life energy in the body. It is practiced by placing the fingertips (over clothing) on designated safety energy locks, to harmonize and restore the energy flow.

Another new class is the MSU Nutrition Class. This is one class that is not continuous. It begins in March, and will end in May. You are welcome to join at any time. The focus of the class is "healthy cooking for one." All participants will receive a certificate of completion from MSU for attending at least six classes.

We are now offering golf classes. PGA certified-instructor Ray Florian will help you "get into the swing of things," before you head back to the green.

You are welcome to join any of our classes at any time! If you are not a member of the senior center, you may have to pay an additional fee. Suggestions are welcome. For questions regarding classes or class fees, please contact the senior offices at 699-8918 or 699-8919.

## Class Schedule Spring 2003

### Monday:

Copycats Crafters	9:00-10:00 a.m.
Line Dancing	10:00-11:00 a.m.
Ceramics	1:00-3:00 p.m.

### Tuesday:

Golf	9:00-10:00 a.m.
Dance Exercise	9:30-10:30 a.m.
Jin Shin Jyutsu	10:00-11:00 a.m.
Square Dancing	1:00-3:00 p.m.
Crocheting	1:00-3:00 p.m.
Quilting	5:00-7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday:

Quilting	9:00-11:30 a.m.
Variety Club	9:30-11:00 a.m.
PACE	10:00-11:00 a.m.
Music Lessons	2:00-3:00 p.m.

### Thursday:

Dance Exercise	9:30-10:30 a.m.
Clay	9:30-11:30 a.m.
MSU Nutrition Class	1:00-2:00 p.m.

### Friday:

Yoga	10:00-11:00 a.m.
PACE	10:00-11:00 a.m.

### Saturday:

Dance Exercise	9:30-10:30 a.m.
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## THEATER GAMES

Saturdays, May 3 - May 17  
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Participants will take part in a variety of improvisational and dramatic games and activities to help stretch their imaginations and unleash the actor or actress within. This class is open to kids ages 10-15.

Instructor, Katherine Lowrie will introduce enrollees to mime, mirroring, improvisational games, basic acting techniques and stage directions, projection and blocking.

Participants are asked to wear comfortable shoes and clothing as the class will require body movement and flexibility.

The class will meet one day a week for 1.5 hours for four consecutive weeks.

Cost: \$40.00



## FUN WITH FRENCH

Wednesdays, April 30 - May 21 (4 weeks)  
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Bonjour! Fun with French is an introductory class to basic conversational French for kids ages 8-12.

Instructor Katherine Lowrie, Ann Arbor News Reporter who studied and lived in France for six months will use games, skits, books, songs and hands-on projects to teach participants French words and expressions revolving around greetings and introductions; emotions; weather; numbers and times; and family, friends and school.

Participants are asked to bring a pen or pencil to class as well as looseleaf paper or a notebook. Other materials will be provided.

Class will meet one day a week for one hour for four consecutive weeks, totaling 4 hours of instruction.

Cost: \$40.00

## 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.

## EXPRESS YOURSELF THROUGH JOURNALING

Mondays, April 28 - May 19 (4 weeks)  
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Have you ever wanted to find another way to express yourself. Come join us in our Express Yourself through Journaling Class. Participants will be given topics to springboard journal entries; take part in stream-of-conscious free writes; read chosen passages to fellow writers and participate in discussions.

Facilitator Katherine Lowrie, a reporter with The Ann Arbor News and a former high school English and Journalism Teacher, will facilitate the sessions and provide short readings and activities to spark journal writing. This workshop will meet once a week for one hour.

Ages: 10-15

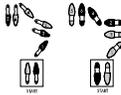
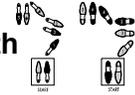
Cost: \$20.00

## 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.

## LINE DANCING

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

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

Van Buren Residents = \$5 Non-Residents = \$6

## T'AI CHI CHUAN & 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, July 11 - August 15**  
**Fridays, April 4 - June 13**

Beginners - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Intermediates - 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**\*\*No Class April 18\*\***

Van Buren Residents = \$35.00  
Non-Resident = \$50.00



## K-9 OBEDIENCE CLASS

Join dog trainer of 40 years experience, Lila Warner, for six weeks of one on one training. What to bring: Bring Fido, a training collar and a six-foot leash. **Dogs must be 6 months or older.**

We teach you to train your own pet under our supervision. Must bring proof of rabies, distemper, & a recent proof of negative fecal report to the first class and register at the Van Buren Community Center. Only 18 & older can train.



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

Tuesdays, June 10 - July 15  
Tuesdays, July 22 - August 26  
Tuesdays, September 2 - October 7

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.      \$25.00 per dog



## WALK MICHIGAN

**Wednesdays, May 7 - August 6**  
**11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

We have added evening hours for those who can't make the morning times.

However, just like last year you can only walk up to 3 miles each Wednesday. We will meet at the picnic area by the pool at Lower Huron Metropark.

Person who walks the most wins a trip to Mackinaw Island.

There is a fee to enter the park.

## GYMNASTICS

**Saturdays (7 weeks)**



## JOIN OUR PROGRAM MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive our recreation programs at your home either mail us your name and address to add to our mailing list or call the Recreation Department at (734) 699-8921.

**Tot Tumbling** Ages: 4-6

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

**Beginners** Ages: 7 and up

1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.  
2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Intermediate** Ages: 7 and up

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

May 10 - June 21

Van Buren Residents = \$45  
Non-Residents = \$60

May 10 - June 21

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

May 10 - June 21

Van Buren Residents = \$55  
Non-Residents = \$70

### YOUTH GOLF LESSONS

Join a class full of the essentials to learn how to play golf. Golf has become a very popular sport for people of all ages. Why not start while you're young and learn to play like Tiger Woods. Equipment is provided.



Ages: 10 and up

**Wednesdays, April 16 - June 4**  
**4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Classes held at Van Buren Community Center

Fee: \$5.00 for eight weeks (Register ASAP)



### ADULT GOLF LESSONS

Adults are getting more and more involved in the sport of golf. Some want to learn more while others just want to learn the game. Equipment will be provided



**Thursdays, April 17 - June 5**  
**4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

Classes held at the Van Buren Community Center

Fee: \$10.00 for eight weeks (Register ASAP)

### FREQUENTLY ASKED NUMBERS

Here are the most frequently asked numbers of separate associations. These events are not handled by Van Buren Recreation Department. Please call the numbers listed below:

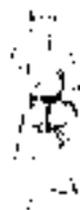
**Belleville Area Little League**  
(734) 699-3527

**Van Buren Soccer Association**  
(734) 480-3966

**Belleville Area Cougars**  
(734) 697-0440

### 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.



**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
**June 3 - August 21**



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

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

### CO-ED ADULT KICKBALL

Remember this? Gathering a team in the school playground and playing Kickball! Well its back! Van Buren Township, Ypsilanti Township, Pittsfield Township, and 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)**

### 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



### YOUTH TOTAL FOOTBALL CAMP WITH MILL COLEMAN

Advance your skills and experience the training methods that college and professional athletes experience in their daily practices. The camp will offer training in speed and agility, positioning, team fundamentals, and a whole lot more. Coach Mill Coleman is an All-State Quarterback, All American Quarterback and MVP recipient of two state championships. Mill Coleman was also a former professional player with the Chicago Bears and Montreal Allouettes. Kids will receive the most for their money with this exceptional coach and skills.



**Wednesday - Friday  
July 28 - August 1**



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

Van Buren Township Softball Field  
Ages: 6-13 (participants will be placed by age at camp)

Fee: \$100/player (includes T-shirt, certificate and drinks)

Please bring football shoes, tennis shoes  
and a sack lunch each day.

**Registration Deadline: Wednesday, July 16, 2003**

### PITCH, HIT & RUN

#### Michigan Recreation & Park Association

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, May 17th  
Starting at 12:00 p.m.**

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

**FREE! FREE! FREE!**



### PROJECT YOUTH

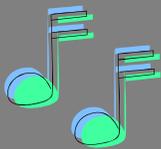
This is a community participation outreach program. If you are looking to make a donation for a great cause, this is it. This program will give children who are from families of low to moderate income a chance to participate in the various recreation programs at our facility. Since this is a new program,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

Applications will soon be available at the Van Buren Recreation Department. A copy of your household income must be submitted with the application. All information is confidential. Children may qualify for one scholarship per season.

### DULCIMER LESSONS PART II

Have you ever wanted to learn how to play a musical instrument? Van Buren Community Center is offering a class for beginner mountain dulcimer II. These charming American folk instruments have a sweet sound and are very easy to play. The instructor has been playing for 30 years and teaching for 15 years. We will review very basic skills learned in mountain dulcimer, and learn more tunes and techniques. Dulcimers are available for \$47 each. Please order two weeks in advance of the class.

**Fridays, April 25 - June 13**  
(8 week class)



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

Fee: \$135.00  
(No residency requirement)

Handmade Dulcimers  
are available for \$65.00  
(Must order two weeks in advance)

### BOATERS SAFETY CLASS

Before you go out on the water this year, learn the fundamentals of boater safety.



**Saturday, April 26**  
**Saturday, May 17**



9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.      \$5.00 per person

**Must bring Social Security card for certification**

Lunch will be provided.

Limit of 30, pre-registration is necessary!

### 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

### SCRAPBOOKING CLASS

In honor of National Scrapbooking



**Saturday, May 31**  
**12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**



**\$10 - for advanced scrapbookers**  
**\$15 - for beginner scrapbookers**

Materials provided to get you started. Feel free to bring your own photos and materials.

Beginners, advanced and children scrapbookers are welcome. Bring your photos. Beginners will receive all of the items to complete their first page and to get started in scrap booking.

**2002 STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP**

Continued from page Twelve

up on the streetlights to identify the township and honor the beauty of the winter season. Not without its bumps along the way, the DDA remains committed to ensuring the streetscape is a beautiful addition that emphasizes Van Buren as a premier community, a place one can be proud to call home.

Other notable community events included those honoring the heroic efforts of the men and women who were first hand witnesses to the events of September 11, 2001. Van Buren joined many other Downriver communities in attending ceremonies held on September 8 at the Michigan Memorial Gardens in Huron Township, and the Community Prayer held on September 11 at Victory Park in the City of Belleville.

Many changes took place with regard to the familiar faces you see at Township Hall. Bruce Malinczak, Brian Ballard, Jason Camis and Barbara Kauppila all left the township in 2002 to pursue other endeavors. New faces to Van Buren included Deputy Treasurer Sean Bellingham, Environmental Director Dan Swallow, Parks Manager Vince Averill and Planning & Zoning Administrator Steve Pugsley. Also joining the staff were Electrical Inspector Tom Buczkowski, Ordinance Enforcement Officer Annie Casper, account clerks Donna Hunter, Karen Smith and Mary Steinmetz, and laborer Fred Campbell.

In October, Deputy Director, Fire Division Al Smolen graduated from the Eastern Michigan University School of Staff & Command, an intensive 10 month course of instruction in the fire profession. Deputy Director Smolen also served as class president for the 2002 graduating class. Bruce Ross was honored with the Young Professional, Ethnic Minority Society award by the National Recreation and Parks Association. I was awarded the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association Outstanding Community Service award for 2002 (the only elected official to be so honored - my thanks to Director Ross for nominating me), and I was also elected to a four-year term on the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority's Board of Directors in December 2002. [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org) was rated third out of 93 Michigan township websites and ninth among 302 county, city, township and village websites in an assessment conducted by [www.cyber-state.org](http://www.cyber-state.org). We were recognized for having an informative website with up-to-date information and praised for the ease in which one can navigate through our website. My thanks to JEF Consultant, Inc., a Van Buren business, for their capable management of our website.

As you can see, 2002 was a whirlwind year in Van Buren. It was a year of great change and you were a part of it. Leading Van Buren during this period of intense transition remains a challenge but with your support, it is a challenge this Board can and will handle. 2003 will also be a year full of changes.

Our 2003 \$10 million General Fund budget is balanced, in part because of transfers from both Fund Balance - \$545,678, and the Landfill Fund - \$1,950,000, money taken from your "savings account." You can anticipate further cuts in revenue from the State occurring in late 2003 as the Legislature grapples with a \$1.6 billion deficit, an impact from national affairs with the possibility of war looming on the forefront, and the public safety millage renewal appearing on the May 6th ballot. Van Buren like any municipality is and will be affected by the economic events occurring in our state and nationally. In fact, Michigan is one of the 36 states operating "in the red" in 2003. While Van Buren has enjoyed the benefits of increasing revenues over the years due to growth, it is a fact that Landfill royalties have been used to subsidize general operations. Funds remaining in the Landfill Fund can and should be saved for unforeseen expenses and to offset future costs related to garbage collection and disposal as Van Buren at some future time will see an end to the free service you have received since 1995. Further, like other communities, Van Buren is subject to significant increases in the cost of doing business such as health insurance rates which have realized double-digit increases for the past few years, the terms negotiated in collective bargaining agreements (Van Buren has 4 CBA's) and the affects of decisions made as a result of Act 312 binding arbitration. All of this during a time when local communities are asked to do their share in addressing homeland security and doing so with declining revenue streams. Further, Van Buren like other communities is also staying on top of issues such as the Emerald Ash Borer, a worm that has infected and killed millions of ash trees in Michigan, and the potential impacts the proposed DARTA (Detroit Area Regional Transportation Authority) legislation could have on our township.

In 2003, one can also expect a continued emphasis on quality public service. Proactive policing methods, enhanced traffic enforcement, and ongoing ordinance enforcement are indicative of our emphasis for making sure this community remains a safe and attractive place to live in and visit. Look for new and exciting senior programs and recreational activities in 2003. Our continued focus on enhancing GIS will improve planning and development activities, and help us to manage the growth that continues to occur. We remain committed to ensuring the economic well being of Van Buren through attracting quality business to the township and working with existing businesses to ensure they have another means of obtaining data and information useful to their operations.

**2002 STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP**

Continued on Page Twenty

**2002 STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP**

Continued from Page Nineteen

The Board of Trustees takes our responsibilities seriously. You have our pledge to be mindful of the bottom line, to maintain vigilance in staying abreast of county, state and national affairs, and to ensure the services we provide are those that satisfy community needs and are services you want. You can count on our unwavering support for local control as we are the officials closest to the citizens, those most accessible to you. We are grateful for your continued support of our efforts. We are always only a phone call away.

In closing, Van Buren remains a vibrant community, one of Wayne County's premier communities. Our 36 square miles continues to include rural open areas, a beautiful six mile long Belleville Lake, and residents who clearly love living here. This is a time of great change but we will prevail and we will continue to be proud to call Van Buren Home. My sincere best wishes for continued prosperity and health and happiness in 2003.

Cindy C. King  
Township Supervisor

**HOUSING REHABILITATION AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
GRANT PROGRAM**

Wayne County manages the federally funded Community Development Block Grant program which provides funds to Van Buren Township for projects that benefit residents with low to moderate incomes. Each year a public hearing is held to obtain suggestions on how to use these funds and presents them to the Township Board of Trustees. The Trustees then approve these funds. This year \$153,000 has been allocated to the Township from Wayne County. This will provide funding for four (4) specific activities:

1. Greenways Trail
2. Senior Staffing
3. Fire Department
4. Geographic Information System (GIS)

The first of the four activities will be to partially fund the Greenways Trail, which is a proposed 3.6-mile pedestrian and bicycle path located in the southeastern corner of the Township. The second activity provides funds for the Senior Center to go towards the budget for staff salaries. The third activity provides funds to the Fire Department to use to match a FEMA grant which will be used to purchase helmets, boots, coats, etc. and the final project is for Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of parcel data in the Township.

In addition to these projects the CDBG program is also able to help low to moderate income residents who are in need of emergency repairs for their homes such as heat, storm windows, electrical or roof leaks. These funds are available to persons who have an emergency situation, which they are unable to fund themselves, but qualify under Wayne County and the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) income guidelines. If you are in need of this type of assistance, please contact Jennifer Parker in our Department either by phone at (734) 699-8913 or stop in and request an intake form.

Jennifer Parker  
Account Clerk

Steve Pugsley  
Zoning and Planning Administrator

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

A recently enacted Michigan statute, Act 222 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.

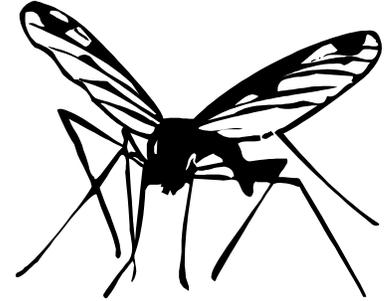
If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, you must file a written claim with the Van Buren Township Clerk, within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered. Notice must be mailed to Van Buren Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township,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

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

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

## AVOIDING SPRING & SUMMER PESTS (Vectors for Disease)

Soon we will leave the blustery winds and snow of winter behind, and enjoy the warmth and new life of spring. Unfortunately, with this explosion of new life comes a few unwelcome arrivals - stinging and biting insects. For the most part these insects are an annoying complication to enjoying the out-of-doors. Very rarely they can be associated with a number of diseases, including such "exotic" illnesses as malaria, yellow fever, and dengue fever. However, the recent outbreaks of West Nile virus can make them dangerous for those segments of the population that are susceptible.



### West Nile Virus

Infected mosquitoes are the primary source for West Nile Virus. Mosquitoes become infected with West Nile Virus when they feed on infected birds that carry the virus in their blood. Those infected mosquitoes can then transmit the West Nile Virus to humans and other animals while biting them to take in blood. Even though humans are not part of the normal virus transmission cycle, they are subject to incidental infections. West Nile encephalitis is not transmitted from person to person contact such as touching, kissing, or caring for someone who is infected. The only documented cases of person-to-person transmission resulted from blood transfusions and organ transplant.

### Susceptibility

Less than 1% of people who are bitten by an infected mosquito will become ill. People who live in or traveled to areas where West Nile Virus activity has been identified are at risk of infection; persons older than 50 years of age have the highest risk of becoming ill.

### Symptoms

Most infections are mild, and symptoms may include body aches, skin rash and swollen lymph glands. More severe infection may be marked by headache, high fever, stiff neck, stupor, disorientation, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness and paralysis. Persons who suspect they could be infected and suffer from severe or unusual headaches should seek medical care as soon as possible.

### Treatment

There is no vaccine for West Nile encephalitis. However, for a person that becomes severely ill, there are numerous supportive therapies: hospitalization, intravenous fluids, airway management, respiratory support (ventilator) if needed, prevention of secondary infections (pneumonia, urinary tract, etc.), and good nursing care.

### Prevention: Avoid Mosquito Bites to Avoid Infection

All mosquitoes require two items in order to lay eggs: A blood meal to allow the eggs to develop and stagnant water in which to lay their eggs. The first requirement, the blood meal, is what we are trying to prevent. Eliminating sources of the second requirement, water, can go a long way to reducing the number of mosquitoes around your home.

## AVOIDING SPRING & SUMMER PESTS (Vectors for Diseases)

Continued from Page Nineteen

There are many proven techniques and common-sense methods to reduce your exposure to biting mosquitoes. Thankfully, you do not need to barricade your family in the house for the season. Below are some recommended practices that will significantly reduce the likelihood of being bitten by an infected mosquito.

### Outdoor Activities

- Consider staying indoors at dusk and dawn, which are peak mosquito biting times.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever possible during time outdoors.
- Spray clothing with repellents containing permethrin or DEET, since mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing.
- Apply insect repellent sparingly to exposed skin. An effective repellent will contain 35% DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide). DEET in high concentrations (greater than 35%) provides no additional protection (Pregnant and Nursing women should minimize their use of repellents).
- Repellents may irritate the eyes and mouth, so avoid applying repellent to the hands of children.
- Whenever you use an insecticide or insect repellent, be sure to read and follow the manufacturer's DIRECTIONS FOR USE, as printed on the product.
- Drill holes in the bottom of containers that are left out of doors.
- Roof gutters are easily overlooked but can produce millions of mosquitoes each season and should be cleaned as often as necessary to prevent clogging.
- Bird baths should be cleaned on a regular basis to prevent the buildup of algae and dead leaves that mosquito larvae feed on. Change water at least weekly.
- If your pets food and water bowls are kept outside they should be kept clean and the water changed daily.
- Turn over tools and toys, such as wheelbarrows and plastic wading pools, which can accumulate water when not in use.
- Ensure that any potted plants that are kept out of doors are draining properly and that they do not maintain standing water.
- Keep backyard swimming pools clean and chlorinated.



### Controlling Mosquitoes Around Your Home

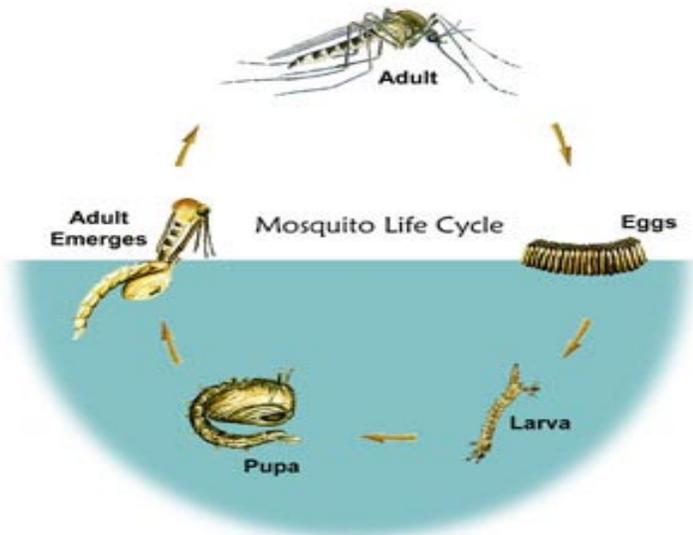
- Provide screening (16-18 mesh) on all outside openings (doors, windows, etc.).
- Mosquitoes can be significantly reduced by eliminating as many sources of standing water as possible.
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers that have accumulated on your property.
- Dispose of discarded tires which are an important breeding site for domestic mosquitoes.
- If your child has a used tire swing, drill holes in the bottom to allow rain water to drain out.
- Arrange with a neighbor or friend while you are away from your home for an extended period of time.
- Remember that the water that collects on top of a swimming pool cover may prove to be an excellent breeding area for mosquitoes.
- Ornamental pools can become major mosquito producers if they are allowed to stagnate. Aerate the pools or stock them with surface feeding minnows (Goldfish, offer little, if any benefit).
- Eliminate low-lying areas where standing water may collect.
- Mow your lawn on a regular basis.
- Cut weeds growing next to building foundations and fence lines in order to remove mosquito hiding and resting areas.



### Controlling Mosquitoes in Our Community

Mosquitoes are a community wide problem, requiring each of us to do our part. Please share this information with your neighbors and help those who may be physically unable to perform some of these tasks. There are also several, larger sources of stagnant water that may be near your home, but not directly under your control, such as ponds and storm water detention basins. There are some preventive measures that are effective in reducing mosquito populations at these facilities. You may want to investigate management options for these facilities and work with the responsible party, such as your homeowner's association, to implement a treatment program.

The most effective treatment options target the mosquito while it is still in the water, in the larval stage of its life cycle. Elimination or treatments of breeding habitats help reduce the adult mosquito population in nearby areas. Specific pesticides, called larvicides target and kill the immature mosquitoes in the water. Larvicides include biological insecticides, such as the microbial larvicides and other chemical pesticides, such as temephos, methoprene, oils, and monomolecular films.



Microbial larvicides are bacteria that are registered as pesticides for control of mosquito larvae in outdoor areas such as irrigation ditches, flood water, standing ponds, woodland pools, pastures, and storm water retention areas. Extensive testing has shown that microbial larvicides do not pose risks to wildlife, non-target species, or the environment, when used according to label directions. Curation of effectiveness depends primarily on the mosquito species, the environmental conditions, the formulation of the product, and water quality. Microbial larvicides may be used along with other mosquito control measures in an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. The microbial larvicides used for mosquito control are *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) and *Bacillus sphaericus* (B. sphaericus).

In Michigan, The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) regulates the application of pesticides. The MDA regulations state: A person shall not apply a pesticide for a commercial purpose or in the course of his or her employment unless that person is either a certified applicator or a registered applicator. If you or your organization hires a commercial applicator, you should check to see if they are certified or registered with the MDA. However, the MDA does not regulate homeowners that apply "ready-to-use" (requires no mixing or preparation) products. The following are several commercially available microbial larvicides.

**Aquabac**  
**Bactimos Pellets**  
**Gnatrol Biological Larvicide**  
**Green Thumb Ready-to-Use**  
**Granules**

**Mosquito Dunks**  
**Mosquito Bits**  
**Summit Bti Briquets**  
**Vectobac**

*Since no pesticide can be considered 100 percent safe, pesticide applicators and the public should always exercise care and follow specified safety precautions during use to reduce risks. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. No endorsement of products mentioned is intended nor is criticism implied of products not mentioned.*

**PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE RENEWAL**

Continued from Page Six

**Fire Services**



- Fire Calls
- Fire Prevention
- Training
- Medical Calls
- Fire Inspection
- Dive Rescue Team

**Dispatch Services**



- Answer all calls
- Front Desk
- Arraignments/Bail
- 911 & Cellular 911 Calls
- Jail Operations
- Municipal Center Security

**Questions Regarding the Public Safety Millage Renewal?**

If you have any questions pertaining to the Public Safety Millage renewal, please contact Director Christopher Elg or Deputy Director Al Smolen at (734) 699-8930.

**Animal Control Services**



- Animal Bites
- Animal Adoptions
- Nuisance Animal Calls
- Care of Shelter & Animals

**Emergency Storm Management**

- Disaster Planning
- Communications
- Homeland Security
- Training
- Conduct Area Wide Drills
- Mutual Aid Plans & Resources

**Public Safety Millage Renewal**

A renewal of the existing 3.0 mills (which has been recommended by the Public Safety Committee) would allow the Department of Public Safety (all five divisions) to continue current operations and services as we do today.

A failure to have a millage successfully passed by the voters in Van Buren Township would result in a decrease in services and programs currently provided by the Department.

**Summary**

85% of the current Public Safety budget is for personnel. 15% of the current Public Safety budget is for operations. Approximately 48% of the budget comes from the collection of the Public Safety Millage of 3.0 mills. A loss of this revenue source would undoubtedly impact our ability to provide our current level of public safety services.

CLERK'S OFFICE

The Charter Township of Van Buren will be holding a Special Election for the Public Safety Millage renewal on Tuesday, May 6th. Listed below are important dates to remember regarding voter registration and obtaining an absentee ballot.

The Michigan Secretary of State's office has a new website where voters may look up their voter registration on-line. The website asks for your name and will bring up your voting location, type of voting equipment used and a sample ballot for your jurisdiction. This is a great way to check your registration prior to Election Day. The website is www.michigan.gov/sos. You may also link to the Secretary of State's website from our website at www.vanburen-mi.org. Should you have any questions regarding your voter registration you may also contact my office at (734) 699-8909.

Joannie D. Payne
Township Clerk, CMC

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 7 Last day to register to vote for May 6 Special Public Safety Millage Election Primary.



r's Ballot s Office.

May 6 Special Election Day - polls open at 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

May 26 Township offices closed in observance of Memorial Day.

FRED C. FISCHER LIBRARY

Laugh It Up at Your Library!

Summer Reading Program sign-up begins Monday, June 2. Entertaining programs for children grades 1-6 are scheduled each Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. between June 17 and July 22. Read-To-Me programs for ages 3 1/2 to 6 will be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., June 18 - July 23.

Be amused and amazed by special guests, including magicians, jugglers, puppeteers, and more! Some of the grade school programs include Pippin Puppets (June 17), Jason Hurdy, Magician (July 15), and fun science with the Dirt Doctors (date to be announced). Read-To-Me programs include

Beverly Meyer, the Music Lady (June 18), Rita Kirsch, songs and puppets (June 25), and Duffer the Juggler (July 23).

Friends of the Library

Mark your calendars:

- Used Book Sale - Saturday, May 3, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Perennial Plant Swap - Saturday, May 3, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Look for us in the Strawberry Festival Parade - Saturday, June 14, 11:00 a.m.
Used Book Sale - Saturday, August 2, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Visit the Friends' website for further information:

http://www.belleville.lib.mi.us/friends.htm

Library Meetings

The Tri-Community Library Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting dates: April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9.

The Friends of the Library meet on the first Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Meeting dates: April 5, May 3, June 7, July 5.

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 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed
www.belleville.lib.mi.us

## TRASH GUIDELINES:

### Homeowners of Brand New Homes:

Please call the Community Services Department to order your garbage container (toter) and recycle bin. You should receive them both within 2-3 weeks following your call.

Please use a 32 gallon or smaller container until you receive your toter. Boxes are not acceptable rubbish containers.

### Toters and additional containers:

Please bag all items placed in toters or additional containers. Bagging the trash keeps your toters/containers cleaner and does not allow items to stick or freeze to bottom. **Please do not place LOOSE TRASH in toters/containers.**

**Additional containers must not exceed 32 gallons and must not weigh more than 50lbs.**

### Damaged Containers:

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

Waste Management will only provide maintenance or replacement on the cart due to normal wear and tear including broken wheels, worn out bottom, broken or bent front bar or lid damage.

### Stolen Containers:

If your Waste Management Toter is stolen or missing, you will need to contact Waste Management at (734) 292-0800 to acquire a new one at a cost of \$85.00. If you do not wish to purchase this container you may use a 32 gallon or smaller container at the curbside.

### Holiday Pickup Schedule

As holidays arrive the trash schedule is subject to change. Always set out your trash on your normal day. Waste Management will try to do two days in one in order to catch up the routes. We frequently receive calls when residents have not set their trash out on their normal day expecting Waste Management to be a day behind. The only day in which trash is collected a day later is for those whose trash day falls on the actual holiday **not those that are the day following.**

### All Homeowners:

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

### Special Pickups:

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

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

### If you are moving:

Please leave the container that was provided by Waste Management on the property for the next homeowner as the cart remains the property of Waste Management.

### Large Quantities of Trash:

**All remodeling material or large amounts of rubbish must be taken to the landfill directly.** As a Van Buren Township resident you have the option to utilize the landfill (Woodland Meadows) free of charge. This is a courtesy that is passed on to our homeowners. Please keep in mind that this **privilege cannot be extended to contractors. Commercialized vehicles and or commercialized jobs are prohibited.** In order to utilize the above privilege you must provide a driver's license that reflects a Van Buren Township address when you enter the landfill. Yard waste and household waste must be kept separate.

### Attention Mobile Home/Manufactured Home and Apartment residents:

If you wish to recycle, you may take your recyclables to the Woodland Meadows Recycling Center.

**Woodland Meadows** is located on the south side of Van Born Road just west of Hannan Road. The Landfill is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. To contact Woodland Meadows please call (734) 326-0993.

# COMPOST GUIDELINES



## Brush

Bundle all brush that is less than 6" in diameter. Bundles must not weigh more than 50 lbs. Bundles must be no longer than 4 feet in length and 18" around. Brush larger than 6" in diameter must still be bundled, however, it is considered trash and will be picked up as such.

If your trash, yard waste, or recycling is not picked up by 4:00 p.m. on your regularly scheduled day, please call (734) 699-8926.

Compost season ends the last week in November - no compost will be taken at the landfill or at curbside.

Please be sure to please be sure that all yard waste is set out at the curb tied and bundled, in the appropriate container, and properly labeled.

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

## ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS:

Yard Waste Pick up **BEGAN**  
the first week in **APRIL!!**

## Leaves and Grass Clippings

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

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

**Do not use plastic bags!!**

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

# RECYCLE GUIDELINES

## Plastic

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



Please Recycle!



## Tin

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

**Aluminum:** Containers and foil.



## Paper

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

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

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

## Glass

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

## Cardboard

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

**\*\* No pizza boxes\*\***

Attention Residents of Van Buren Township

# Drive-In Dog Clinic

Van Buren Charter Township In Cooperation with Dr. Graf - Belleville Animal Hospital



**Dog Rabies Vaccination  
Distemper Vaccination (optional)**

Get your **Dog License** while you're there!

**Saturday, May 3, 2003**

**Van Buren Township Water/Sewer Building  
46425 Tyler Road**  
(follow signs on Tyler Road by Township Hall)



**10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**

<b>Fees:</b> One Year Rabies Vaccination	<b>\$11</b>
One Year Distemper Vaccination	<b>\$16</b>
One Year Dog License	<b>\$5</b>
Senior Citizen Cost of Dog License	<b>\$2.50</b>

For more information, please call the Treasurer's Office at (734) 699-8903.

## Township Meetings

**Board Meetings:**

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

**Work Study Meetings:**

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

**Environmental Commission:**

2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

**Planning Commission:** 2nd

& 4th Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

**Water/Sewer Commission:**

4th Monday 7:00 p.m.

**Downtown Devel. Authority:**

2nd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.

**Local Devel. Finance Authority:**

2nd Tuesday 2:00 p.m.

**Cable Commission:**

2nd Thursday 7:00 p.m.

(Meets January, March, May, July, Sept & Nov, changes will be posted)

**Board of Zoning Appeals:**

2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

**Public Safety Committee:**

2nd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.

**Recreation Committee:**

2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m.

**Endowment Committee:**

2nd Tuesday 1:00 p.m.

**Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory:**

2nd Wednesday 3:00 p.m.

## Board of Trustees

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

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

**Sharry A. Budd** ([sbudd@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:sbudd@vanburen-mi.org))  
Treasurer . . . . . 699-8903

**Phillip Hart**  
**John Herman**  
**Jeffrey Jahr**  
**Walter Rochowiak**  
Trustees . . . . . 699-8910

## Township Departments

### Public Safety

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

### Developmental Services

Bryce Kelley, Planning & Economic Development Director . . . . . 699-8913  
Patti Duha, Director of Water & Sewer . . . . . 699-8944  
Ordinance Enforcement . . . . . 699-8913  
Dan Swallow, Environmental Director . . . . . 699-8913  
Block Grants (CDBG) . . . . . 699-8913

### Community Services

Bruce Ross, Director of Recreation & Facilities . . 699-8926  
VBT Channel 12 . . . . . 699-8926  
Parks & Recreation . . . . . 699-8921  
Linda Combs, Senior Director . . . . . 699-8918  
September Days Senior Center . . . . . 699-8918

## Lake Ledger

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**Editor:**

Christina Harman  
Community Services Department

**Charter Township of Van Buren**  
46425 Tyler Road  
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