



Van Buren Charter Township

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VBT student intern learns valuable lessons about public service



This week, Van Buren Township had the opportunity to mentor a young leader in an internship. James Kosiba, a 13 year old eighth grader and resident of Van Buren Township, attends Dearborn Heights Montessori Middle School Center, where eighth grade students are required to participate in a 30 hour week-long internship in order to graduate from middle school.

In addition to having an interest in public service and government, James is also a Boy Scout who has already obtained the 22 merit badges required to earn Eagle Scout rank. James simply needs to complete his service project, which he is looking to do this summer for Van Buren Township.

Supervisor Linda Combs shared, "It is a pleasure to have someone as personable, polite, and conscientious as James here with us this week."

James will spend the week in each of the township departments, including visiting and or touring the Belleville Area Museum, the fire station and the police station, and spending time with staff members in the Treasurer's Office, the Clerk's Office, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Senior Center, and with the DDA Executive Director.

He will spend portions of his days:

- Packing meals on wheels for our homebound senior citizens
- Preparing items for the special event in the recreation department this weekend
- Visiting the archives at the museum to learn about our community's rich history
- Researching the best trees to plant along the roadside that are most resistant to salt
- Learning about public safety and how our police and firefighters keep our community safe
- Watching employees assist residents with requests, which may include FOIAs, paying their water bills, and registering to vote, and
- Gaining an understanding of how the Supervisor's, Clerk's, and Treasurer's offices serve the community and what they do.

The focus of this mentoring program is to have our township employees instill in James key traits that make Van Buren Township the wonderful community it is. Those key traits are: leadership, commitment to quality service, integrity, accountability, and a positive attitude.

This mentoring program is a stewardship responsibility, and it is one of the most unselfish investments we can make in today's youth. By mentoring and developing youngsters with valuable programs such as this, we are ensuring our own bright future.

When introduced to the Township Board of Trustees, James said, "I really appreciate all of the work the township is doing. My experience at Van Buren Township has been amazing, and I have learned a lot. This has been a life changing experience for me, and I thank you all very much."

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