



*Charter Township of Van Buren*

# *Lake Ledger*

**F a l l 2 0 0 3**

## **PROMOTING ACTIVE COMMUNITIES "COMMUNITY VISION"**



Left to Right: Recreation Manager Jennifer Morris, Governor Jennifer Granholm, and Director of Recreation & Facilities Bruce Ross.

**By: Bruce Ross  
Director of Recreation & Facilities**

The Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports (GCPHS), through a partnership with the Michigan Department of Community Health, awarded grants to five Michigan communities to assess their physical activity environment and make at least one improvement that will make it easier for people to be active. \$3,000 was awarded to make one improvement to make people more active. I'm very happy to say that Van Buren Township was chosen by the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports to be one of only five communities in the state of Michigan to take part in this pilot program.

As a part of the grant, the Township formed a Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee to assess our community's policies and programs to implement improvements to the physical activity environment. Over the past seven months, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee brainstormed ideas and concepts on how we can assist in making our residents more physically active. In July, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee in conjunction

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## SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

As you have likely heard by now, Van Buren Charter Township has achieved an "A" rating with a "stable" outlook from Standard & Poors and an "A3" rating from Moody's Investors Service, two of the three ratings agencies. Receiving these "A" ratings is certainly something for which our community can be proud. While these ratings relate specifically to the \$29 million Limited Tax General Obligation tax increment bonds to finance public improvements to Visteon Village, these ratings also reflect many positive factors including the financial strength of the township. These ratings reflect the sound management of township finances, our large, rapidly growing and diverse tax base, and low debt burden (\$2,234 per capita).

Achieving these "A" ratings will also be useful for any future public projects that may be undertaken as they may allow the township to borrow funds at more favorable interest rates. Indeed, we are fortunate to have these ratings, ratings many others would be pleased to have.

Also receiving an "A" rating in my book are the following individuals who serve on the various township commissions and committees, putting forth an effort for the betterment of the township. Please take a few minutes to read about these individuals, and if you're so inclined, I've included an application to serve on a township commission/committee that may be completed and returned to my office.

In closing, it remains a privilege to serve this "A" community as your township supervisor. My days are full and busy ones but well worth the effort. Soon the leaves will turn to their beautiful yellows, reds and golds. Van Buren Park will remain open during the fall and winter months. We've also made some changes to French Landing Park, a great location to view the sun setting over Belleville Lake. They are your parks, take advantage of them; I'm certain you will find them relaxing and pleasurable.

Cindy C. King  
Township Supervisor

## MEET YOUR COMMISSION/COMMITTEE CHAIRS!

These are questions that were posed to commission/committee members:

1. Personal information - name, length of time in the community, length of time on the commission.
2. Why did you decide to serve?
3. Most significant project or issue, or most unusual topic addressed by your commission?
4. What one thing do you think most people don't understand about the work of your commission?

## Board of Zoning Appeals

1. Helen Foster. Can you believe I have lived here 31 years? I served 12 years on the Planning Commission and the BZA since 2000. I was named 2000 Community Administrator of the Year by Michigan Society of Planning Officials. 2. I am serving in support of this administration which emphasizes the quality of a premier community, open space conservation, and environmental preservation. 3. Significant -- Land Use as a statewide issue -- developers are lobbying for statewide planning rules and to do away with local planning. Some are saying that would "end urban sprawl." Not so in my opinion; it is my conviction that citizen's know their hometown best and need to retain local control. Even the Supreme Court has noted the fundamental right of communities to have planning regulations at the local level. 4. Not understood -- it is the obligation of the BZA Commissioners to uphold the zoning ordinance; only unique parcels of land can obtain a variance. Commissioners cannot circumvent the community's duly adopted regulations for financial or even aesthetic reasons.

## Downtown Development Authority



1. My name is Jere E. Dolph, and I have lived in the community since 1961, and am very proud to live here. I am one of the original members of the Van Buren Downtown Development Authority (DDA), which was organized March 4, 1988. I was originally appointed to the DDA as a member of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education on which I served for twelve years. Today, I continue to be just as enthusiastic about the DDA as I was in 1988. It is an honor to be serving as your representative for our community. 2. The DDA, is a non-profit organization, established under Public Act Number 197 of the Public Acts of 1975, of the State of Michigan. The DDA is run by a board of directors that encourage and promote economic development through business attraction/retention,

## COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES

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## TREASURER'S OFFICE

Where did the summer go?

The treasurer's office is continuing to collect the 2003 summer school taxes. The Township Board did extend the deadline for collection until Tuesday, September 30, 2003. We hope that helps, as everyone is busy getting back into the routines of fall.

My office is also starting to gather information for the 2003 winter taxes. If you have re-mortgaged or purchased a home, you need to notify my office so our records reflect the proper data. We need you to keep us updated on what mortgage company the bills get sent to and if any change has occurred as to where you want the tax bill sent. We want you to help us keep your tax records correct.

Since figures are what we are about, here are some facts to consider. The Treasurer's office handles about 7,988 real property parcels and 598 personal property parcels in July for the school tax collection and that number again for the winter tax collection. We collect over 6,000 water bills. Every time the Planning Department issues any kind of a permit it creates a transaction for the Treasurer's office. All the seniors, park and recreation revenues generated by classes, programs and park admissions are accounted for in my office. Over 16,000 transactions crossed our counter in 2002, which means about 1,325 a month or about 65 residents a day using the Treasurer's office. We collected and disbursed over \$40 million dollars in the year 2002. Because we collect the amount assessed by all the entities on properties in Van Buren Township, we are also responsible to see that those funds get paid to the proper source, such as the schools and the County. The Treasurer's office works as the check and balance for all revenue, as well as, making sure funds are available to cover the checks issued for Township expenditures.

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

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

Sharry A. Budd  
Township Treasurer

## COMMUNITY VISION

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with the Recreation Committee hosted a Community Vision Session to receive input from residents of Van Buren Township on how the township can be a more active community.

Through the Community Vision session and the work of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, a vision was developed for the \$3,000 grant to make one improvement to make it easier for people to be more active.

The pilot project that was chosen for the first step towards the community vision is a vita course along the pathways at Quirk Park. A vita course has exercise stations set up at different locations along the pathways. Most courses have a sit-up station, pull-up station, and parallel bar station. Quirk Park located at the corner of Ayres and Quirk Roads is a new park dedicated in Van Buren Township on June 7, 2003.

At the community vision session held in July residents wanted to see vita course equipment along the pathways as well as sign markers letting participants know the exact distance they have walked.

Get active Van Buren! A healthier you means a healthier Van Buren!

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

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

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

## COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES

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and physical revitalization within the DDA district. The DDA strives to increase the Township tax base and strengthen the local economy while maintaining those qualities which make the Charter Township of Van Buren a desirable place to live. The board is comprised of merchants, business owners, property owners, and professionals. There are ten members, and Township Supervisor Cindy King, Executive Assistant Susan Ireland, and our Executive Director Bryce Kelley. We support the concept and ideas of a passive recreational area of approximately 60 acres of land within the northwest corner of Tyler and Belleville Roads, which is located within the Van Buren DDA Authority area. **3.** One of our latest achievements included the installation of light poles from the Belleville Bridge to Tyler Road, improving the landscaping and making the roadway safer. On these poles you will find our Township banners and American flags. **4.** One item most residents are not aware of is that there are no taxes that come from residents in the Charter Township of Van Buren to support the DDA. The DDA's actions are self supporting. Our meeting dates are the second Tuesday of each month and the general public is always welcome.

### Environmental Commission



**1.** David Brownlee, Environmental Commission Chairperson. 48 years in the community and 18 years spent on the Environmental Commission. **2.** There is nothing more fundamental to our quality of living than the quality of the environment in our community. The environmental commission

gives residents of Van Buren Township an opportunity to ensure that development will not compromise our health and welfare. **3.** Significant Issues: VBT Tree Ordinance, Adopt-A-Road Program, Greenways Preservation. **4.** I don't think that the community fully appreciates the commission's ability to influence and shape the township's environmental policies. The commissions are made up of volunteer residents who are passionate about community issues and want to provide input and direction to the leadership of Van Buren Township.

### Planning Commission

**1.** Carol Thompson. I've lived in Van Buren Township, Village of Denton, for 10 years. I've served on the Planning Commission for four years. **2.** Van Buren Township, its people, its rural character, and its quality of life are why I chose to live here. Six years ago, I joined a group of Denton Village neighbors meeting about neighborhood concerns - traffic, drainage, sidewalks, developers cutting down trees,

and industrial buildings proposed for our backyards - many of the same concerns residents regularly bring to the planning commission meetings. Our neighborhood group had a lot to learn about planning and government, and by working together we found we could make a difference. I'm still learning, and still hoping to make a difference, as we all work together for smart growth in our township. **3.** We can be very proud of our Township's Woodland Ordinance, an important tool for working with developers to protect our woodlands as well as replacing trees lost in the building process. We respond to residents' concerns by updating existing ordinances, and help guide growth by approving documents such as the Woodland Ordinance, the Ecorse-Haggerty Road Corridor Plan, the Premier Community Plan, and we're currently talking about improving the housing options for senior citizens. **4.** I think residents know they have an important role in the Planning Commission's work and in local government. I would remind them that their concerns and ideas affect decisions and help shape the ordinances that guide development and growth. The Planning Commission is grateful to the many who attend meetings and share their thoughts, and we encourage everyone to join us.

### Water & Sewer Commission

**1.** Bob Cook. I have lived in the community with my wife, Agnes, for 45 years. I have been on the Water & Sewer Commission for twenty years. **2.** Being a commission member gives me an opportunity to serve the people of our community in trying to keep the water rates low. **3.** Working with the Master plan is important, finding ways to service the housing projects in the area and keeping up with future needs. **4.** Most people do not realize the Water and Sewer Commission is only an advisory committee. The township board makes the final decisions.

### Board of Canvassers

**1.** Donna Hall. I have served on the Board of Canvassers for about 20 years. **2.** I have enjoyed serving on this board because I find it interesting to canvass the local vote and to see how the different precincts of our community are voting. **3.** I think it is important for us to verify our own elections. **4.** I don't think that most people are aware of what the Board of Canvassers do, so I am sure most don't understand it. Local canvassing boards "certify" and make official the results of local races. I have also served past terms on the Planning Commission, Water Commission and Board of Appeals. It is beneficial to both residents and elected officials to have these commissions. It certainly gives the Board of Trustees input from the community.

**Public Safety Committee**

1. Lianne I. Clair. Length of time in the community: approximately 17 years. Length of time on the Public Safety Committee: appointed in August 1999, elected Vice Chair February 2000, elected Chair in February 2001. 2. The choice to serve my community was easy. I've spent much of my teen and young adult life being involved in the community in some form or another, whether it be in student council, dorm government, or volunteering to assist non-profits. My parents taught me the value of community service by example. To this day and despite various health issues, my father continues to volunteer for little municipal tasks around my hometown of South Lyon. 3. The most significant issue at this point that has been addressed by my committee has been the funding of public safety services. My committee members worked diligently with the Township's Public Safety employees to educate residents regarding the absolute necessity of retaining the current levels of funding for Public Safety services. The residents responded positively and voted to approve the renewal of the department's operating millage. 4. There's actually a couple of things that I think many people do not understand about my committee. First of all, my committee members volunteer their time and are not compensated by the Township. They volunteer their time (and often their resources) because they care deeply about the quality of life in our community. Secondly, being a committee and not a commission, we serve only in an advisory capacity to the Township's Board of Trustees. We cannot create or change policy, we can only advise in an effort to influence it. Additionally, I think that there are some general misperceptions that affect my committee's work. For example, many residents are confused about the Belleville mailing address of 48111 encompassing three communities: Van Buren Township, the City of Belleville and Sumpter Township. (No, Van Buren does NOT have a firestation south of the railroad tracks.) Also, some citizens are unaware of the breadth of issues handled by public safety. A goal of my committee is to educate our residents about the critical role local public safety units play in preserving the value of a community and in turn, our nation, especially in light of current global politics. My message to residents: having adequate community public safety services is one of the best insurance policies anyone can invest in.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN**

**BACKGROUND AND PERSONAL DATA OUTLINE ON CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS**

Committee, Commission or Board in which interested:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Daytime Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

College: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree/Course(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Presently employed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Duties performed: \_\_\_\_\_

Current membership in organizations and offices held:

\_\_\_\_\_

Past membership in organizations and offices held:

\_\_\_\_\_

Any additional information and comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Return completed form to:**  
**Township Supervisor's Office**  
 46425 Tyler Road  
 Van Buren Twp., MI 48111  
 (734) 699-8910

Signature

Date

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

**EMERGENCY!!**

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

## THE BIG BLACKOUT

On this past August 14th at approximately 4:11 p.m., we all experienced a total power failure here in Van Buren. With communications severely limited and with almost no information about the cause and duration of the outage, I am extremely pleased to report that our Township fared pretty well through the calamity (all things considered). Your on-call Fire Fighters staffed both Fire Stations, the Water/Sewer crews were dispatched to manage water and sewer services that had lost their respective pumping capabilities, off-duty Police Officers were recalled to bolster patrols since no alarm systems were operational, the 9-1-1 Communications Center added one extra Dispatcher to help with the tremendous flurry of phone calls and emergency radio traffic, and our elected officials were present/available to help in every way.

The real result of August 14th was neighbor helping neighbor, business individuals and individuals offering aid and assistance, and motorist after motorist willing to wait their turn to proceed through an intersection where traffic signals were non-operational. Our community abounded with acts of kindness, caring, and consideration. It could have been much worse!

It is important to remember that each of us needs to prepare for emergency events. Keep at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food and water on hand for each family member (including pets). Have access to a flashlight, batter-operated radio, and fresh supply of batteries. Keep a small supply of necessary prescription medicines available. Know where each of your family members are.

Adopting these few tips WILL help to minimize the negative effects of the next power outage or weather emergency we will undoubtedly encounter. Preparation is the key ingredient for safety of our families, ourselves, and our property. For more safety tips, visit the Van Buren Township website at [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org), tune in to VBTv Cable Channel 12, or call the Public Safety Department at (734) 699-8930.

Al Smolen  
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

### VAN BUREN FIRE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Van Buren Fire Department is the protection of life and property from the adverse effects of fires, medical emergencies or exposure to dangerous conditions through fire suppression, rescue, disaster preparedness, fire prevention and community education. The members of this Department, working together, will provide a professional and caring environment that is fair, honest ethical and that treats all individuals with respect and dignity.

## DANGER - KNOW THE ZONE

This year's National School Bus Safety Week celebration is scheduled October 19th through October 25th, 2003.

The National Safety Council suggests that motorists use extra caution when sharing the roadway with a school bus. According to the National Safety Council's 1995 edition of Accident Facts, an estimated 115 persons nationwide were killed in school bus accidents in the 1993-1994 school year. Of the pupils killed, 35 were pedestrians either approaching or leaving a loading zone. To help avoid these tragedies, the Safety Council for southeast Michigan and National Safety Council are offering the following answers to questions motorists have.

### ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT DRIVING NEAR SCHOOL BUSES

#### Why are school buses yellow?

School buses are yellow for the same reason yellow is used in traffic lights. Yellow warns drivers to "Slow down and be prepared to stop." **Not** to Speed up.

#### What should the driver watch for when a school bus is stopped?

Watch for children darting out and running across the road. Even though children are taught at an early age to stop, look left, look right, look left again, they are often distracted by thinking about getting in school or going home and forget to look for moving vehicles.

#### Do drivers have a legal choice about stopping?

Generally, no, as laws vary. In Michigan, when overhead red lights are flashing and the bus is moving prepare to stop - when the bus stops - stop. When overhead yellow lights are flashing - prepare to stop.

#### How far away from a school bus must a driver stop?

Whether approaching from the front or back, stop at least 20 feet away from a school bus that has lights flashing.

#### What if a bus is stopped at a railway crossing?

At rail crossings the bus will pull to the right and display yellow lights while the driver determines if it is safe to cross. If a motorist comes from behind, it cannot pass the bus and must stop. If a motorist comes from the opposite direction, it may proceed with caution.

#### What about yellow hazard lights?

When they are flashing while the bus is moving or stopped - proceed with caution. It is not necessary to stop for a school bus that has stopped on the divided highway where the road is separated by a barrier.

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2003: OCTOBER 5-11

### “Get Out!, Stay Out!”

*In 2001, according to the National Fire Protection Association, 3,100 Americans were killed and another 15,200 were injured as a result of fire. Direct property loss due to fires was estimated at \$5.5 billion. Fire killed more Americans than all natural disasters combined. 85% of all fire deaths occurred in residences. With these startling statistics in mind, here are some safety tips for you:*

#### SMOKE DETECTORS

Smoke is responsible for three out of four deaths.

- Install smoke detectors on every level of your home and outside of sleeping areas.
- Test every detector at least once a month. (See your instruction book for the location of the test button)
- Keep smoke detectors dust free. Replace batteries once a year, or sooner if the detector makes a chirping sound.
- If you have a smoke detector directly wired to your electrical system, be sure that the little signal light is blinking periodically. This tells you that the alarm is active.
- Inexpensive smoke detectors are available for the hearing impaired.

#### FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

They remain your best bet if you're on the spot when a fire begins.

- Fire extinguishers should be mounted in the kitchen, garage, and workshop.
- Purchase an ABC type extinguisher for extinguishing all types of fires.
- Learn how to use your fire extinguisher before there is an emergency.
- Remember, use an extinguisher on small fires only. If there is a large fire, get out immediately and call 911 from another location.

#### THINKING AHEAD: Your Exit Plan

As with other things, the best motto is , “Be Prepared.”

- Prepare a floor plan of your home showing at least two ways out of each room.

### What if a driver sees a school bus driver driving too fast or in a negligent manner?

Notify school officials immediately. Report the school bus ID number and the area the bus was in.

Van Buren Public Safety Department

## KEEPING LITTLE SPIRITS SAFE ON HALLOWEEN

Children wait for this day all year long. They spend weeks deciding on just the right costumes and dreaming of bags of goodies. While Halloween is cherished by youth, the excitement of the night can cause children to forget to be careful.

On the average, 86 children were killed or injured each day in pedestrian accidents. In 1994, children five to fifteen years old accounted for 30% of all pedestrian injuries. These figures are frightening but the Safety Council feels they can be changed through education.

Children trick-or-treating after dark makes Halloween an especially dangerous time. **To keep your children safe, teach them the following rules for pedestrian safety:**

- STOP at the curb before entering streets.
- LOOK left-right-left for moving cars.
- WAIT for the proper traffic signals and be sure the street is clear, even then keep looking for cars.
- WALK, don't run when crossing the street. Use side walks.
- STAY AWAY from parked cars and don't run between them.
- DO NOT enter strangers cars.
- WATCH to see if a car is getting ready to move.

#### Drivers.....

- SLOW down in residential areas. Obey all traffic signals.
- WATCH for children walking on roadways, median, and curbs.
- BE PREPARED for children to dart out into the street at any time.
- CAREFULLY enter and exit driveways and alleys.
- CLEAN headlights and make sure they work.

Responsibility for a safe and enjoyable Halloween must be shared by adults and children alike.

Ron Folks, Battalion Chief  
Van Buren Fire Station 1

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2003

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## JAMBOREE 2003



Some of the western decor provided by volunteer Kelly Burd.

September Days Senior Center celebrated its 11th Annual Country Jamboree on Friday, August 22nd. There were 390 people signed up, and 335 participants walked through the door, making this Jamboree a record-breaking event! Kelly Burd, one of our volunteers, helped set the "country mood," with her imaginative western decor. The tables, rooms and lobby area portrayed the "down-home" feeling this event is intended to impart.

Over 100 people played Bingo for 2 hours before dinner, and they took home a wide array of prizes ranging from toilet paper to food items and gifts donated by local businesses and senior center members. Representatives from Wayne County Executive Robert Fianco's office were kind enough to be "substitute" bingo callers until Jim Taratsas arrived to take over.

VBT Trustees Walt Rochowiak, John Herman and helpers spent the day roasting turkeys for us. As usual, they were very tasty, and the guys didn't even get rained on this year! Deb's Catering provided the rest of the meal, and everyone agreed the dinner was delicious.

Dale Williams provided the entertainment. He did a wonderful job keeping up with all of the requests. As always, the dance floor was busy with a wide variety of dancers doing line dancing, polkas and everything in between.

This event was FREE for September Days members. Many thanks to the area businesses and community donors for their continued support in this endeavor.

Linda Combs  
Senior Director

## WALKING FOR LIFE



Walk Michigan winner, Janet Oliver, walking the Mackinac Bridge.

Congratulations to you Van Buren Township for helping the Parks and Recreation Department receive a valuable award two years in a row! The award we received is the Promoting Active Communities Award given by the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports.

So what does this award mean? It means through this award we will be eligible for grant money so we can better the community for health and fitness. It also means that our community is becoming much more active.

One way Van Buren Township has started to show their enthusiasm for getting healthy is by participating in our Walk Michigan program. This program is a great opportunity to interact with the community and help reach each other's individual goals. Another advantage of this program is being able to walk all while enjoying the outdoors. We introduced this program to the community last year and had successful results. However this year our numbers doubled with walking participants. The object of our program is to venture out to Lower Huron Metro Park each Wednesday from May to August and walk up to three miles. For each mile walked you are entered to win a trip for two to Mackinac Island over Labor Day weekend to walk the bridge with the governor and several thousand walk enthusiasts.

This year the winner of Walk Michigan is one of our September Days senior citizens and owner of Jan's School of Dance, Janet Oliver. Jan and her husband John Oliver were able to partake in this trip and loved every minute of it. They walked the "Mighty Mac" Bridge, biked and walked the Island, and explored the history of Mackinac. Congratulations to you Jan and John and keep on walking!

Today it seems everyone is looking for a way to get active and stick with it. Well it looks like Van Buren Township is definitely on the right track on meeting this goal. Through



the Walk Michigan program and numerous other fitness activities that the Parks and Recreation Department offers, you can continue to achieve what you are looking for to stay healthy.

Jennifer Morris  
Recreation Manager

## VBTV 12

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

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

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

Ally Acosta  
Cable Operations Manager

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2003

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- Sleep with your bedroom door closed. In the event of fire, it helps to hold back heat and smoke. But if a door feels hot, do not open it; escape through another door or window.
- Easy-to-use window escape ladders are available through many catalogues and outlet stores. For instance, First Alert sells one for around \$90.
- Agree on a fixed location out-of-doors where family members are to gather for a head count.
- Stay together away from the fire. Call 911 from another location. Make certain that no one goes back inside the burning building.
- Check corridors and stairways to make sure they are free of obstructions and combustibles.
- To help cut down on the need for an emergency exit in the first place, clear all unnecessary items from the attic, basement, garage, and closets.

## FIREPLACE

Remember, you're deliberately bringing fire into your home; respect it.

- Use a fireplace screen to prevent sparks from flying.
- Don't store newspapers, kindling, or matches near the fireplace or have an exposed rug or wooden floor right in front of the fireplace.
- Have your chimney inspected by a professional prior to the start of every heating season and cleaned to remove combustible creosote build-up if necessary.
- Install a chimney spark arrester to prevent roof fires.
- When lighting a gas fireplace, strike your match first then turn on the gas.

## FURNACE/SPACE HEATERS

Used improperly, a space heater can be the most dangerous appliance in your house.

- Install and maintain heating equipment correctly. Have your furnace inspected by a professional prior to the start of every heating season.
- Don't store newspapers, rags, or other combustible materials near a furnace, hot water heater, space heater, etc.
- Don't leave space heaters operating when you're not in the room.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that might burn, including the wall.
- Don't use extension cords with electrical space heaters. The high amount of current they require could melt the cord and start a fire.
- When lighting a gas space heater, strike your match first, then turn on the gas.
- Never use a gas range as a substitute for a furnace or space heater.

## CLOTHES DRYER

Under some circumstances, dangerous heat can build up in a dryer.

- Never leave home with the clothes dryer running.
- Dryers must be vented to the outside, not into a wall or attic.
- Clean the lint screen frequently to keep the airway clear.
- Never put in synthetic fabrics, plastic, rubber, or foam because they retain heat.

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2003

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**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2003**

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**ELECTRICAL HAZARDS**

Electricity, the silent servant, can become a silent assassin.

- It is better not to use extension cords. If you feel you must use one, make sure that it is not frayed or worn. Do not run it under a rug or twist it around a nail or hook.
- Never overload a socket. In particular, the use of "octopus" outlets, outlet extensions that accommodate several plugs is strongly discouraged.
- Do not use light bulb wattage which is too high for the fixture. Look for the label inside each fixture which tells the maximum wattage.
- Check periodically for loose wall receptacles, loose wires, or loose lighting fixtures. Sparking means that you've waited too long.
- Allow air space around the TV to prevent overheating. The same applies to plug-in radios and stereo sets, and to powerful lamps.
- If a circuit breaker trips or a fuse blows frequently, immediately cut down on the number of appliances on that line.
- Be sure all electrical equipment bears the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label.
- In many older homes, the capacity of the wiring system has not kept pace with today's modern appliances. Overloaded electrical systems invite fire. Watch for these overload signals: dimming lights when an appliance goes on, a shrinking TV picture, slow heating appliances, or fuses blowing frequently. Call a qualified electrician to get expert help.

**KITCHEN**

Careless cooking is the number one cause of residential fires. Never leave cooking unattended.

- It's wise to have a fire extinguisher near the kitchen. Keep it 10 feet away from the stove on the exit side of the kitchen.
- Never pour water on a grease fire; turn off the stove and cover the pan with a lid, or close the oven door.
- Keep pot handles on the stove pointing to the back, and always watch young children in the kitchen.
- Don't store items on the stove top, as they could catch fire.
- Keep kitchen appliances clean and in good condition, turn them off and disconnect them when not in use.
- Don't overload kitchen electrical outlets and don't use appliances with frayed or cracked wires.
- Wear tight-fitting clothing when you cook. Here's why: An electrical coil on the stove reaches a

temperature of 800 degrees. A gas flame goes over 1000 degrees. Your dish towel or pot holder can catch fire at 400 degrees. So can your bathrobe, apron, or loose sleeve.

- Be sure your stove is not located under a window in which curtains are hanging.
- Clean the exhaust hood and duct over the stove regularly and wipe up spilled grease as soon as the surface of the stove is cool.
- Operate your microwave only when there is food in it.

**CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN**

One-fourth of all fire-deaths of children are from fires started by children.

- Keep lighters and matches out of the reach of children.
- Never leave children unattended with fire or space heaters.
- Children are naturally curious about fire, so keep an eye on them. But if a child repeatedly plays with fire or seems to have a morbid fascination with fire, seek professional help at once.
- If youngsters live with you or stay overnight occasionally, be sure that they know how to escape from every room and are part of your emergency exit plan. (See "Thinking Ahead" above)

**GASOLINE AND OTHER FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS**

Those cans aren't painted red just for the fun of it!

- Flammable liquids should be stored only in approved safety containers, and the containers should be kept outside the house and garage in a separate storage shed.
- Gas up lawn equipment and snowthrowers outside, away from enclosed areas and any source of sparks or heat.
- Start the equipment 10 feet away from where you filled it with fuel.
- Don't fill a hot lawn mower, snowthrower, or other motor; let it cool first.
- Never clean floors or do other general cleaning with gasoline or flammable liquids.

**SMOKING**

If you actually believe that you're immune from cancer, heart disease, emphysema, or other ills, at least worry about burning to death.

- Never smoke in bed.
- Don't smoke when you are drinking or are abnormally tired.

- Use large, deep ashtrays, and empty them frequently.
- Never dump an ashtray into the trash without wetting the butts and ashes first.

Fire Fighters  
Van Buren Fire Station #2

## MESSAGE FROM THE SRO'S

### **Some background information:**

*In the closing months of 2002-2003 school year the School Resource Officers (SROs) assigned to the Van Buren Public School District were just beginning to get into the swing of things. The VBPS district has two SROs assigned to it on a full time basis. Officers Ryan Bidwell from the Van Buren Police Department and Ofc. Kristin Faull from the Belleville Police Department share duties within the district.*

*The goal of these officers is to promote a positive relationship with and improve communication between law enforcement and the community. The SRO's handle all criminal complaints that occur in the schools. The SRO's address traditional police problems such as truancy, building safety, larcenies and traffic as well as provide age specific safety and law related education for students at the request of their principals or teachers. The SRO's are available for confidential counseling as well as just being another adult a student may use as a resource to get questions answered. If the SRO's are unable to help a student they seek to assist the student by finding someone who can do so.*

### **A message on safety;**

The warm and sunny dog days of summer are leaving us for the cool breezes and vibrant colors of fall. With this in mind, we have to remember that along with the change of season comes the start of yet another school year. Children waiting at bus stops, football season, and the complaints of too much homework lay before us. The safety of our children should be the top priority for all of us living within the Van Buren Public Schools district. We must be extra aware of the flashing red lights on school buses as they pick up and return children from school as well as being mindful of changes in speed limits in school zones during specified times. When picking up or dropping off your child at school, be aware of the pavement markings and signs on or near the building. Please respect the "No Parking" signs and if you are asked to move by a staff member do not be angry at them for trying to make everyone's drop off/pick up experience as safe and unproblematic as possible. Overall, remember - by being a cautious and courteous driver we can all help keep this a safe school year.

Since the unfortunate morning of September 11, 2001 we have all been a little more concerned for our safety and security. The SRO's are concerned for the safety of the community as well, specifically that part of our community which is most dear to us...our children. The SRO's make regular security and safety checks of the school building and provide suggestions to faculty and staff as necessary. Although we cannot make each building a fortress, we can eliminate some safety and security concerns. Locked external doors, required checking of parental identification before picking up a child, and investigating safety concerns as they arise are all ways that we can help keep our children a little bit safer. We encourage you to help us in this endeavor by using the main entrances at your child's school and by following the posted visitor check in signs.

The increased concerns for terrorist activity have made us more aware of outside threats to the safety of our children. How many of us have taken into consideration the other everyday threats that exist? Apathy, drugs, alcohol, depression, and criminal activity are all threats to the safety of our children. The best defense against these is involvement in your child's life. Try to encourage your child to be the best that they can. A hug and words of encouragement or praise can do wonders for a child's self confidence. It is also important to remember that if it were within our power we would shelter and protect our children from not only the dangers of life but also the disappointments of life. Realistically, we cannot do this. However we can teach them how to grow stronger and work past disappointments when they come across them. Sit down and talk with your child about major current events that are taking place throughout the world. Often children are confused about the things that they see on television or hear about on the radio but do not know how to ask for clarification regarding these topics.

As part of a child's mental development and maturing they naturally seek the approval of those who are closest to them. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters, are all examples of those children normally look to for support and approval. Help nurture your child's mental development. Take interest in your child's life both in and out of school. Encourage them to participate in extra-curricular activities and when they do participate in those activities, go and cheer them on. Do not be afraid to question your child when they ask or tell you they are going out with a friend. Who is the friend? Where are they going and when will they be home? Your child may not fully appreciate your concerns now, but as they grow older they will.

## MESSAGES FROM THE SRO'S

Continued on Page 17

*Recreation Program  
Fall 2003*

**Jazzercise**

A 60-65 minute dance exercise class that includes warmup, 30-35 minute aerobic workout, weight training and stretching. Now with fresh new moves and new music it's pure motivation. Please call Patti Rukkila for class information at (734) 340-3686.

**Ongoing, Mondays & Wednesdays**

**9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**  
(childcare \$2.00)

and

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

and

**Ongoing, Saturdays**  
**9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**



4 week EFT (electronic funds transfer) = \$35.00  
8 week (cash or check) = \$80.00  
Walk-in = \$8.00

**Introduction to Pageants**

Improve your self confidence and poise while learning about pageants and modeling! Students will develop skin care, hair and makeup techniques, personal interview and speaking skills, production numbers, wardrobe planning, modeling techniques, walks and poses. The first six weeks will end with a fashion show, the second six week session will end with a full practice pageant.

**Tuesdays, September 16 - October 21 (six weeks)**

**Tuesdays, October 28 - December 2 (six weeks)**

6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. 11-14 years  
7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. 15 and up

Van Buren Residents = \$60.00 Non-Residents = \$75.00

**K-9 Obedience Class**

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

We teach you to train your own pet under our supervision. Must bring proof of rabies, distemper, and a recent proof of negative fecal report to the first class. Your dog's tags must be up to date as well.

**Only 18 and older can train.**

**7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**Tuesdays, October 28 - December 2**

Classes are held at the Belleville High School (small gym)

VB Resident = \$30.00 Non-Resident = \$35.00

**Youth Cheerleading**

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

**Mondays, September 15 - October 20 (six weeks)**

**Mondays, October 27 - December 1 (six weeks)**

5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	8-10 years	R = \$50.00 NR = \$65.00
6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	11-14 years	R = \$50.00 NR = \$65.00
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	14 and up	R = \$55.00 NR = \$70.00

(Includes gymnastics and tumbling)

**Little Sailors Motor Skills Development Course**

Children will improve gross motor skills, coordination and social skills while enjoying movement and music activities.

Ages: 3-5

**Mondays, October 27 - December 1**

(six weeks) R = \$45.00 NR = \$60.00

**4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

### Trick-or-Treating at Township Hall



Thursday, October 30  
Starts at 6:00 p.m.



Go trick-or-treating safely. Kids will go trick-or-treating from room to room at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road. Everyone must enter through the main door. If your business is interested in passing out treats, please call Meghan Mutch at (734) 699-8921 to reserve your room.

Free! Free! Free!



### The "Great Pumpkin" Party

Friday, October 31  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Community Center  
(pre-registration required)



It will be a Spooktacular event!

Calling all ghosts and goblins. Join us for a howling good time as we create creepy crafts, ghoulish goodies, play ghostly games and experience some truly spectacular surprises. Dinner included with cost of admission (one slice of pizza and a pop or juice). Additional slice of pizza available for \$1.

Must be pre-registered by October 24!!

\$5.00 per child (3-12 years)  
Space is limited!

### Birch Run/Frankenmuth

Saturday, November 1 \*\* Pre-register by October 27th \*\*

Start or finish up your holiday shopping at the Birch Run Outlet Mall. We will then venture to Frankenmuth for some more shopping and dinner.

Meet at Van Buren Township Community Center at 8:00 a.m.



#### Tentative Schedule



- 8:00 a.m. - Arrive at Community Center
- 10:00 a.m. - Shop at Bronner's Christmas Store
- 12:00 p.m. - Arrive at Birch Run Outlet Mall
- 4:00 p.m. - Head over to Frankenmuth
- 8:00 p.m. - Depart for Van Buren Township

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

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

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

### Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad

(Located in Flint, Michigan)



Saturday, October 18 \*\*  
Pre-register by October 13\*\*

Meet at Community Center at 3:15 p.m. We will leave the Community Center at 3:30 p.m.

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

Adults = R = \$25.00 NR = \$27.00  
10 and under = R = \$20.00 NR = \$22.00  
60+ = R = \$20.00 NR = \$22.00  
(Children 2 and under are free)

Fee includes transportation, buffet dinner at the Witches Kitchen, Village for trick-or-treating and train ride.

Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes.

We will be taking the Recreation Van. If you are signing up an infant, you must bring your own car seat.

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

## Lights Before Christmas (Toledo Zoo)



Friday, November 14



Be dazzled and amazed as we drive through the Toledo Zoo to set our eyes on over one million twinkling and chasing lights, plus 200 images of your favorite animals, carolers and more.

We will also look for unique gifts in the North Star Trading Post Gift Shop.

**Pre-register by November 10th**

**Arrive at the Community Center at 6:00 p.m. We will leave at 6:15 p.m.**

Van Buren Resident = \$10.00 Adult admission

Non-Resident = \$12.00

Van Buren Resident = \$8.00 Children 11 and under

Non-Resident = \$10.00

Van Buren Resident = \$8.00 Seniors 60 and up

Non-Resident = \$10.00

**Fee includes transportation and Toledo Zoo entrance.**

We will be taking the Recreation van.

If you are signing up an infant you must bring your own car seat.

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

## Turkey Treasure Hunt

Saturday, November 8

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

Age Group and times are as follows:

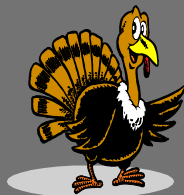
**Walking toddlers - 4 years** 10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

**5-7 years** 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

**8-10 years** 11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

**11-13 years** 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

**\$1.00 per child**



## Holiday Lights Contest

"Tis the season to be jolly." Get out your lights and show Van Buren Township your holiday spirit. All you have to do is live in Van Buren Township and register with the Recreation Department at 46425 Tyler Road.



Registration forms

**must be turned in by: December 13**



Judging will begin the week of December 15.

We will randomly visit the outside of your home during this week.

So please have your lights on during this week.

**The one winner will be called Friday, December 19**

**Winner will have their home displayed in the local View newspaper.**

If you have any questions, please contact the Van Buren Recreation Department at (734) 699-8921.

## Brunch with Santa



Sunday, December 7

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

Community Center (Dining Room)



Visit with Santa while you enjoy pancakes and sausage. Bring an item to donate to Project Youth and place it under the Christmas tree or bring a canned good for needy families.

**Tickets will go on sale November 3.**

Children and Seniors = \$3.00

Adults = \$7.00

Get your picture with Santa for \$1.



## 2003 Holiday Arts & Crafts Show

Saturday, December 6, 2003

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

Van Buren Township Community Center  
46425 Tyler Road,  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111

**NO ADMISSION FEE!!**

## Registration/Waiver Form

Participant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Age, if under 18 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

**In case of Emergency - person should be available during program hours**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Phone</i>
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Activity	Day and Time of Class	Fee

**# of classes** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount Paid** \_\_\_\_\_ **Receipt #** \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby accept all responsibility for and will not hold the Charter Township of Van Buren, Van Buren Township Board of Trustees and/or Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department or its employees liable for any loss, damage, or injury to property or any person as a result of involvement in Van Buren Township's recreation classes or programs.

In the event of sudden illness, accident, or injury which may occur while myself or my child is participating in an activity supervised by Van Buren Township employees, when neither the parents or guardian can be contacted, I hereby give my consent for emergency medical treatment as shall be necessary under the circumstances by any physician licensed under the laws of the State of Michigan.

I understand that the Township may take photographs for use in Township publications and news releases without my written consent.

I have read the above waiver/release of liability and understand it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature** (Parent or Guardian, if not over 18)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

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

## LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY

In attracting the World Headquarters of the Visteon Corporation, its 3500 employees and a \$270 million investment within the borders of Van Buren Township, our Township Board took advantage of a key economic development program allowed by State Law. The Township Board created a Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) in August last year and appointed 11 members to serve on its Board of Directors. Out of 1800+ cities, villages and townships in Michigan, fewer than 100 have established LDFA's under Public Act 281 of 1986. Once again Van Buren Township has taken a positive, progressive step to beneficially impact the future for its residents.

### What is an LDFA and what does it do?

An LDFA is a non-profit corporation established by the local government to prepare a Development Plan which may utilize tax increment financing to assist a private company to implement a project that creates jobs and promotes economic growth.

The tax increment financing process allows an LDFA to sell municipal bonds to finance the public improvement portion of a private sector company's project that will provide long-term jobs and increase the tax base. The private sector company pays property taxes to all the local taxing units and a portion of these taxes are used to pay off the municipal bond debt. The specific projects to be financed and their cost are identified in the Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan that the LDFA must prepare for each project. The basic benefit is that municipal bonds have a lower interest rate than conventional financing in the private sector. Thus, the company benefits in a lower interest rate and the community benefits with jobs being created (short term construction jobs and long term employment at the company) and the tax base increases.

The LDFA may undertake economic development projects that fall within the following general categories: *Manufacturing, Agriculture processing, High Technology activity, Energy production, and Business Incubator Programs and Facilities.*

Our LDFA's first project cleared a major milestone on August 6, 2003 with the sale of \$28,199,656 in Tax Increment Bonds for the Visteon project which is located on 265 acres in the southeast corner of the I-275/Ecorse Road interchange. This money will be used to pay for a new county road serving the site; portions of other surrounding road improvements, site earthwork; lake restoration; utilities; barrier free improvements; wetland mitigation; building foundations and storm water management. An interpretative trail system through a 65-acre wooded wetland will be preserved by a conservation easement and will be open to the public on the Visteon site.

These projects are described in more detail in the LDFA's Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan that was adopted by the Authority and the Township Board in March of this year. This Plan is available for public viewing at the Planning and Economic Development Department at the Township Offices during regular business hours.

We are fortunate to have the following individuals volunteering their time serving as directors on the LDFA:

**Frank Alex**, LDFA Chairman, Vice President of Finance, Ricardo, Inc.

**Kenneth McKanders**, LDFA Vice Chairman, General Counsel, Eastern Michigan University.

**Jane Millett**, LDFA Treasurer, Catering Sales Director, Woodlands of Van Buren.

**Marjorie Oliver**, LDFA Secretary, former President, Western Campus of Wayne County Community College.

**Chuck Covington**, President & CEO, Peoples Travel and International Destination Management.

**Harlan Davenport**, President, Davenport Brothers Construction Company, Inc.

**David DiRita**, Assistant General Counsel, Visteon Corporation.

**Cindy King**, Township Supervisor.

**J. Douglas Peters**, Attorney, Charfoos & Christensen, P.C.

**Michael Prochaska**, former Director, Business Development, Wayne County Office of Jobs and Economic Development.

**Louise Williamson**, Director of Personnel, Van Buren Township Public Schools.

As you can see the distinguished members of our LDFA represent a broad spectrum of the Van Buren Township community from private industry, local business, education including Van Buren Public Schools, Community College and higher education, and government - both Township and County.

In conclusion, the LDFA provides Van Buren Township with an important economic development tool to help finance public improvements for projects that create more jobs and increase the tax base in the Township.

Steve Pugsley  
Executive Director, LDFA



## MESSAGES FROM THE SRO'S

Continued from Page 11

As a responsible adult with children it is important to remember that sometimes we cannot be a friend to our child because we have to be a parent first. Sometimes it is necessary to put your foot down to drive home a lesson with your child. As the parent, if you do not like what your child is listening to when it comes to music or wearing when it comes to clothing, you can place restrictions on those items. A child is just that, and lives under the rules of their parent's household. Do not be afraid to discipline your child if need be. There are many ways and many levels of discipline a parent can use with a child. Time outs, grounding, and even corporal or physical punishment are all options for parents. Instructions read to juries before their deliberation of child abuse cases states that... "It is not a crime to discipline a child. A parent (or guardian, or any person otherwise allowed by law or authorized by the parent or guardian) may use force to discipline a child." This does not mean that any amount of force may be used. The law permits only such force as is reasonable. What is reasonable you ask? A swat to the rear-end with an open hand does not leave you open to prosecution for child abuse. However, punching, kicking, or striking with objects like belt buckles, sticks, or striking a child in the face may leave you open to investigation and prosecution. If you do discipline your child physically and they call the police, an officer may investigate any allegations against you. However, relatively few cases of parental discipline upon investigation are found to be cases of child abuse. We do not condone violence against anyone and suggest that physical discipline of a child be used only as a last resort.

**Notice:** *In light of the number of parents within the community that we come across who believe that legally they may not physically discipline their children, we felt it necessary to point out that this is not so. The statements of the above paragraph are not specifically those of Van Buren Township, the City of Belleville, nor their employees and is meant only to educate the general public of the law. We suggest contacting an attorney if you have further questions regarding this information.*

### Some coming attractions:

Have you visited the home page of Van Buren Township? The site ([www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org)) is a virtual cornucopia of township related information. Links to all township departments are posted on the site including the Public Safety Department. Check the Public Safety site often for upcoming additions to the website. A Community Policing page is being developed for the website and will be up and running in the near future. Included on this new page will be general safety information for children, parents, and elderly. This new page will include links to the webpages of the Michigan State Police, Van Buren Public Schools, and many other informative sites.

We would also like to encourage you to participate in the upcoming dinner discussions sponsored by R.A.C.Y., the Resources for Assisting Community Youth. The proposed topics for discussion are; aggression management, A.D.D., and substance abuse. The discussions are scheduled for October 16, January 22, and April 22 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Township Hall. Keep looking for further information regarding these discussions in the local newspapers.

Ryan Bidwell, SRO  
Van Buren Township Police Dept.

## YOUR NEW WATER BILL

The Water & Sewer Department has implemented a new utility billing system. One of the changes you have seen is the use of a new billing form. The full-size form is being used both for your privacy and so that we can provide you with more information about your bill. In the future we will add water usage information so that you can compare your current billed usage with the previous period billed usage. We also can print special messages to our customers on the form. The back of the form provides you with information about your bill, where to pay, and how to contact us for a water or sewer emergency. The bill stub includes a bar code of your account number and the amount due. This bar code information is scanned in when your payment is received. Amounts paid that differ from the total are manually scanned in when your payment is received. Scanning of the paid water bills greatly reduces the staff time needed to process payments and increases the accuracy of posting of payments.

The new billing system has also better positioned the Water Department to implement its planned automatic meter reading system. The majority of our water meters have passed the useful life of 15 years. At that point, meters tend to under-register consumption and customers would be billed for less than their actual consumption. The new system will permit us to read your meter remotely via radio signal from a truck that has the radio signal receiver and a personal computer that captures the reading. The readings can then be directly downloaded into the mainframe computer for billing. Currently staff manually enters each meter reading into the computer. This automated reading and billing process will increase the accuracy of the readings used for your water bill and reduce billing staff time spent on data input. With these investments in automation, we will be able to maintain services and comply with our regulatory requirements without increasing our staffing level. In other words, despite rapid growth in the community and ever increasing regulatory water and sewer system maintenance requirements, we will achieve a good measure of cost avoidance by using these technologies.

## FRED C. FISCHER LIBRARY

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



[www.belleville.lib.mi.us](http://www.belleville.lib.mi.us)

### Morning Hours!

Beginning November 10, the library will be open in the morning. New hours will be: Monday - Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., and Friday & Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Current hours are: Monday - Thursday 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Friday 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., and Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).

### Explore Your Family Tree!

Join genealogist Ginger Bruder on a trip of discovery into your past. A three week genealogy workshop will be offered at the Fischer Library on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., October 16, 23 and 30, 2003. A field trip to the Burton Historical Library (at the Detroit Public Library) will be scheduled for Saturday afternoon, November 1.

**Week One** (Oct. 16) Introduction to Genealogy  
**Week Two** (Oct. 23) Vital Records  
**Week Three** (Oct. 30) Internet Tools

Call or come to the library to sign up for this free program.

### Have You Read a Good Book Lately?

Have you ever been so excited about a book that you wanted to share your thoughts about it with others? Join the Fischer Library's book discussion club. A kick off meeting will be held on Thursday, October 2, 2003, at 7:30 in the program room. At this meeting, the group will decide upon meeting dates and possible book selections. The library will provide the books that are selected and a pleasant place to meet and chat. Interested adults may attend this meeting or contact the library for more information. Tentative plans are to meet the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

### Library Meetings

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

**Meeting dates:** Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan. 14

The **Friends of the Library** meet on the first Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Meeting dates:** Nov. 1, Dec. 6, Jan. 3

### Birthday Bash!

Fred is Fifty! The Fred C. Fischer Library was dedicated on November 8, 1953, and this November 8, we will be partying like its 1953!

Festivities begin at 7:00 p.m. with a Family Fifties Sing-a-Long with the Music Lady, Beverly Meyer.

There will be dancin' in the stacks from 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. featuring the Steve Nardella Band.

While you're at the party, check out the fabulous fifties displays on fashion, literature, music, television, and more.

Everyone is invited to this FREE fun event! Visit with your neighbors, enjoy some refreshments, and groove to the music!

### Holiday Story Times

Story Time registration begins Monday, October 27, 2003.

### PRESCHOOL STORY TIME (Ages 3 1/2 - 6)

Enjoy five programs of stories, poems, and crafts at the library:

Mondays, 7:00 p.m. Nov. 10 - Dec. 8  
Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m. Nov. 12 - Dec. 10

### TODDLER STORY TIME (Ages 2 - 3 1/2)

Along with their parent or caregiver, the toddler enjoys stories, fingerplays, songs, and action rhymes with the librarian:

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Nov. 13 - Dec. 18  
Thursdays, 11:15 a.m. Nov. 13 - Dec. 18

(Note: There will be no tot time on Thanksgiving Nov. 27)

### Join Us In Celebrating A Very Special Birthday!

Calling all children to celebrate the Fred C. Fischer Library's 50th birthday on Monday, November 3rd at 7:00 p.m.! This party will be complete with prizes, games, and ofcourse, a birthday cake! (Sign up begins Oct. 27).

**Santa is coming to the Fischer Library** on Wednesday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. Bring your cameras, and enjoy a visit with jolly, old St. Nick.

### Legislative Office Hours

Staff from Congressman Thaddeus McCotter's office will be on hand to meet with constituents at the library on Tuesday, November 4, 2003 from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. This is your chance to ask questions and discuss issues that are important to you.

### Thank You, Library Volunteers!

Thank you to the energetic and public-spirited volunteers who donated so many hours to the Fred C. Fischer Library this summer. Teenagers Rachel Williams, Paige and Maisey Cooley, Amanda Centkowski, and Chris Wensley organized and relabeled the magazine collection as their summer project.

In the Second Annual Belleville Garden Contest, the library was cited for "its three season blooming gardens and the volunteerism it has inspired the community." Special thanks go to Al Black, who faithfully weeds, feeds and waters all season long as a service to the community. We all appreciate his gift of beauty.

Volunteer Fernando Fitch completed his Eagle Scout Project, which included the design, construction, and installation of two outdoor benches and landscaping near the entrance of the library. Now patrons have a pleasant and comfortable place to wait for a ride or for the library to open.

Other Volunteers, who have given their time and effort generously, include Charlotte Price and her grandchildren Katie and Jeff, Jan Black, Pat Ryback, Chrisanne West, Evan Basnaw, Elyse Losen, Linda Grissom, Joy and Rick Cichewicz, and Shannon Ferguson. We are all grateful for the many contributions that enhance the library and make it an attractive as well as a functional place to visit.

### Library History - Part Two

From 1953 until 1992 the Fred C. Fischer Library remained the quaint and homey 3,500 square foot library it was built to be. Meanwhile, the population of the area grew from 12,400 to 35,171. The library became increasingly crowded as more and more bookshelves were added to keep pace with the growing collection. Funding disputes among the three municipalities as well as with Wayne County resulted in some lean years. At the darkest period was a year of no money for books and no evening hours. To help get the library back on track, the first Tri-Community Agreement was written in 1985. Cooperation and equitable funding was the goal. It also provided for a capital improvement escrow fund from surplus annual funds. Improvements soon followed.

In 1987 library hours increased to six days a week, including four evenings until 9:00 p.m. In 1988 a second librarian was hired to be in charge of automation. Circulation, children's programming, and overall library usage continued a steady progression upward. The computerized catalog and circulation system was implemented in 1990. In 1992, thanks to a federal grant for \$200,000, a bequest from the Simester estate

for \$70,000, a \$25,000 donation from the Belleville Rotary Club's Charles B. Cozadd Foundation, and many smaller individual contributions, the City of Belleville, the Township of Sumpter, and the Charter Township of Van Buren, committed to putting on an addition that would triple the size of the library. "If you build it, they will come" proved true as library circulation, children's program attendance, and library use all doubled within three years.

### Friends of the Library

Mark your calendars:

**Used Book Sale** - Saturday, Nov. 1, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Kay Charter, Bird Conversationalist** - Sat., Oct. 18, 2:00 p.m.

**Used Book Sale** - Saturday, Feb. 7, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Visit the Friends' website for further information:**

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

### 2004 Historical Society Calendar



Buckhorn School, Constructed Circa 1881

This school house stood at the northeast corner of Belleville and Ecorse Roads. During a local struggle to consolidate Van Buren Township's one-room schools, the Buckhorn School burned to the ground in 1922. Its students were eventually bussed to school in Belleville.

The 2004 Historical Calendar has gone to print and will be available for sale soon. Each month will feature a full-page local historic photograph. Calendars are published as a fund raiser for the Belleville Area Museum and will be sold for \$6.00 each.

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

**BELLEVILLE AREA MUSEUM**  
**405 Main Street**

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

**Closed Holiday Weekends**

**Admission:**

Adults - \$1.00  
 Children - \$0.50  
 Family - \$3.00

**Tours by Appointment**  
 (734) 697-1944



**Historical Society Meeting & Ceremony**  
**Thursday, October 16**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Mr. Robert Wittersheim on**  
**“What the Heck Is That?”**  
 (Unusual antiques)

This program will be preceded by an outdoor dedication ceremony at 6:00 p.m. for our newly installed engraved bricks in the museum’s sidewalks.

**Not-so-Scary Haunted Forest**

**Saturday, October 4**  
**3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**



**Located at Van Buren Park**

Kids will enjoy games, pumpkins, face painting, arts and crafts, friendly-scary characters and apples, cider, donuts and other food. Walk through the maze and the not-so-scary haunted forest. Recommended ages are walking toddlers to 11 years of age.



**\$3.00 per child**

**\$1.00 of each admission will help fund Project Youth.**

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

**Christmas is Coming!**

Belleville Area Museum  
**Festival of Holiday Trees**  
 December 2 - December 30, 2003

**Festival of Holiday Trees**

December will bring the museum’s 8th Annual Festival of Holiday Trees. The museum will be filled with Christmas trees and wreaths decorated by individuals and community organizations such as churches, schools, businesses, and service groups. If you or your organization would like to take part, please call the museum at (734) 697-1944.

**Upcoming Holiday Events**

*At the Belleville Area Museum*

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Friday, Dec. 5    | City of Belleville<br><b>Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies</b>                                    |
| Saturday, Dec. 6  | Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce<br><b>Christmas Parade</b><br>(Museum open for extended hours) |
| Saturday, Dec. 20 | <b>Children’s Christmas Ornament Workshop</b>  |



**2003-04 Historical Society Programs**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Thursday, Oct. 16 | <b>Robert Wittersheim</b><br>“What the Heck Is That”<br>(Unusual antiques) |
| Thursday, Nov. 20 | <b>Gerry Wykes</b><br>“Confederate Spies in the Attic”                     |
| December 2-30     | <b>Festival of Holiday Trees</b><br>(No meeting)                           |
| Thursday, Jan. 15 | <b>Jane Carr</b><br>“Coming to Michigan Via the Erie Canal”                |
| Thursday, Feb. 19 | <b>Nancy Lautenbach</b><br>“Hats as Wearable Art”                          |

## GYPSY MOTH CONCERNS

Several residents have called the Township with concerns about an increased number of gypsy moths this year. Unfortunately, the Township does not have the resources or equipment to help individual homeowners with infested trees. In the past, the Township did participate in a cooperative suppression program with Wayne County to conduct targeted aerial spraying. However, the County has indicated there are no plans to repeat this program in the near future.

The gypsy moth is an exotic pest from Europe, Asia, and North Africa that was accidentally introduced in Massachusetts around 1869. The exact source of Michigan's first gypsy moths likely never will be known, but they could have come from egg masses brought by campers returning from the northeast United States. The gypsy moth is currently found in every county in the Lower Peninsula and areas of the Upper Peninsula.

Oak and poplar trees lead the list of favorite foods. Michigan abounds with these and other susceptible trees, including birch, willow, crabapple and maple. When densities reach very high levels, trees may become defoliated. Several successive years of defoliation, along with contributions by stress factors, may result in tree mortality.

A variety of natural agents are known to kill gypsy moths in nature. Small mammals are perhaps the most important gypsy moth predator, especially at low population densities. Birds are also known to prey on gypsy moths but at least in North America this does not substantially affect populations.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) has aerielly sprayed select areas with biological pesticides in order to suppress outbreak gypsy moth populations. Private companies under contract with landowners also treat some areas. However, spraying activities are typically joint programs between the MDA and the County.

If you need to fight gypsy moths in your own backyard, below are a few recommended management techniques:

### Non-Pesticide Techniques

**Sanitation** - Keep your yard as clean as possible. Remove discarded items, dead branches (from the ground and out of the trees), stumps, etc., where the adult female moth is likely to lay egg masses.

**Destroy Egg Masses** - Gypsy moth egg masses are around for nearly nine months before they hatch. Homeowners can help reduce moth population on their property and in their neighborhood by seeking out and destroying egg masses each year.

**Barrier Bands** - Sticky, or slippery bands can be placed around tree trunks to help curtail, though not necessarily prevent, the caterpillars movement into and out of the tree canopy.

**Soap and Water** - Spraying gypsy moth caterpillars with a hose with an attachment to dispense soap can be very effective.

### Pesticides

**Biological Pesticide** - B.t.k. Bacillus thuringienisi var. kurstaki as the active ingredient. It is commercially formulated and sold under various labels (e.g., Dipel, Foray, Thuricide and Bactur to name a few). B.t. can be applied from the ground or by aerial spraying.

**Chemical Insecticides** - A number of chemical pesticides are registered against gypsy moth in Michigan. Many are available at your local garden center or nursery. Some of the most common are formulations of acephate, carbaryl, and malathion. CAUTION: Chemicals are potentially harmful - follow the instructions on the label carefully.

### ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS:

Yard Waste Pick up ENDS

**November 29**

Pick up will resume the  
**first full week in April.**



### REMINDER:

## Household Hazardous Waste Day

Saturday, October 4  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**The Environmental Quality Company**  
49350 N. I-94 Service Drive.

**FREE one day drop-off** for  
Van Buren Township residents.

## 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 50 lbs.**

### 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 of cart due to normal wear and tear including broken wheels, worn out bottom, broken or bent front bar or lid damage.

### Stolen Containers:

If your Waste Management toter is stolen or missing, you will need to contact Waste Management at (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 for special pickups due to Freon. These items will be picked up by a different truck than the normal trash truck. Doors on refrigerators/freezers must be removed and the shelving units from inside must also be removed and properly disposed of in a rubbish container.

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

### If you are moving:

Please leave the 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 recycleables to the Woodland Meadows Recycling Center.

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

**COMPOST GUIDELINES:**

**Brush**



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

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

Compost season ends November 29 - no compost will be taken at the landfill or at curbside after that date.

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

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

**ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS:**

Yard Waste Pick up **ENDS**

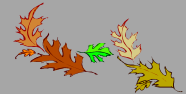
**November 29**

**Leaves and Grass Clippings**

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

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

**Do not use plastic bags!!**



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

**RECYCLING GUIDELINES:**

**Plastic**

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



**Please Recycle!**



**Tin**

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

**Aluminum:** Containers and foil.

**Paper**



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

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

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

**Glass**

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

**Cardboard**

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

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



# Haunted Forest



Can you survive the Halls of Horror or escape the chainsaw chase?

**October 10 & 11, 17 & 18, 24 & 25**  
7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.



**\$7.00 per victim**



**Not recommended for small children**

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

**Group rates are available for 10 or more.**  
**Please call (734) 699-8921 in advance**  
**for reservations and information.**

**\*\* No Group Rate tickets sold at gate.\*\***

**Volunteers needed!!**

**\*\* This event is not a hayride, it is a walk through event with a wagon ride to the start of your adventure, through the halls of horror and chainsaw chase. \*\***

**\*\* This is an ADA accessible event \*\***

## 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

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

### Developmental Services

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

### Community Services

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

## Lake Ledger

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

### Editor:

Christina Harman  
Community Services Department

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

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