



Charter Township of Van Buren

Lake Ledger

Spring 2005

NEW FIRE FACILITIES



New Fire Station 1



New Fire Station 2

Van Buren Township is committing significant resources and energies to dramatically advance and update the fire/emergency service and response to its citizens, property owners and business community. With an intense focus on fire safety facilities, public safety infrastructure and community image, plans are being developed to program replacement buildings for the two existing and obsolete Van Buren Fire Stations.

Fire Station 1 is located in the City of Belleville and is nearly 70 years old. Fire Station 2 located on Ecorse Road, west of Belleville Road, is more than 55 years old. These buildings have more than out-lived their intended service life and are no longer

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adequate to address current fire safety standards nor house the Department's current equipment as well as support the Township's fire safety professionals.

Probably the most important feature of each of the stations is the new vehicle and equipment bays. Station 1 will have 3 equipment and vehicle bays 80' deep and Station 2 is planned with 4 bays also 80' in depth. Additionally each building will feature staff office areas, training and community meeting rooms, and a 'safe harbor' room for severe weather protection. The basic needs and continuing education requirements of the Department's professionals will be served with specialty in-station training areas, kitchen/dining facilities, showers and locker rooms. As planned these new structures will meet and exceed the requirements and standards of MIOSHA, the National Fire Protection Agency and the National Building Code.

The obvious question is where the funding for these improvements is coming from? First of all **NO NEW TAXES** will be levied for these two projects. In 2004 the Township's Board of Trustees set aside funds from the Township's Landfill Fund to construct the new Fire Station 1 at the northeast corner of Sumpter and Hull Roads. Likewise, the Board has partnered with the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to construct the new Fire Station 2 using DDA captured tax revenues. The DDA purchased 5 acres of land on the east side of Belleville Road just south of Ecorse Road for the new Fire Station 2 last year. While the DDA is limited in the projects it can construct, improving the Township's fire station is one of the original projects identified at the time the Downtown Development Authority was established, nearly 15 years ago.

In 2003 and 2004 the Township requested proposals from professional design firms familiar with fire facilities. Seventeen qualified firms responded and after two progressive interviews, CDPA Architects, of Southfield, MI, was picked by the Board of Trustees and the DDA to design and construct both stations. The firm is well known in Southeastern Michigan for their municipal building expertise.

CDPA Architects then began meeting with a subcommittee of Township elected officials, Public Safety Committee appointees and Township fire safety professionals to plan Fire Station 1 and a second subcommittee comprised of DDA members, a Public Safety Committee appointee and Township fire safety professionals to plan Station 2. Concept plans for Station 2 have been approved by the DDA and plans for Fire Station 1 are nearly ready to be reviewed and considered by the Board of Trustees.

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STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR 2004

By: Supervisor, Cindy C. King

From the opening of new businesses such as the Visteon Corporation headquarters, Grand River Printing, Walgreens and Tim Horton's to the devastating Yankee Air Museum fire, to being the recipient of a two million dollar Wayne County parks and recreation grant, 2004 was another busy year in the Charter Township of Van Buren. For the first time in over 40 years, township voters reelected all seven members of the Township Board back into office for another four years.

In addition to these newsworthy events, 2004 was also the year the township began a fire operations plan scheduling our paid call, volunteer firefighters 20 hours per day, seven days a week. This scheduling plan has resulted in improving response times in a year in which calls for service increased 40% as compared to 2003. We know that response times could be further improved with the scheduling of duty crews at both stations, a topic currently being studied by the Department. Other benefits of the operations plan are better facility, equipment and vehicle maintenance, improved on-duty training and the ability to offer more public education programs. The duty crew also performs monthly blood pressure checks for seniors who visit the Senior Center. Currently, the fire fighters are assigned to the Ecorse Road station and the annual cost for this scheduling plan was approximately \$172,000 in 2004 (April 22 through December 31).

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) approved hiring CDPA Architects to develop plans for a fire station they intend to build on Belleville Road just south of Ecorse Road. Along with the Board's efforts to improve fire service in the township, the Board allocated two million dollars for the building of a new fire station at Sumpter and Hull Roads that CDPA will also design.

In May 2004, the Board received the Public Safety Department Operations Evaluation, a comprehensive study of the department conducted by consultants Bill Kelly and Tom Stone. The Board commissioned the study after finding the Public Safety Department without a director to lead the department for the second time in four years. Several areas for improvement were spelled out in the report. Kelly and Stone were subsequently retained to assist in the search for a new director. After five months, 18-year police veteran, Gerald Champagne, former Deputy Chief of Police in neighboring Romulus, was hired to fill the director's position. Director Champagne comes to Van Buren as a graduate of the FBI National Academy and with a Master's Degree from Eastern Michigan University with an emphasis on communications and negotiations. Jerry is a member of the National Association of Hostage Negotiators and President of the Michigan Association of Hostage Negotiators.

Other new faces that appeared at Township Hall in 2004 include Sarah Scherdt, Senior Coordinator for the September Days Senior Center, Joanne Montgomery, the Elections Account Clerk in the Clerk's Office, and Bob Queener who filled a vacant Ordinance Enforcement Officer position. A familiar face, Larrie Ordus, returned to the township in the capacity of Water & Sewer Superintendent and Vincent Averill was promoted from Parks Manager to Deputy Director of Recreation and Facilities.

In 2004, the Visteon Corporation announced the establishment of the Van Buren Civic Fund, pledging an initial contribution of \$500,000 to establish the fund and issuing a "challenge grant" whereby the company will match dollar for dollar up to an additional \$500,000 all other contributions made to the Fund. The Civic Fund is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of business members and residents of the community. The Civic Fund Board approved two projects in 2004, the purchase of lighted speed limit signs to be erected near Tyler Road Elementary School and a new audio system for the Belleville Area Museum.

In October, a pavilion constructed from the remnants of an old barn and located at Quirk Park, was dedicated in memory of Fonie Butler a former Van Buren Public Schools educator and resident who was instrumental in the formation of the Belleville Area Museum. Later in 2004, a \$350,000 new parks maintenance facility was erected in Van Buren Park to replace a pole barn the township acquired in a used condition over ten years ago.

In addition, in October, the township and Visteon headquarters were featured stops for the Urban Land Institute/University of Michigan two-day forum on economic development. Metropolitan Detroit area officials and business men and women toured the I-275 corridor from Van Buren to Farmington Hills observing the various industrial and commercial projects that have taken place in the last few years, developments which have helped Michigan's economy by providing needed jobs and revenue.

At one time, the township had nearly a million square feet of vacant warehouse space. In 2004, several tenants came to occupy much of that space. At Haggerty and Van Born Roads, the Van Buren Commerce Center welcomed new tenant, Marimba, who is leasing 20,000 square feet of space and joined Owens & Minor and Empire who moved there in late 2003. The Crossroads Distribution Center on Ecorse Road just west of Haggerty, achieved 100% occupancy with the leasing of space to Excel, FX Coughlin and AD Transport who relocated their administrative operations from Canton Township to Van Buren.

A visioning session to garner public input was held in May on the proposed Saratoga planned residential development (PRD) to be located on about 400 acres of land bounded by Belleville, Ecorse, Beck and Van Born Roads. At present, this land is owned by the General Motors Corporation, with the Saratoga project being presented by Diversified Property Group of West Bloomfield. With its proximity to Willow Run Airport, township officials will certainly give this project careful deliberation before taking formal action on the project.

Country Walk, the township's first planned residential development project, began construction on 536 residential units to be built on two thirds of the 300 acres of land owned by Crosswinds Communities. Among objectives the Board was able to obtain in the Country Walk PRD agreement are scenic viewsheds, increased setbacks, a variety of housing styles and the preservation of 37% of the natural features on the site. Other projects include the granting of final plat approval for Rolan Meadows, a residential development on the south side of Tyler Road just west of Haggerty Road; and approval of two planned residential developments (attached and detached housing) RD Kime's Cobblestone Creek, and a Randazzo development, Cobblestone Ridge, being built along West Huron River Drive and Hoeft Roads. Mission Pointe located on some of the last remaining untouched lakeside property along West Huron River Drive also continued with construction on their 156-unit housing development.

With respect to land use, the Board approved the creation of an Open Space Committee to study and make recommendations concerning preserving open space and natural features, adopted a Planned Senior Housing Development Ordinance #7.20.04 and approved revisions to the zoning ordinance regarding accessory structures. The Planning Commission also started working on revisions to the township's Land Use Master Plan, a document that is a tool to guide future development in the township. The Land Use Master Plan was last revised about ten years ago.

In 2005, 4,903 building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits were issued resulting in just over \$900,000 in revenue to the township. This is slightly higher than the \$884,000 collected in 2003 with revenues being used to offset the costs of operating the department. The permits range from the construction of a new industrial or commercial facility to a permit allowing construction of a deck on a single residential lot.

The Water & Sewer Department completed master plans for the township's water distribution and wastewater systems.

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Similar to land use master plans, these plans will serve as guides for future development and ensure infrastructure can support that development. In concert with these plans, the Board approved a study to determine the need for an equalization basin to address wet weather flows. This equalization basin with an estimated cost of \$10 million can contain water during wet weather events and later release that water when flows are less to ensure volumes in the sanitary sewer system do not exceed contractual maximums and to prevent flooding.

While the township had to raise water and sewer rates to recover costs to purchase water and treat wastewater from the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department, the township continues to rank fourth lowest of the 120+ customers of DWSD in the rates charged in the township. Clearly, we cannot sell services for less than they cost and the 6-mill voter-approved water and sewer levy is restricted to retiring debt and funding capital improvements. The issue of rates has been covered extensively in the media and when one reviews the township's Water & Sewer Budget, one will find that the primary costs over which we have direct control, namely, wages and fringe benefits, are only 17% of the Department's expenses.

The Community Services Department provided a variety of leisure services including their second annual summer concert series at Van Buren Park. Unfortunately, the department may discontinue these concerts if they remain poorly attended. The department offered several activities including new and "old favorites" such as Yoga, Boaters Safety, the Marshmallow Drop, Tween and Club Teen Camps, Haunted Forest and Screamin' Teen Lock-In. Activities such as the Daddy Daughter Dance and the annual fireworks display were very well attended. The Department also received their third consecutive Governor's Council on Physical Fitness Award. While the previous two awards were Level 3 awards, this time the department received a Level 4 award (Level 5 is the highest award one can achieve), demonstrating outstanding efforts to improve physical fitness in our community.

The Department of Environment once again coordinated the free annual Household Hazardous Waste Day sponsored by the Environmental Quality Company with about 300 township residences properly disposing of hazardous household waste. The Department continued work on the township's Geographic Information System (G.I.S.), a computerized database of various township data such as land parcels, streets, fire hydrants, natural features, etc. The township was also able to obtain grant funding to construct wetlands on the fringes of Grace Lake, located at the Visteon site, and to develop trails on the wooded area of this site. The wetlands project will improve lake water quality and provide a suitable habitat for a variety of wildlife. You will have an

opportunity to enjoy the trails located on the Visteon grounds, as these trails will be accessible to the public. The Department also completed a Greenways Trail Master Plan that was adopted by the Planning Commission in late 2004.

As you may know, the township is a founding member of the Assembly of Rouge Communities (ARC), a watershed group that has evolved from a citizens' advisory committee into an effective environmental organization representing 41 communities across southeast Michigan. In 2004, legislative efforts by the Assembly at the State level will allow local governments to band together for water quality improvement projects.

The Lower Huron River Watershed Action Group was formed in 2004 to develop a watershed management plan for the part of the river that is below Belleville Lake and has among their objectives improving water quality in that stretch of the river. Lastly, the township contributes financially and provides in-kind services to the Middle Huron Initiative, a group of municipalities that have banded together to reduce pollution and excess plant and algae growth in Ford and Belleville Lakes.

For the Fred C. Fischer Library, the 2003/04 fiscal year was the first full year of a new funding formula to improve services, which include being open more hours, and earlier in the day and the ability to purchase more materials. Van Buren's contributions under the new formula increased from just over \$300,000 in 2003 to \$368,000 being budgeted for 2004. Another cultural amenity, the Belleville Area Museum continued to host a variety of programs including a trip to the Ford Motor Company Rouge Factory and "Remembering Childhood Games." The Historical Society and Museum also exhibited a reproduction of the local "five and dime" store that once stood on Main Street. Today, that location is home to Lakeside Jewelers and Wright's Sports Plus.

Membership at September Days Senior Center continued to grow in 2004 with current membership at 1,626 members. Overall attendance at the Center is up 20% as compared to 2003 and their Holiday Dinner Dance in December drew a record 462 guests! The Center, with the help of volunteers who donated 3,433 hours of work in 2004, offers 24 classes each week, meals and health screenings, trips and tax assistance, and a Sunday music program in which over 28 different bands have performed to an audience that consistently exceeds 100!

In late 2004, the Board approved a balanced 2005 General Fund budget of \$11.8 million, a 10% increase over the 2004 fiscal year budget. The Board also approved a variety of

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NEW FIRE FACILITIES

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These two new facilities will combine to expand and serve our Township's needs now and well into the future. While designed to support the many functions and activities Van Buren's fire fighters provide, they have also been planned to meet the Township's Premier Community Amenities Plan and as designed, will have a very positive impact and influence on the design of new developments in the Township.

Allen Smolen, Fire Chief
Bryce Kelley, Director of Planning and
Economic Development

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Spring is just about to be sprung, I hope. I haven't seen many robins but I'm hoping winter will soon release its hold and the trees will start to bloom, flowers will push up all over and the grass will turn to green. Time to maybe put the snow shovels and snow blowers in the back corner of the garage and get the lawn mower tuned-up. All this makes for a good part of being a Van Buren Township resident and able to enjoy the four very beautiful seasons offered in Michigan.

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

Just a reminder that 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.

This time of the year the auditors are in the Township Hall to do the annual audit. Auditors usually mean numbers and here are a few I thought were interesting. The Treasurer's Office handles about 8,607 real property parcels and 625 personal property parcels in July for the school tax collection and that number again for the winter tax collection. We collect over 24,000 water bills annually. 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. We collected and disbursed over \$55.6 million dollars in the year 2004. Because we collect the amounts assessed by all the entities on properties in Van Buren Township we are also

responsible to see that those funds get paid to the proper source, such as the schools and the County. The Treasurer's office works as the check and balance for all revenue, as well as, making sure funds are available to cover the checks issued for Township expenditures.

Van Buren Township is planning another drive-in dog clinic for Saturday, May 7th at the Van Buren Township Water/Sewer Building from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Residents will be able to get their dogs vaccinated and purchase dog licenses. Come and say hello to my staff, as we will be there to assist you.

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

Sharry A. Budd
Township Treasurer

CLERK'S OFFICE

Greetings from the Clerk's Office. I decided with all of the changes happening in 2005 related to election consolidation and those changes, which have already occurred, now would be an excellent time to discuss them with residents. As you may be aware all elections are now run by the Clerk's Office in cooperation with the County Clerk. Elections will generally take place on four dates throughout the year. Those dates are the fourth Tuesday in February, the second Tuesday in May, the second Tuesday in August and the second Tuesday in November. There are no longer "school elections" as such, any election day may be used for additional items on the ballot. For instance, Washtenaw County just had an election on February 22, 2005, in which several jurisdictions added items to the ballot. Lincoln Consolidated Schools added a bond proposal and the Charter Township of Ypsilanti added millage renewals. We have termed this "piggybacking" on an election. This is important from a cost perspective. If the County or State is conducting an election and a jurisdiction or school district adds an item to the ballot the cost to that jurisdiction or school district is minimal. However, if a jurisdiction or school district holds an election with solely their issue or candidates, they bear the entire cost of the election and those costs may be significant to the jurisdiction or school district.

Van Buren Public Schools and Lincoln Consolidated Schools have chosen to hold their elections on the May date. Therefore, we will be having an election on Tuesday, May 3, 2005

CLERK'S OFFICE

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COUGAR UPDATE

Based on the number of calls Animal Control receives every week regarding Cougar sightings, I'd like to share some information we have received from the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy. This group has studied Cougars in Michigan over the last several years and has assisted Van Buren Township in the past. Several residents have sent in photos of what they believe are paw prints of Cougars, and many more say they've spotted Cougar tracks. For all of the tracks I have seen, none have been confirmed as true Cougar prints. I hope the diagrams listed below will help dispel a lot of the rumors. (Notice the Cougar print shows no toe nail marks.) However, if you do feel you have found Cougar tracks, don't hesitate to call Animal Control at (734) 699-8930, ext. 238.

- variable -

- 4 in. -



Dog

Staggered prints
(wild canines, prints
in straight lines)

Cougar walking slowly

- 2 1/2 in. -



Coyote

(outer toes larger)

PET SAFETY

Spring and Summer are upon us, and everyone will be outside enjoying the warm days. I'd like to share with you a few reminders for those of us that have pets.

1. Make sure your pets are wearing some type of identification, preferably a dog license, which is required by Township Ordinance. It helps Animal Control return your pet back to you faster if we pick them up;
2. Keep all toxic chemicals such as weed killers, automotive fluids and pool chemicals up and out of reach of animals;
3. If you leave your pets outside during the day, make sure they have access to water and shelter, especially if you're going away for a while;
4. For those of you who enjoy taking your pets for a ride in the car, don't let their heads stick out of the window. Remember if a bug hits their eye while traveling at 45 mph, it could cause serious damage;
5. Last but not least, be conscientious of your neighbor. Keep your dog's barking to a minimum. As much as you have a right to own a dog, your neighbors have just as much of a right to enjoy a reasonably quiet neighborhood. Also, clean up after your dog on a daily basis.

If everyone follows these 5 basic steps, pets, owners and neighbors will have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Al Ostrowski
Animal Control

BOATER SAFETY

Many lakes in Michigan have rules that are specific to them; these are called special local watercraft controls. It is a good idea to check these out prior to going boating. They can be found on the internet at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources website www.michigan.gov/dnr. When you get to the home page select the recreation and camping page and then the boating page. Near the bottom of the boating page you will see special local watercraft controls. The special local watercraft controls are then listed by county.

Belleville Lake has three special watercraft controls. They are a 40 mph speed limit, no wake within 100 feet of the Belleville Road Bridge, and no wake within 100 feet of the Denton Road Bridge.

Just a few reminders:

If a child is under age 6 and on the weather deck of a moving boat they must have a type I or II, personal watercraft flotation device (PFD) on.

You have a PFD that is the proper size, in good condition, and readily available for each person on your boat.

If you were born after December 31, 1978 you must have in your possession a boater's safety card to operate a personal watercraft.

Who may operate a boat:

Under 12 years old:

- May operate a boat of no more than 6 hp with no restrictions.
- May operate a boat of no more than 35 hp if they are supervised by a person who is at least 16 years of age.

Those 12 to 15 years of age:

- May operate a boat of no more than 6 hp with no restrictions.
- May operate a boat of more than 6 hp if they:
 - Have passed a boating safety course approved by the Department of Natural Resources and have on board their boating safety certificate.
 - Are supervised by a person who is at least 16 years of age.

Persons who are 16 years of age:

- May operate any boat on the waters of Michigan.

Note: The above is for boats only and does not include Personal Watercraft.

The direction of the lake is in a counter clockwise rotation.

Personal watercraft operation time is from 8:00 a.m. until one hour before sunset.

Mike Moening
Marine Officer

HOME IRRIGATION SAFETY

Don't let your Irrigation System Contaminate the Water you Drink

BACKFLOW PREVENTION ALTERNATIVES FOR HOME IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Irrigation systems make watering lawns and gardens easier and save time, BUT, water that may be contaminated by weed killers and/or fertilizers can be backsiphoned (backflow) into your drinking water. Irrigation systems not protected by approved backflow prevention assemblies could endanger the health of a household, neighborhood or community.

ALL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS., new or existing...MUST BE EQUIPPED with an approved backflow prevention assembly. Only properly installed, state-approved backflow prevention assemblies meet the plumbing code and provide health protection for your family and neighbors. Your local water utility can give you a free list of state-approved assemblies and certified testers.

Please note: ALL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS supplied by public water systems REQUIRE A PLUMBING PERMIT before installation. All piping and materials upstream of (before) the backflow prevention assembly must be of a type which is approved by the STANDARD PLUMBING CODE.

THREE TYPES OF BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLIES:

1. PRESSURE VACUUM BREAKER (PVB)

- Sophisticated
- Versatile
- Requires annual testing by a certified tester



2. DOUBLE CHECK VALVE ASSEMBLY (DCVA)

- Highly versatile
- Requires annual testing by a certified tester
- Low or non-health hazard systems only.



3. REDUCED PRESSURE BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY (RPBA)

- Usually most expensive
- Most complex
- Allows for application of fertilizer or other chemicals into irrigation system. (No other type has this approval).
- Requires annual testing by a certified tester.



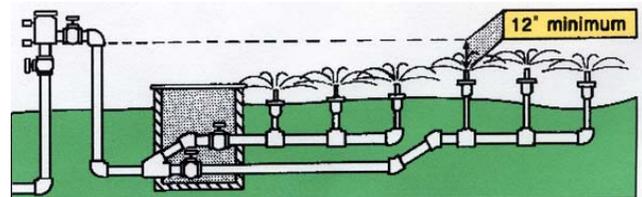
FREEZE PROTECTION

All backflow prevention assemblies need to be protected from freezing. Here are three methods used to protect backflow preventers:

- Shut off water supply to backflow preventer. Open both inlet and outlet valves. Open all test cocks. (This method only works on those systems that are not being used in winter months.)
- Leave your water running continuously.
- Wrap your backflow preventer with insulation. Usually wrapping alone does not protect the assembly unless some type of heat is provided. (Heat tape, light bulb, etc.)

PVB...PRESSURE VACUUM BREAKER ASSEMBLY

- Only one PVB required to serve the whole system; control valves can be located downstream of (after) the PVB. (Maximum size = 2").
- PVB's must be installed a minimum of 1 foot (12") above the highest point of water they serve.
- PVB's must be tested by a Certified Backflow Assembly Tester...at the time of installation...annually...when moved or repaired.
- No chemical or fertilizer may be introduced into an irrigation system equipped with PVB's.
- No pumps or back pressure on downstream side of (after) a PVB.



DCVA...DOUBLE CHECK VALVE ASSEMBLY

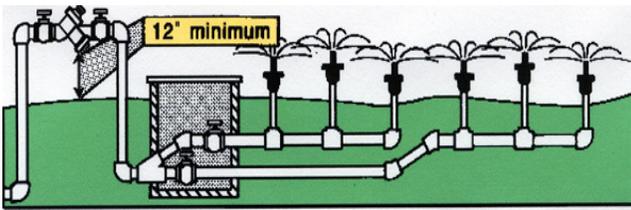
- Only one DCVA required to serve the whole system; control valves can be located downstream of the DCVA.
- DCVA should be installed a minimum of one foot (12") above ground level.
- Some water suppliers may allow the DCVA to be installed below ground, check for proper clearance on all sides of the assembly.
- DCVA must be tested by a Certified Backflow Assembly Tester...when installed...annually...when moved or repaired.
- No chemical or fertilizer may be introduced into an irrigation system equipped with DCVA's.

HOME IRRIGATION SAFETY

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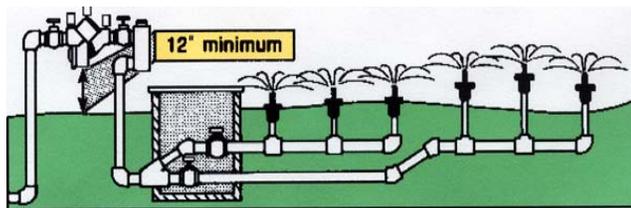
HOME IRRIGATION SAFETY

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RPBA...REDUCED PRESSURE BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY

- Only one RPBA required to serve the whole system; control valves can be located downstream of the RPBA.
- RPBA's must be installed a minimum of one foot (12") above ground level.
- RPBA's must be tested by a Certified Backflow Assembly Tester...when installed...annually...when moved or repaired.
- In an RPBA equipped system, fertilizer and other agricultural chemicals may be introduced downstream of (after) the RPBA.



Important Information for Do-It-Yourself Irrigation System Installers.

Installation of lawn irrigation systems and backflow prevention devices require a plumbing permit. Testing of the backflow prevention devices must be performed by a State-certified backflow prevention tester. Please contact the Van Buren Water Department at (734) 699-8925 for further information.

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Fred C. Fischer Library

Help Wanted:

Volunteers to help create and maintain a local newspaper obituary index. Please call the library at (734) 699-3291 for details.

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS WATER SAVINGS

Homes with automatic sprinkler systems use more than twice as much water on average than homes that manually irrigate with a hose and sprinkler (Mayer, et. al. 1999).

An automatic sprinkler system is almost always the largest use of water in a home. If you're looking for a way to save water it makes sense to focus on the big uses. It doesn't get any bigger than the sprinkler system. Over-irrigation costs you money in two primary ways:



- Over-irrigation unnecessarily drives up your water & sewer bill and is a waste of resources.
- Over-irrigation stresses the water distribution system, which can lead to low water pressures which require costly upgrades to meet the peak demand.

From a horticultural standpoint, over-irrigation occurs much too often. However, it is most prevalent in rainy periods when irrigation schedules have not been revised to meet the current weather conditions. Over-irrigation causes two problems with your lawn and garden:

- Over-irrigation pushes water beyond the root zone and is wasted. This occurs most notably in the case of turf grass.
- Over-irrigation, in general degrades plant health by keeping the roots too wet.

Over-irrigation also causes excess run-off, which contributes to environmental pollution. As the water runs off your lawn it carries pollutants with it such as soils, fertilizers, and pesticides. This run-off is not treated and runs through the storm water system, directly into nearby lakes and streams. The following environmental problems have been documented as a result of excessive run-off from residential lawns:

- Sediments from soil erosion can clog storm sewers, fill in storm water detention ponds, cause sedimentation and flow disruptions in streams, and smother fish and other aquatic creature habitat.
- Excess nutrients from fertilizers can cause algae blooms and other aquatic plants to grow out of control.
- Pesticides in the run-off can lead to health problems in wildlife that live in and around our waterways and can also lead to pollution of public drinking water supplies.

There are a number of ways to reduce outdoor water use and automatic irrigation.

- Convert turf grass to low-water use landscaping.
- Improve your irrigation schedule by reducing the run times.
- Adjust your sprinkler heads to avoid hard surfaces like driveways and sidewalks.
- Install a rain shut-off device.
- Harvest rainwater in a rain barrel.

Below is a form that will help you calculate how much water you are applying to your lawn. This process may take a little while, but it will give you a good idea of how much water you are using and how much that is costing you on your water & sewer bill.

1. Locate your water meter (typically in the basement) and record the current meter reading. Enter this number in Space A below.
2. Run your lawn irrigation system through one complete cycle.
3. Record the new meter reading and enter this number in Space B below.
4. Complete the calculations as indicated to determine your cost of lawn irrigation.

B Meter reading AFTER watering	-	A Meter reading BEFORE watering	=	Water Consumption (May be in gallons or thousands of gallons - check your meter)	/	Only if your meter reads in gallons 1000
--	---	---	---	--	---	--

	Thousands of Gallons Used		Cost per 1000 gal.		
=		X	\$3.61	=	

Cost of 1 day of lawn irrigation		Days in Billing Cycle (Assumes you water every day)		Total (3-month) cost of lawn irrigation
\$	X	90	=	\$

Improving irrigation efficiency is a win-win situation all around. You save money on your water bill and your landscape gets the water it needs without waste. What could be better?

For more information, we recommend the following website:
<http://www.h2ouse.org>

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS REGARDING DELINQUENT WATER BILLS

Van Buren Township Ordinance requires that all water and sewer bills 60 or more days past due and unpaid as of June 30 will have an additional fifteen percent (15%) penalty added, then be transferred to the next property tax roll. If you pay your property taxes through a mortgage escrow account, you may have a shortage in your account with the addition of delinquent water charges being added to your property tax bill. The Water Department encourages all of its customers to bring their accounts current before the June 30 deadline to avoid additional penalties and possible increases in monthly mortgage payments. There are no payment plans or other exceptions to this tax transfer provision.

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

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 website: www.vanburen-mi.org under Departments, Water & Sewer or copies are available upon request by calling (734) 699-8925.

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

Continued from Page 4

budgets known as Special Revenue Funds along with the Water & Sewer Department budgets. As with the General Fund budget, all other township budgets are balanced. Further, the township has maintained its A-bond rating from Standard & Poor's, and the township's annual independent audit revealed no areas of concern or "findings."

What is ahead for 2005? First, Michigan's financial situation is serious and will have consequences for all municipalities in the State, including Van Buren. The township's 2005 General Fund Budget reflects a decrease in state revenue sharing dollars, the fourth consecutive year of declining revenues from the State. Over \$800,000 has been cut from Van Buren's revenue sharing payments, a funding source that equates to 16% of the township's revenue stream for 2005. In years past, state revenue sharing dollars provided about 25% of the township's revenue. In 2001, Van Buren received just over \$2.7 million in state revenue sharing and in 2005, \$1.9 million is budgeted for state shared revenue.

In 2005, the largest revenue source is the township's Landfill Fund, contributing three million dollars to achieve a balanced budget. For the first time since receiving revenues provided for in the Waste Management Host Community Agreement (HCA) relative to the Woodland Meadows landfill, the township will spend more money than it will receive in 2005. The result is that cash reserves in the Landfill Fund will be reduced in order to provide the same level of services as in years past. Obviously, should this situation continue, the township could be faced with little or no Landfill Fund cash reserves. Further, landfill revenues may be available for only another nine years as referenced in the HCA. The Board's objective has been that while Landfill funds can be used for routine services, other objectives include funding for capital improvements such as the two million dollars earmarked for the Sumpter/Hull Road fire station or earmarking funds for unforeseen or extraordinary events.

While the township is fortunate to have landfill revenues during these times of economic downturn, municipal financing in Michigan is in need of attention. In fact, a report commissioned to study the matter of taxation and the dual effects of Proposal A, which was passed in 1994, and the Headlee Act that was adopted in 1978, was titled "A Study of Michigan's Broken Municipal Finance Model." Further, while the township has experienced growth, the increase in tax base has not kept pace with the demand for service, and has only served (along with landfill monies), to mask the structural problems of municipal financing, not only in Van Buren, but also throughout Michigan. Clearly, addressing such a complex and weighty topic as taxation is a daunting task, however, one worth deliberation by the State Legislature.

Municipal services in Van Buren will continue in 2005 without any reduction in quality or frequency. No staff cuts are planned and no staff increases are budgeted. The Department of Public Safety, under the leadership of Director Champagne, is studying staff needs in this department, in concert with the finding in the Kelly & Stone Operations Evaluation that identified a staffing shortage within the department. Wages and fringe benefits are typically the most costly expenses in a service-oriented enterprise such as the township, and the Board and management remain committed to addressing staffing needs conservatively.

The largest General Fund expenditure is the Department of Public Safety. While \$2.4 million will be collected from the voter-approved three-mill public safety tax levy, department operations will cost \$5.5 million. The Community Services Department is budgeted at roughly \$1.5 million and the Department of Developmental Services at \$1.3 million, the next highest General Fund expenditures by department. The collective Community Services Department includes recreation, special events, the parks and lake division, and building and grounds. The Developmental Services Department encompasses building and planning services, environmental services, code enforcement and general ordinance enforcement.

Significant General Fund capital expenditures planned for 2005 include construction of the Sumpter/Hull Road fire station. Further, the Board plans to refurbish a fire engine and purchase a new ladder truck. Four new patrol vehicles are budgeted for in 2005 as part of our ongoing equipment replacement program. New computers for use with the Public Safety Department's Computer Aided Dispatch system are budgeted, as are enhancements to the departments radio system. Radio system improvements budgeted in the E-9-1-1 Service Fund at about \$125,000 will complement the two receiver towers obtained in 2004 and include phone system back-up, individual (patrol unit) radio identification, emergency panic button display to notify Dispatch if an officer needs immediate assistance, Internet Protocol (IP) connectivity and radio redundancy. A new security system for all township facilities, at a cost of about \$90,000 is nearly complete with one component being new identification cards being issued to all township employees.

As part of our emergency response planning, the township will be purchasing a new telephone system in 2005. The current 10+ years old system is outdated, older technology with no expansion capabilities. Unfortunately, busy signals for those calling Township Hall are frequent and frustrating for callers. As part of the service enhancements, improvements will be made to directory access and voice mail as well as the implementation of an emergency notification system to contact residents during emergencies. It is estimated that these improvements will cost about \$200,000.

The Downtown Development Authority will continue with plans to construct a new fire station on Belleville Road. Work will continue in the development of a trailways system in the southeastern part of the township with a grant application to partially fund construction costs to be submitted to the Southeast Michigan Community Foundation in early 2005. The Community Services Department also expects to submit a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to seek funding for making improvements to Riggs Heritage Park that is one stop along the proposed trailways system. Final recommendations and a decision on how best to utilize the \$2 million Wayne County Parks grant will be finalized in 2005 and will be based upon input from the community.

Non-township related projects expected to be underway in 2005 include the final coat of asphalt being laid on Belleville Road north of Tyler Road. The Board will remain hopeful that improvements will be made to the Belleville/Ecorse Road intersection in which Wayne County indicated "Michigan left" turns would be installed. You may recall this was a project planned for last year. In addition, the township will work with the State in coordinating the Emerald Ash Borer program in which residents can access, at State-negotiated rates, tree removal specialists for removal of Ash trees located on private property that were killed by this non-native pest.

Residents can expect to see work commence on the Seventh Day Adventist Church to be built on Belleville Road. A variety of new housing developments are slated including Oak Creek Woods on Hull Road west of Sumpter Road and the Pines in the Hull/Martinsville Road area with Board approval of the West Huron River Drive Pine Creek Condominiums planned residential development to be considered in early 2005.

New commercial establishments going through the planning process include an O'Charley's Restaurant to be located near Meijer, two new banks, a Fifth Third and an as yet unidentified bank, a 7-11, and a Murray's Discount Auto Parts store all proposed on Belleville Road. Site plans for an auto dealership on Belleville Road and a retail center on Haggerty Road near Tyler Road will also receive consideration in 2005, as will improvements proposed for the Wayne County Community College Western campus on Haggerty Road. In addition, the Developmental Services Department has received information that Contractor's Steel, Schooner Drive, is interested in increasing their facility by 30%, and that Penske and Ford Motor Company have teamed up to develop a 54-acre trucking facility on Belleville Road that, if approved, would permit them to bring products in via rail and transport those products by truck.

The Tri-Community Library Committee has approved hiring a consultant to assist them in developing a strategic plan for the library. As reported in the media, objectives of the Committee may include construction of a new library building and changes to library governance. As work on the plan progresses, residents will be given an opportunity to provide public comment.

The Belleville Area Historical Society will once again host their Home Tour, a major fundraiser for the Society and an opportunity to view some very beautiful local homes. The Parks Department Summer Concert Series will continue with concerts featuring a variety of music being held on Friday evenings in Van Buren Park. This may be the last year for the concert series so if it is on your list of fun things to do, please encourage your friends and neighbors to come out and enjoy the sounds.

As has been said before, these are times of extraordinary change and opportunity. From election consolidation to electronic payment of water bills to 24-hour drug stores, we are living in times of convenience and choices. Development continues to be the number one issue facing the community. Yes, traveling along our busy thoroughfares can be vexing but having the ability to shop in one's hometown or to enjoy a good meal only ten minutes from home has value. Moreover, while people sometimes lament the growth occurring in the township, we must be mindful that all property owners, particularly in the State of Michigan, have rights that include the ability to use their land. It is not reasonable to expect that a "just say no" approach to development will cease development. Communities who have attempted this have often found themselves faced with court judgments and the loss of control over how land is developed. Township officials have worked hard to plan and effectively manage the growth that occurs in Van Buren. We have developed and are using such planning tools as the Water & Sewer Master Plans, the Woodlands Preservation Ordinance and the Planned Residential Ordinance to ensure that the development that does occur protects natural features, is of high quality and will stand the test of time.

Van Buren is a community in which people get to know each other. We speak our minds and get involved. The Board welcomes your involvement on our many commissions and committees. We have several new members serving on these groups and we welcome you to get involved. We remain committed to open access to information whether from viewing our Board meetings "live" on VBTV 12, to information being posted on the township's website, www.vanburen-mi.org,

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

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Recreation Program - Spring/Summer 2005

Tots of Fun

This program is designed for children to expand their motor and social skills in a nonstructural, safe and fun environment. Tots of Fun is simply a drop-in playtime for children ages 2-5.



Parent or guardian must accompany children at all times.

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

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

Youth Authority

Meets every other Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
 April 27 - ongoing Ages: 13-18

Create cool new ideas for youth of Van Buren Township and surrounding areas. Develop special events like a teen lock-in or field trips to Laser Quest, movies. Ideas are endless. Make a difference in your community!

Free meeting to be a voice in your community.

**Leisure Pursuits, Inc.
 Amusement Park Tickets
 Sold here...**



Support your community: Purchase your discount amusement park tickets at your Recreation Department.

Cedar Point

Children 3 & under 48" and 60+	\$24.50
Adult 3-59, 48" and over	\$34.25
Adult Tow	\$65.50

Detroit Zoo

** Prices for Detroit Zoo TBA call: (734) 699-8921.

Cash only for payment of discount tickets.
 Please no checks.

**Friday Family Night
 at the Movies**

Watch movies on the big screen in the Community Center gymnasium. Snacks will be provided or you can bring your own. Please no alcoholic beverages.

Starting May 20 - September 16
 Times????

\$1.00 per person when you register
 Movies will range from G to PG.



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. - 8:15 p.m.

Tuesdays, May 3 - June 7, June 14 - July 19,
 July 26 - August 30

Classes are held at Van Buren Park
 Van Buren Resident = \$30 Non-Resident = \$35

**Beginning Conversational
 American Sign Language**

Wednesdays, May 18 - August 3
 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Ages: 12 and older

Highly recommended book for the class "The American Sign Language Phrase Book" written by Lou Fant can be purchased online or at discount bookstores.

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

Yoga

Instructor Qi-Qi Zhou-Das will teach you the beginning techniques of yoga. Either begin the day stress free with our Wednesday and Friday classes or end the day shedding negativity with our Monday evening classes. Become flexible, improve muscle tone and overall strength. This class is great for first time participants as well as experienced yoga participants. **Floor mat required.**

Mondays: June 13 - August 29 (No class July 4 or 11)
6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. or 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Wednesdays: June 15 - August 17
8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

Fridays: June 17 - August 19
8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

10 week class

Van Buren Residents = \$65 Non-Residents = \$80
\$8 walk-in - please pay instructor for walk-ins.

T'ai Chi Chaun & Meditation

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



Fridays, July 8 - August 12 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Van Buren Residents = \$15 Non-Residents = \$18

Fridays, September 16 - November 18 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Van Buren Residents = \$20 Non-Residents = \$23

All levels of Tai Chi are encouraged to sign up.

Here's to Your Health

Walk your way to better health!
Van Buren Resident/Employee Health Day

May 3 - September 6 (All ages recommended)

Walk for **FREE on Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**
in the Community Center Gymnasium.

First 20 to register receive a free t-shirt.

MRPA Walk Michigan

This is a free statewide non-competitive walking and fitness program for all ages through MRPA (Michigan Recreation and Park Association).

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Starting every Wednesday, May 4 - August 10 you can simply walk your way to a healthier you while earning tickets. The more you walk, the more tickets you earn to put in a drawing to win an all expense paid trip to Mackinac Island. The trip to Mackinac Island will take place over Labor Day weekend for the annual walk across the "Big Mac".

Walk Michigan will be held in two places this year, Lower Huron Metro Park and Quirk Park. Even though this is a free event, a fee will be charged for those who enter Lower Huron Metro Park. Quirk Park will not have an entrance fee.

- Participants will not be able to start walking until Van Buren Recreation staff is present. You must check in with staff prior to walking so we can keep track of how far you walked.
- Participants can only walk up to three miles every Wednesday to earn tickets.
- Walking the whole 3 miles each Wednesday will increase your opportunity to win the trip.
- Only one winner will be drawn.

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)

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



Ongoing, Saturdays

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.



4 week EFT (electronic funds transfer) = \$36.00
8 week (cash or check) = \$88.00
Walk-in = \$9.00

2nd Annual Kid's Fishing Classic

Saturday, August 13

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at French Landing Park

Recommended for ages 10 & under

Hey kids, are you ready to get your "fish on?" Well, here is your chance to enjoy the great outdoors in your very own fishing classic held at French Landing Park. The event runs 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with registration open until 10:00 a.m. Please provide your own fishing pole, bait and tackle, and come accompanied by an adult. You will have the chance to win prizes and a free lunch will be provided. French Landing Park is located on Haggerty Road between E. Huron River Drive and the S. I-94 Service Drive. Any questions, please call Van Buren Parks and Recreation at (734) 699-8921.

3rd Annual Get Active! Family Fun Day



Saturday, August 20

Noon - 2:00 p.m. at Van Buren Park

All ages welcome!



Join the Van Buren Parks and Recreation department for an afternoon of fun and entertainment. Participants can enjoy the obstacle course, water balloon toss, three legged relay, sack race, and many more games for the whole family. Any questions, please call Van Buren Parks and Recreation at (734) 699-8921.

Takin' It To the Streets (Mobile Rec Program)

Throughout June, July & August
Mondays-Fridays

The "Takin' it to the Streets" program offers a safe environment for youth in low-income areas to participate in recreation activities without leaving their neighborhood. Building self-confidence, self-esteem and developing friendships are just a few of the benefits the kids will receive. All kids 1st grade and up may participate. Children younger than 1st grade are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Activities include outdoor games and sports, arts and crafts and much more!

Each child must have a completed registration card on file to participate in the activities offered and to use program equipment and materials. This is a drop-in program. Children and parents are responsible for their own arrival and departure time at each site, as well as length and level of participation. Recreation staff does not provide structured childcare or monitor attendance as children can come and go freely.

A schedule of dates and locations will be available at the Recreation Desk and at www.vanburen-mi.org. If you have any questions, please call Van Buren Parks and Recreation at (734) 699-8921.

Awesome Adventures

Priority Registration will be given to Belleville and Van Buren Township residents. Kids should bring a brown bag lunch, we will provide snacks.

Ages: 8-12

Indoor Rock Climbing	June 20	\$12
Obstacle Course & Nature Program	July 11	\$20
Horseback Riding - Beginner	July 12	\$25
Climbing Wall & Nature Program	July 13	\$20
Overnight Camping at Lower Huron Metro Park	August 8 & 9	\$25

Ages: 12-15

High Ropes & Climbing Tower	June 22	\$40
Low Ropes (Teambuilding)	July 18	\$15
Horseback Riding - Intermediate	July 19	\$30
Beginner Archery & Nature Program	July 20	\$20
Introduction to Caving	July 25-27	\$150

Tunes at Noon (Kid's Concerts)

July 8 & August 5 at Van Buren Park Stage

Bring your summer camp, day care, birthday party or any other children's group to Van Buren Park for a FREE concert. No admission for the concert, no park entry fee, just free music for kids of all ages. Concerts start at Noon. Van Buren Park, located on the South I-94 Service Drive between Belleville and Rawsonville Roads.

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.

Name	Relationship	Phone
------	--------------	-------

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.

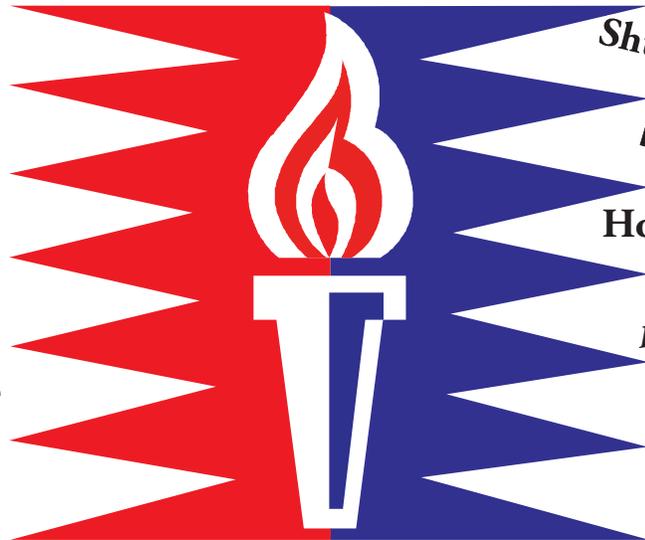
I understand that the Township may take photographs for the use in Township publications and news releases without my written consent. It is my intention that this release be as broad as Michigan law allows releases to be. I understand that, without this document, the cost of participation would necessarily be greater, and I also acknowledge that I may obtain insurance to protect myself if I so choose.

Signature (Parent or Guardian, if not over 18)

Date

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

WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY



Opening Ceremony

Fun Walk

Ring Toss

BAKING CONTEST

Softball Throw

Frisbee Toss

Soccer Kick

Euchre

Football Toss

Pinochle

Bridge

Billiards

Shuffleboard Golf

Bocce Ball

Horseshoes

Tennis

Basketball Shoot

Swimming

Bowling

Awards Banquet

SENIOR OLYMPICS

SEPTEMBER 12 - 16, 2005

Hosted by

Van Buren Township



Pick up your
Western Wayne County Senior Olympics
Registration Package at your Local Senior Center.

Registration Deadline is August 1, 2005

Participating Communities:

Belleville
Canton Twp.
Dearborn
Dearborn Hts.
Garden City
Inkster
Livonia
Northville

Northville Twp.
Plymouth
Plymouth Twp.
Redford Twp.
Sumpter Twp.
Van Buren Twp.
Wayne
Westland

September Days Senior Center
is proud to host this event.

Come and join us!

Van Buren Township Open Space Committee
OPEN SPACE SURVEY

Van Buren Township Residents Only, Please.

The purpose of the Van Buren Township Open Space Committee is to act as a research, advisory and recommending body of the Board of Trustees on matters pertaining to open space planning and preservation in and around the Township. This includes, but is not limited to matters concerning conservation easements, purchase of development rights, purchase of open space and/or park property by the Township, and financing mechanisms for open space conservation and/or acquisition.

1. **Township elected officials and staff are doing enough to preserve and protect undeveloped land and natural areas.**

Fold

Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

2. **Van Buren Township has enough existing parks and publicly owned land.**

Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

3. **Van Buren Township needs additional ordinances or rules to protect property and natural features from development, even if the new rules might apply to my property.**

Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

4. **I support the adoption of a Township Wetlands Ordinance, which would require a permit for working or building in wetlands, including those that may occur on my property.**

Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

5. **Active farmland is something the Township should be working to promote and preserve.**

Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

Fold

6. **The Township should use public funds to buy land or purchase the rights to develop property, in order to limit future development in the area.**

Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

7. **I am willing to pay additional property taxes (millage) or rent for the purpose of purchasing development rights or additional park land.**

Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

To help us make sense of these results, we need to have an idea of who responded to the survey.

Please complete the back of this survey, cut it out, fold it and mail it in!

To ensure your voice is heard - return this survey by May 6, 2005

8. How long have you lived in Van Buren Township?

- 0 - 5 years
- 6 - 10 years
- 11 - 20 years
- 20+ years

9. Do you rent or own property in Van Buren Township?

- Rent
- Own
- Other (Minor, Live with others, etc.)

10. Are you an active member in a local social, religious or political organization?

- Yes
- No

11. How would you classify your current employment?

Fold

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Student
- Unemployed
- Self Employed
- Retired

12. What is the highest level of education you have attained?

- High School/GED
- Associates
- Bachelor's
- Graduate

13. How many people live in your household (including you)? _____

14. How close do you live to a park or public land?

- 0-1 miles
- 1-2 miles
- 2+ miles

Additional Comments:

Please return this survey by May 6, 2005.

In order for your opinion to be considered, please either put a stamp on the survey and mail to the address shown, drop it off at Township Hall during regular business hours or put it in the drop box located in the Public Safety Department (accessible 24 hours a day).

Please cut here

Fold

Optional Return Address

Place Stamp Here

Environmental Department
 Charter Township of Van Buren
 46425 Tyler Road
 Van Buren Twp, MI 48111

Tape

Wayne County Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, April 16, 2005
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Romulus Civic Center, 11111 Wayne Road
 (At Goddard, just south of the I-94 Wayne Road exit)

Only household generated products from Wayne County residents will be accepted. **Acceptable items:** household paints, stains, floor care items, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, antifreeze, and old computers. In addition, residents are encouraged to bring in mercury thermometers for exchange.

AUTOMATIC BILL PAYMENT FOR YOUR WATER BILL

Van Buren Township is now offering our water customers the option to enroll in the Automatic Bill Payment Program. The Automatic Bill Payment Program makes it easier to pay your water bill by automatically withdrawing funds from your checking account. Complete the attached form, return it, and start enjoying the following benefits:

- No checks to write
- No postage to pay
- No trip to Township Hall to pay your bill
- No late penalties

You will continue to receive a water billing statement 3 weeks before the payment is due. Your payment will be automatically withdrawn from your designated bank account on your regular bill due date.

You may withdraw from the Automatic Bill Payment Program at any time by giving the Water Department a written 2-week notice.

Please continue to make payments on your water bill until you receive a water bill marked with the words, "Auto Withdrawal-Do Not Pay."

For additional information or questions, please call the Water Billing Office at (734) 699-8925 or via e-mail at: ksmith@vanburen-mi.org.

Sharry A. Budd
 Township Treasurer

(cut and mail form)

Customer Account Information

 Last Name First Name

Mailing Address: _____

Phone(s) day: _____ evening: _____

Banking Information

Name of Financial Institution: _____

Account Number: _____

Savings

Checking

Water Account Information

Service Address(s): _____

Please attach a voided check or savings deposit slip that includes the financial institution name, routing number, and account number and mail it with this form to:

Automatic Payment Plan
Van Buren Water Department
46425 Tyler Road
Van Buren Twp., MI 48111

I authorize the Van Buren Township Water Department to deduct my payment from the designated account listed above. I understand that I can discontinue this payment service at any time by notifying the Van Buren Township Water Department in writing with a 2-week notice. I understand that if my account has been closed without advance written notice to the Water Department, my payment will be treated similarly to a check with insufficient funds and the payment will be reversed and late penalties will be applied to my account.

Customer Signature (This form cannot be processed without your signature)

 Signature

 Date

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

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to seeking your input on our monthly web poll, to the prompt and courteous compliance with a Freedom of Information Act request. If you have a question or a concern, contact us and we'll do our best to be of help.

Van Buren is a diverse, vibrant, premier Wayne County community. We have a variety of housing and retail establishments and a crown jewel in Belleville Lake. High quality educational resources and well-respected medical facilities are within easy access of Van Buren whether heading east or west. All of this and our tax base remains one of the lowest in Wayne County, Michigan's most populated county. Van Buren Charter Township remains a one-mill township with all additional millage approved by you, the voters.

Your Township Board is dedicated to governance that improves upon the quality of life for every resident and sets the course for a sustainable future for our community. Van Buren is a great place in which to live, work and play. Our residents are our greatest asset. Thank you for all you do for our community.

**“CAMP WITH A COP”
2005**

“COME JOIN IN THE FUN”

The Van Buren Township Police Department would like to announce their “CAMP WITH A COP” program. The dates for the Camp will be August 12, 13, 14, 2005. The camp will be held at Van Buren Park off the South Service Drive, Van Buren Township.

Participation is limited to the first 80 boys and girls (ages 8-13) who reside in Van Buren Township/City of Belleville. Approximately 20 officers will offer their time and assistance to make this an eventful weekend for the kids.

The kids will arrive at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, August 12th, spend the whole weekend and go home at noon on Sunday, August 14th, 2005.

Our program is designed to be a fun filled weekend as well as an opportunity for the Police Officers to interact with the boys and girls at “NO COST” to the parents.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE JUNE 20, 2005 THROUGH JULY 16, 2005 AT THE VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT. ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT (734) 699-8930 ext 273 (PAM FLEMING).

CLERK'S OFFICE

Continued from Page 5

for both of those school districts. The difference will be that the precincts for school elections now mirror the precincts for municipal elections. This will be a significant change for those voters in the Lincoln Consolidated School District who previously voted at Bessie Hoffman School. They will now vote at their regular municipal precinct located at Belleville High School. This will require some coordination with Washtenaw County due to the difference in voting equipment used. I am confident this will be a more user friendly system for voters, who will only go to one voting location for all elections.

Voting precincts for Van Buren Charter Township Residents are as follows:

#1	Fire Station #1	130 Fourth St.
#2	Fire Station #2	45581 Ecorse Rd
#3	Tyler Elementary	42200 Tyler Rd.
#4	Belleville High School Auditorium	501 W. Columbia Ave.
#5	South Middle School	45201 Owen St.
#6	Belleville High School Auditorium	501 W. Columbia Ave.
#7	Van Buren Township Hall	46425 Tyler Rd.
#8	North Middle School	47097 McBride
#9	Haggerty Elementary School	13770 Haggerty Rd.
#10 AV	Van Buren Township Hall	46425 Tyler Rd.

Additional information on voting equipment, voting locations and voter status may be found by going to www.vanburen-mi.org and clicking on “links” then to “Secretary of State”, then to “online services” and finally to “Michigan voter information center.”

In addition, new voter cards will be sent to residents after the final changes for voting locations have been made in the Qualified Voter File.

In other voting news Van Buren Charter Township is always looking for election inspectors. Applications are available at the Clerk's Office.

Township offices have employees who serve as notary publics. Documents may be notarized at most department counters during regular business hours - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. There is no charge for this service.

Joannie D. Payne CMC
Township Clerk

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, May 3	School elections held for Van Buren Public and Lincoln Consolidated School Districts.
Monday, May 30	Administrative offices closed in observance of Memorial Day.

JERRY CHAMPAGNE NEW PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR



Jerry Champagne, Public Safety Director

Jerry Champagne, the former Deputy Chief of Police for Romulus, has been hired as Director of Public Safety for the Van Buren Public Safety Department. An 18-year veteran, Jerry was responsible for the development of policies, internal investigations and operations of the Romulus Police Department, a department comprised of 60 sworn officers, 17 civilians and an annual budget of about \$5.5 million.

By way of background, Jerry possesses a Master's degree in communications and negotiations and a Bachelor's degree in criminology and sociology. He is also a graduate of Eastern Michigan University School of Police Staff and Command. In 2004, Jerry graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Jerry served as a military police officer in tactical and garrison units during his three years in the Army, being stationed in Germany and Arizona. He also spent seven years employed with Kmart Corporation as a security manager.

Jerry is the current president of the Michigan Association of Hostage Negotiators and is on the Board of the National Association of Hostage Negotiation Associations. Further, he is a lifetime member of the National Tactical Officers Association.

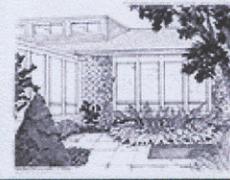
Jerry was selected after a lengthy and grueling search from among a field of 64 candidates for the director's position. Assisting the township in the search for a new public safety director were Bill Kelly, Police Chief, Abington Township, Pennsylvania, the nation's first nationally accredited police department; and Tom Stone, a retire police chief and former public safety director, who is currently employed as the Executive Director of the FBI Law Enforcement Executives Development Association (LEEDA).

Jerry has been married for several years to Patti and together they have three grown children, two sons both of whom are in law enforcement, and a daughter, who is an elementary school teacher.

Please join us in welcoming Jerry to the community.

FRED C. FISCHER LIBRARY

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



www.belleville.lib.mi.us

Hours: Mon-Thurs, 10-9:00, Fri & Sat 10-5

Where Are We Going...?

We will find out over the next six months as strategic planner Char Ezell and library space planner Anders Dahlgren help us create a long range plan. Library visitors will be surveyed the week of April 3. Focus group sessions will be on April 18. The Library Committee and other community representatives will get a preliminary report and create a plan for future library services on May 14. The space needs assessment will follow with a final report presented at the July meeting.

Dragons, Deeds, and Daring Dreams

The library is your castle this summer! The 2005 Summer Reading Program for school aged children will be held on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. from June 21 - July 26.

Programs for preschoolers also run from the week of June 20th through the last week in July. Check the library for details.

Just Read for Teens

Teens, keep busy this summer by reading the books you want to read, attending fun programs at the library, and picking up prizes along the way. Registration begins June 6th for those who have completed the sixth grade.

Friends of the Library

Over twenty people braved the ten-inch snowstorm on Saturday, January 22, to attend the Friends of the Library annual meeting brunch. The Friends elected new officers and honored members who have given much of their time and talents. Honorees were: Carol Schank, Volunteer of the Year, Joy Cichewicz, Member of the Year, and Patricia Ryback, Lifetime Achievement Award.



Tom Fielder, Don Juchartz, Deb Green, Keith & Ginger Bruder, Elaine Gutierrez, and Rob Coultts at the Library's ribbon cutting for the Rotary Newspaper Preservation Project.

TRASH GUIDELINES:

Homeowners of Brand New Homes:

Please call the Community Services Department at (734) 699-8926 to order your garbage container (toter) and recycle bin. You should receive 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 the bottom. **Please DO NOT place LOOSE TRASH in toters/containers or they will not be picked up.**

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

Please write your address on all containers!

Damaged Containers:

Broken or damaged containers supplied by Waste Management may be replaced or repaired if necessary. Please call (734) 699-8926 to notify us if your container needs to be replaced or repaired.

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

Stolen Containers:

If your Waste Management toter is stolen or missing, you will need to contact Waste Management at (800) 796-9696 to acquire a new one at a cost of \$85.00. If you do not wish to purchase this container, you may use a 32 gallon or smaller container at the curbside.

Holiday Pickup Schedule:

If your trash day falls on a holiday, please still place your trash at the curb for removal.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS:

**Yard Waste Pickup resumes
the first full week of April.**

All Homeowners:

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

Please write your address on all containers!

Special Pickups:

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

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

If you are moving:

Please leave the rubbish container and recycle bin that were provided by Waste Management on the property for the next homeowner as the cart remains the property of Waste Management.

Large Quantities of Trash:

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

Attention Mobile Home/Manufactured Home and Apartment residents:

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

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

YARD WASTE 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 full week in November** - 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.

Yard Waste Season

Yard Waste pickup **RESUMES** the first full week in April and will **END** the last full week of November.

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 towards 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****

Sizzlin' Summer Nights

The Van Buren Park Concert Series will take place at Van Buren Park, located on the South I-94 Service Drive between Belleville and Rawsonville Roads. Each week we'll feature a different type of music for the whole family. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and enjoy a variety of music. There is a \$3 park entry fee per car. Concerts start at 7:00 p.m. Performers subject to change.

Schedule of Performers

- Friday, July 8 **Cruizin' Jupiter**
- Friday, July 15 **Terraplanes**
- Friday, July 22 **Impact 7 (Motown)**
- Friday, July 29 **Rick Eddy's Rockin' Oldies Band**
- Friday, Aug 5 **Twistin' Tarantulas**



Fireworks Show!



Saturday, June 25
Show starts at Dusk, Beck Ball Fields
 Rain-out Date: June 26

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

Township Meetings

- | | |
|---|---|
| Board Meetings:
1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:30 p.m. | Cable Commission:
No long meets regularly. |
| Work Study Meetings:
1st & 3rd Mondays 4:00 p.m. | Endowment Committee:
2nd Tuesday 1:00 p.m. |
| Environmental Commission:
2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m. | Board of Zoning Appeals:
2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m. |
| Planning Commission: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. | Public Safety Committee:
2nd Tuesday 5:30 p.m. |
| Water/Sewer Commission:
4th Monday 7:00 p.m. | Recreation Committee:
2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
(Meets February, April, June, August, October & Dec, changes will be posted) |
| Downtown Devel. Authority:
2nd Tuesday 5:30 p.m. | |
| Open Space Committee:
4th Tuesday 7:00 p.m. | |

Board of Trustees

- Cindy C. King** (cking@vanburen-mi.org)
Supervisor 699-8910
- Joannie D. Payne** (jpayne@vanburen-mi.org)
Clerk 699-8909
- Sharry A. Budd** (sbudd@vanburen-mi.org)
Treasurer 699-8903
- Phillip Hart**
- John Herman**
- Jeffrey Jahr**
- Walter Rochowiak**
Trustees 699-8910

Township Departments

Public Safety

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

Developmental Services

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

Community Services

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

Lake Ledger

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Editor:

Christina Harman
 Community Services Department

Charter Township of Van Buren
 46425 Tyler Road
 Van Buren Twp., MI 48111-1299

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