



Van Buren Lake Ledger

"Your link to recreational leisure activities and community news"

Volume V: Fall/Winter 2009-2010

WORKING TOGETHER TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY



Van Buren Fire Department helping out at the 2008 Not-so-Scary Haunted Forest.



Public Safety Officer Ryan Bidwell handing out safety coloring books to families.



Participants watching **Just Joe** a fire juggler at the Recreation Department's 2008 Not-so-Scary Haunted Forest.

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

Time has flown by and I hope you have had an enjoyable summer. It's hard to believe we are on the verge of autumn already; we are starting to have cool evenings and warm days. Soon the leaves will be changing into those beautiful vivid colors of orange, red and gold. The majesty of it all is quite breathtaking in our beautiful Van Buren Township.

A new season brings new challenges and Van Buren is beginning to get ready for the changing days ahead. As with private industry, the Township saw a decline in taxable property values from 2008 to 2009 by nearly five (5) percent. All Departments have been working hard to prepare budgets for what is expected to be another decline in taxable value. It is uncertain at this writing just how much that might be. Like most people today, we will be trying to do more with less. We will be doing whatever is necessary to maximize resources. It will be a fine balancing act to provide those services you have become accustomed to.

Even though this past year has brought many challenges, we have also seen many accomplishments for which we should be very proud.

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE
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- **Recreation Programs**
- **Parks and Lake**
- **September Days Seniors**
- **Belleville Area Museum**
- **Fred C. Fischer Library**
- **Community News**
- **Trash and Recycle**
- **Public Safety**

Visit our website at:
www.vanburen-mi.org

Van Buren Township Directory

Board of Trustees

Paul D. White (pwhite@vanburen-mi.org)
Supervisor.....699-8910

Leon Wright (lwright@vanburen-mi.org)
Clerk.....699-8909

Sharry A. Budd (sbudd@vanburen-mi.org)
Treasurer.....699-8903

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Township Departments

Public Safety

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

Developmental Services

Dan Swallow, Planning & Economic
Development Director.....699-8913
Todd Knepper, Director of Public Works.....699-8944
Ordinance Enforcement.....699-8913

Community Services

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

Lake Ledger

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Editor:

Christina Harman
Community Services Department

Township Meetings

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

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

Board of Zoning Appeals:
2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Cable Commission:
No longer meets regularly

Downtown Development Authority:
2nd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.

Endowment Committee:
2nd Tuesday 1:00 p.m.

Environmental Commission:
2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

LDFA:
2nd Tuesday 2:00 p.m.

Planning Commission:
2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee:
2nd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.

Recreation Committee:
2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
(Meets February, April, June, August, October & December, changes will be posted)

Water/Sewer Commission:
4th Monday 7:00 p.m.

Email Directory

To contact township departments via email, please visit our website at www.vanburen-mi.org, go to "Departments" and select the department you desire to obtain the email directory.

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E-Newsletters are now available via online subscription at Van Buren Township’s web site: www.vanburen-mi.org.

What are E-Newsletters? E-Newsletters are another form of communication provided by the Township that can be sent to your personal e-mail address that will help keep you up to date on specific Township Department news, alerts, and updates that we feel you will want to hear about.

How do I Subscribe to E-Newsletters? Simply go to www.vanburen-mi.org and click on **“E-Newsletter Sign-up!”** located on the right hand side of the Township home page. You will then enter your first name, last name, and e-mail address into the provided fields. Next, simply select the E-Newsletter(s) that you wish to subscribe to by checking the box next to the specific E-Newsletter that you are interested in subscribing to. Shortly thereafter you will receive a “Welcome to our newsletter” confirmation e-mail.

How do I Unsubscribe to E-Newsletters? To unsubscribe to any E-newsletter just go to the bottom of the E-Newsletter and click on the “To stop receiving this newsletter simply click HERE”.

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
 ASSESSING OFFICE

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions
Regarding the Current Real Estate Market

Note: For simplicity, the following questions and answers pertain to residential properties; however, the same principles apply to all types of properties.

1. Houses are not selling. Why aren’t my taxes going down?

The fact that houses are not selling or are taking a long time to sell does not necessarily equate to lower sale prices. Assessed values are based on the sales that have taken place. For 2009, a one year study was completed which includes sales that occurred between the time period of October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. (For information regarding Foreclosure or Bank resales refer to Question #5.) For 2010 values the study will incorporate the time period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

2. I agree my home is worth twice the assessed value, but I could not sell my home for that amount in this market.

Assessed values cannot be based on speculation as to what a home might sell for. It is important to remember that assessed values are based on confirmed sales that have taken place between the October 1 and September 30 deadline for that pertaining year.

3. I agree with the assessed value of my home, but my taxes are too high.

Under Proposal A, which is a constitutional state law, taxes are calculated on taxable value. Taxable value by law is required to be increased each year by the CPI (Consumer Price Index) or 5%, whichever is lower. The CPI multiplier used to calculate the 2009 taxable value was 1.044 or 4.4%. The CPI is given to us by the State of Michigan and every municipality in the State is required to use the CPI to calculate the taxable value. This multiplier is not subject to appeal, and in most circumstances, neither is taxable value.

4. My taxable value increased at a higher percentage than my assessed value. I thought Proposal A prevented that from happening.

Proposal A limits the increase on taxable value only. Assessed value is still required to be approximately 50% of market (a/k/a true cash) value. In general, taxable value is calculated as follows: prior year taxable value times CPI (Consumer Price Index). For 2009 residential assessed values were required to meet the 50% requirement, while taxable values were required to be increased 4.4% (CPI). However, Proposal A does not allow the taxable value to be greater than assessed value.

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

Continued from Cover Page

I am very pleased that Van Buren has been successful in bringing General Electric to our community. This represents approximately 1100 new jobs to Michigan. Our IT Department has provided a link from our website to GE so you may obtain additional information. We have entered into a Host Community Agreement with the Environmental Quality Company which will provide \$520,000 in ball field and gun range improvements off of Beck Road and an additional \$375,000 - \$400,000 in royalties on a yearly basis.

The Belleville Area Museum's Archiving System was completed in March and a Document Management System Pilot Program began in June. These are just two ways of streamlining the way we handle inventory and filing paperwork. The Senior Center will continue to strive to follow the current trend by focusing on the health and wellness of its members both physically and emotionally. New programs have been instituted and the ability to provide transportation at a nominal cost has been a great achievement. Van Buren's Parks and Recreation Programs are well known throughout the State of Michigan. We have award winning programs and the Department is accomplished in obtaining grant funding. Park attendance has been higher this summer. People have been staying closer to home and finding fun in their own backyard. The construction of the water tower and mains improvement project is well underway with the targeted 4.2 million dollar Stimulus funding and the renovations to Meijer and Wal-Mart are nearing completion. The 42' water main project undertaken by the City of Detroit Water and Sewer Department has not been without its challenges but once completed, we will all be able to enjoy an upgraded system and an improved Tyler Road. The Department of Public Safety continues to progressively move forward. Response times are good, new equipment has been delivered and public relations and education remains a high priority. Our Public Safety personnel excel in their profession and provide a positive image for our community.

To the extent possible, I remain committed to delivering excellence to everyone in Van Buren, including providing a safe place for our children and resources for our aging population. Together we will face each challenge and we will be a stronger and healthier community.

Paul D. White
Township Supervisor

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATE

The Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was originally established in 1990 in accordance with PA 197 or 1975 as amended. The District primarily runs along Belleville Road from the Belleville Lake Bridge to Van Born Road and along a portion of the I-94 North Service Drive, Morton Taylor Road, Tyler Road, Robson and Van Born.

The purpose of the DDA is to correct and prevent deterioration in business districts. Some of the ways to achieve this is to make public facility improvements, encourage historic preservation, acquire and dispose of interests in real and personal property, create and implement development plans within the district, promote economic growth of the district, issue bonds and other evidences of indebtedness for public improvements.

In order to provide funding for these types of projects, the law allows the DDA to capture tax dollars based on incremental growth in the district's taxable value from the base year in which the DDA was established that would normally leave Van Buren Township and go to other taxing jurisdictions, such as; Wayne County, Huron Clinton Park, Wayne County Community College and Wayne County Jail and Parks Millage.

Since its inception, the DDA has undertaken many projects in an orderly and planned process. They have successfully completed many of the projects on the original project list; which includes, Belleville Road Streetscape Design and Improvements, together with streetlights, banners, sidewalks, trees and amenities, Belleville Road Right-of-Way Acquisition, Tyler Road Improvements from Belleville Road east to the District Boundary, Township Hall, including administrative offices, police, recreation and seniors, Quirk School acquisition, demolition and conversion into a park, Sanitary Sewer Extension, Construction of Belleville Road Fire Station #2 and Maintenance of the Belleville Road Streetscape.

Many of the projects on the original list have been completed and the DDA Board of Directors determined there was still work to be done in the District. The process of amending the plan, in accordance with State law, began in January with a visioning session and continued with subsequent meetings to discuss future projects. Since the DDA District has greater than 100 residents living within the District a Citizens Council was reactivated in order to receive their input on the proposed plan. A public hearing and first reading of the ordinance was held on August 18, 2009 and the second reading occurred at the September 1, 2009 meeting. The revised plan was approved by The Township Board and becomes effective September 10, 2009.

An example of some of the projects on the Amended Plan include a Strategic Marketing Program, Road Improvements, Streetscape Improvements, Sidewalks, Public Information Sign, Land Acquisition, Alternative Transportation Facilities, Business Retention and Recruitment and Ongoing Maintenance of Public Improvements. If you would like a complete list of projects, or to review the Plan in its entirety, please stop by the Township Supervisor's Office and we will be happy to make one available to you. Your Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority remains committed to excellence in Van Buren.

Susan Ireland
DDA Executive Director

ASSESSING OFFICE INFORMATION

Continued from Page 3

5a. The property I purchased had been foreclosed on. The price I paid was the market value of the property. Why isn't my assessed value one-half of what I paid for the property?

General Property Tax Law prohibits an assessed value from being set at one-half of a particular sale price. All sales of similar properties must be considered in determining assessed values. In addition, assessed values are based on arms length sales. Arms length sales generally exist when the property is listed on the open market and there is a willing and able buyer and seller. The sale of a property during or subsequent to foreclosure is a forced sale and is used to determine assessed values only under **strict** conditions.

5b. Are any financial institution sales used in the 12-month study?

Normally, sales that involve mortgage foreclosures and sales from relocation companies (Distressed Sales) are not considered typical sales and are not used to determine the value of property in the assessment process. The State Tax Commission has allowed the use of these sales in this declining market, but only under strict conditions. In part, they must be in the same physical condition as when they are assessed (normal maintenance). Van Buren Township has researched these **distressed** sales during this time period and has used the ones that fall within the Commission's requirements.

6. I bought my property at an auction. Why is my assessment higher than what I paid for the property?

Auction sales are not an arms length sale and cannot be used to determine assessed values. Assessments will be based on the arms length sale of similar homes.

7. My home was purchased by a relocation service. Why am I still receiving the tax bills when I no longer own the home?

When a relocation company takes possession of a property, the "seller" will sometimes sign an incomplete deed. Even though the relocation company has bought out the seller's interest in the property, title does not transfer until a buyer is found and the deed is delivered to that buyer. Most relocation companies do not notify the township of the transaction and we are unaware that it has taken place. Absent any notice of the transaction, the original owner is still reflected as the owner of record

8. When will taxes go down?

There are two components to taxes; taxable value and millage rates. As discussed earlier, taxable value is required to increase each year by the CPI. For 2009 the CPI was 4.4% therefore, taxable values went up by 4.4%. However, if the sales study reflects a value that declines below the taxable value, your taxes could reflect a decrease. **It is important to keep**

in mind that a new school millage was recently passed by the voters in the Van Buren Public School System.

9. How do I appeal my assessment and taxable value?

Each year in February you will receive a "**Notice of Assessment**" with your new values for that year. If after reviewing your notice you disagree with the assessed value you have the option of appealing to the March Board of Review. **This is the opportunity that Valuation Appeals can be heard.** Appeals can be on the current year's Assessed and/or tentative Taxable Value; Property Classification and Poverty Exemptions. Information on how to make an appointment is listed on the notice along with the dates and times of the Board of Review. Appeals may also be done in writing. You must be prepared to provide evidence to the Board of Review to support your contention that your property does not have a market value equal to twice the assessed value. "**My taxes are too high,**" is not considered a valid argument.

Please contact the Assessing Office at (734) 699-8946 for any further questions.

CLERK'S OFFICE

On Tuesday, November 3, 2009 a Special Election will be held for the purpose of Wayne County General Operating Millage Renewal, Van Buren Public School Board Election (for one board member), Lincoln Consolidated School Board Election (for two board members and one partial term board member) and Washtenaw Intermediate School District Regional Enhancement Millage. The last day to register for the November 3rd election is Monday, October 5th. Information on voting equipment, voting locations and voter status may be found by going to www.vanburen-mi.org and clicking on "links" located at the top of the webpage, then click on 'Secretary of State', lastly click on 'Michigan Votes Information Center' or by contacting the Clerk's Office at (734) 699-8909.

Dates to Remember:

Monday, October 5: Last day to register for the November 3, 2009 Special Wayne County and School Election.

Tuesday, November 3: Special Wayne County and School Election, polls open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 11: Administrative Offices closed in observance of Veterans Day.

Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27: Administrative Offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25: Administrative Offices closed in observance of Christmas.

Leon Wright
Township Clerk

Kathleen Cline, CMC
Deputy Clerk

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Greetings from the Treasurer's Office. The 2009 winter tax bills will be mailed around December 1, 2009 with a due date of February 14, 2010. Please estimate your tax bill closely to assure accuracy. If you find any information that needs to be updated you can either contact the Treasurer's Office for assistance or simply fill out the section on the back side of the tax bill voucher that is submitted to the Treasurer's Office along with your payment.

Winter tax deferments are available under certain circumstances. Section 211.59 (3) of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893 allows for the deferment of winter taxes until April 30, 2010. No penalty or interest will be charged if the balance is paid to the Wayne County Treasurer's Office by April 30, 2010. The winter deferment is available for a property owner's principal residence if the individual is:

- Totally and permanently disabled, blind, paraplegic, quadriplegic, eligible service person, eligible veteran, or eligible widow or widower.
- 65 years of age or older, including the unremarried surviving spouse of a person who was 65 years of age or older at the time of death.

Other requirements include:

- Proof that the individual has filed a Property Tax Credit Application (MI 1040 CR) with the State of MI before February 14, 2010.
- The individual has not received the tax credit prior to March 1, 2010.
- The tax credit is needed to pay the taxes.

The winter deferment application is available at the Treasurer's Office. Please call (734) 699-8903 if you have questions or require additional information.

Sharry A. Budd, CPFA
Treasurer

Sean Bellingham, CPFA, CMAE 1
Deputy Treasurer

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Information Technology Department continues to strive towards cost savings initiatives wherever possible while still providing the necessary tools for Township employees to perform their jobs effectively. One of the cost savings initiatives that the Information Technology Department has continued to move towards is a centralized printing, scanning, copying, and faxing strategy. In the past almost every desktop had an individual printer and in some cases fax machine and scanner. This required increased visits to employee cubicles for repairs or replacements, the stocking of various types of ink cartridges and toner, and a much higher per page cost for printing.

With the advent of Multi-Functional Printers (MFP's) the Township is now replacing individual printers, scanners and faxes in Departments with just one MFP. Users are quickly adapting to

the shared MFP devices that provide better print quality, faster printing, scanning, and copying. This is a win-win situation for both the users and the Township as costs are being driven down in this one crucial area of technology.

In other news, earlier this year the I.T. Department in cooperation with the Belleville Area Museum selected and installed a Museum Archiving System. This system will allow the Belleville Area Museum personnel the ability to electronically catalog, organize, manage, and research museum collections that they possess in a quicker and more cost effective manner.

Finally, one project that we hope to have completed by the end of this September is a Network Infrastructure upgrade that will allow for the transmission of Township Cable Department programming to AT&T's new U-verse offering. This will allow Township residents who subscribe to AT&T's U-verse cable to view the Township Board Meetings and other regularly scheduled cable programs just as subscribers to Comcast have been able to do in the past.

Those are just a few of the things that have been happening in the Information Technology Department this year and we will continue to implement cost savings initiatives where we can while providing Township employees with the best tools to perform their jobs and to make as much information available as possible to residents via the Township Website (www.vanburen-mi.org) and E-Newsletters.

Steve Rankin
Information Technology Director

VBTV12

At VBTV12, we pride ourselves in keeping our community informed and entertained with an information bulletin board which runs twenty-four hours each day whenever a program is not airing; programs highlighting the classes and activities around the township; and live broadcast of Township Board Meetings. You can also check us out at our website www.vanburen-mi.org, for program dates and times and other information regarding our community.

At press time, the Cable Department is eagerly awaiting equipment delivery and installation from AT&T. As we strive to keep our community informed and entertained, we are looking forward to be able to broadcast our Government Access channel to AT&T U-Verse customers. If all goes well, we anticipate that the broadcast will begin sometime in October.

I do hope you tune in to see what's going on in the Township. Stay informed, entertained, and perhaps participate. Take advantage of the various programs and activities throughout our community. Be safe and enjoy the seasons.

Ally Acosta McCracken
Cable Operations Manager

COMPUTER FRAUD PREVENTION

Part 1 of a 4 part series

The term computer fraud covers a wide area of subjects. For the most part this type of crime is nothing new; it is more or less the age-old crime of one person using deceit to obtain monies or goods from another. It varies only in the aspect that today's criminals are utilizing today's technology to commit the act. One of the most common and effective methods used today is called "PHISHING."

We hear a lot of talk about "Phishing" scams. This is a process in which the "scammer" sends an electronic transmission to an innocent party in an attempt to fraudulently acquire sensitive information such as passwords, usernames, and credit card information by masquerading as a trustworthy person or business. This will typically come through an email message that appears to be from a financial institution or other trustworthy company. Within the email message will be a request for personal information regarding your identity, account information, or other pertinent information to hijack your finances. They use various tricks to get the receiver to divulge this information by stating that due to a computer malfunction your information was lost, or by claiming it is a standard records update, etc., you must provide them your personal information and/or usernames, passwords, credit card information, mother's maiden name, etc. The message will typically state that your failure to provide the information will result in a loss of membership, account access, services or monies, etc. This works because most of us do not want the goods and services interrupted or compromised. In today's society it is not at all uncommon for information to be exchanged via the internet, so we think nothing more of it. Scammers are very diligent in including graphics, logos and text very similar to, and in some cases identical to, those found and used by the actual business or company. So, by all outward appearances the email and request appear to be legitimate.

What happens after you enter the information and send the transmission to what you believe to be the legitimate business? The information is being forwarded to a server maintained by the scammer. In other words, the message does not go to the legitimate business, but rather it gets forwarded straight to the bad guy who now has all the information he needs to hijack your finances. Some phishing scams are advanced enough that after the information is downloaded to his server and stored in his database, you are automatically forwarded to the actual business or company's website giving you the confidence and illusion that the message was legitimate and that you did provide the information to the proper place.

There are some things you can do to prevent falling victim to this type of fraud. Closely examine the entire message for misspelled words or obvious grammatical errors. A large number of perpetrators are from another country and not fluent in the English language. Another way to verify if the message is legitimate is to examine the "link" and or website listed in the message. Almost all major financial institutions and large

companies operating within the United States will have and maintain a legitimate website. If the link or site listed in the message does not match what you know to be legitimate, do not click the link or respond to the message. The easiest and most fail proof way to avoid being a victim is to not respond to the message. No reputable financial institution or business will ever ask you to provide them with personal or sensitive information through an email message or via telephone. If you have a question, contact the business or institution directly by calling a number you know to be valid and they will verify that they did not send the message and inform you of their process if they ever do need to obtain such information from you. Again, you can almost guarantee that it will not be in the form of an email. An obvious sign of a phishing attack would be if you receive the message from a company or bank that you do not maintain an account with. The best method of prevention would be to use common sense and be very skeptical of such requests contained in an email message, pop-up or instant message.

Some of the more commonly known Phishing scams include "E-bay", "Paypal", "Sun Trust Bank", "Charter One Bank", and "South Trust Bank." Be particularly skeptical of these. Ebay, Paypal, and Charter One have all attempted to safeguard against these and all state that they will never, under any circumstances, request such information through this means. If you get such an email from one of these institutions, it is undoubtedly a phishing scam and DO NOT RESPOND or follow the link contained in the message.

If you do fall victim to one of these scams, the first step should be to contact your financial institution and notify them immediately. In turn they will be able to investigate your account to see if it has been compromised and place some safeguards into the account to prevent future fraudulent activity. It is also a good idea to notify the Federal Trade Commission at spam@uce.gov who monitors, investigates and maintains a database of fraudulent internet activity for future prevention.

As mentioned at the beginning of the article, computer fraud is a wide area that entails several methods of deception and fraud. This is part one of an ongoing article to cover some of the more common frauds operating today. Keep an eye on the next few Lake Ledger issues as we will continue with other known scams and prevention tips as they relate to the internet.

Detective Louis J. Keele
Van Buren Public Safety

Please call 9-1-1 ONLY if there
is an EMERGENCY!!

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

SUCCESSFUL SEASON IN VAN BUREN PARK!

Van Buren Park started its busy summer season this past Memorial Day Weekend. New and old staff worked well together to provide great service for the township citizens. The park opened its first concession stand, and with good success we will be bringing it back next summer; hopefully with more products and more hours of operation. We also added some new sand to the beach, keeping it cleaner and open for more days through the summer. The Memorial Garden at the opening of the park was re-done with the help of Katie Curson and other park staff. The renovation was much needed and serves as a nice sight for park goers.

We also had plenty of events in the park this season. The concert series went well this year with bigger names like Devin Scillian, and the BackBeats. Plenty of township residents came to the park to watch the Blue Angels perform, and the University of Michigan held their annual rowing camp in the end of July. The Recreation Department held the very successful boat building program, which turned out to be fun for people of all ages. And let's not forget the countless residents coming to the park for birthdays, picnics, barbecues, and reunions. We are happy that you all like coming to the park and sharing your memories with us.

The summer season may be coming to an end, but there is still much going on at Van Buren Park. September 29th we are partnering with Coke-A-Cola to sponsor a "Coke Cleans" Day. They will be coming to help clean up the park. They also will be helping us with sponsorship of some of our events throughout the year. The recreation department is bringing back the "Not-so-Scary Haunted Forest" on Saturday, October 3rd, while the park is putting on the regular Haunted Forest the last two weekends in October. The 25th of October is also the Ypsi Rehab 5K Run/Walk that will be going through Van Buren Park. We look forward to a fun fall season, and hope to see everyone out there. If you have questions about the events or would like volunteer information, please contact the recreation department at (734) 699-8921.

Drew Burns
Parks Manager

VAN BUREN PARKS & RECREATION PARTNERS TO IMPLEMENT SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA), Michigan Works, Van Buren Parks & Recreation and September Days Senior Center partnered this Summer to implement the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) in Van Buren Township. Funding was received as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to provide jobs for over 1,000 youth in Wayne and Monroe counties. Young people ages 14 through 19 worked at the parks and at the senior center at no cost to Van Buren Township.

The specific objective of the Summer Youth Employment Program was: (1) To give youth the opportunity to have meaningful work experience, training, and acquire useful work habits. (2) To provide useful services and improvements to communities. (3) To help qualified youth earn money. (4) To prepare youth for meaningful employment.

Also, Van Buren Parks & Recreation and September Days Senior Center added a **Preparing for Employment** component to the program. The program was highlighted by: (1) Conducting mock interviews, (2) How to write an effective cover letter and resume, (3) Learn 10 effective interviewing rules, (4) 20 things to avoid during the interview.

Each youth was given a **Preparing for Employment** skills book with information on how to prepare for a job. Special thanks to Van Buren Community Services staff, September Days staff and volunteers, AFSCME Local No. 236, Southeast Michigan Community Alliance and Michigan Works for "Creating Community" by giving a young person an opportunity.

Bruce J. Ross
Director of Parks & Recreation

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

An evening of ghosts, ghouls, and superheroes will soon be upon us. As Halloween approaches we need to keep safety in mind. Here are some recommendations to keep fun in the holiday and leave the wailing and howling to the ghosts and werewolves.

Decorating

- Beware of putting up realistic displays such as burning candles or nooses as part of your decorations. These can cause unintentional fires, injuries or death.
- Use battery powered lights instead of candles in jack-o-lanterns.
- Let children help select and design jack-o-lanterns, let the parents do the cutting or purchase a child friendly carving kit at a local store.

Costume Selection

- If you purchase a costume for your child, select one that is fire proof, and has large holes for their eyes, mouth and nose for proper vision and breathing.
- Try to avoid long capes or items with drawstrings as they can get caught and cause a child to choke.
- Make sure that accessories (pitchforks, knives, etc) are not pointed and are of a soft enough material so as not to cause injury if a child falls on them.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

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THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S DUTY CREW SYSTEM

Since the creation of the Van Buren Township Fire Department, the Fire Department has been utilizing volunteer/paid-on-call firefighters who responded to emergencies from work or home within minutes. On April 22, 2004 a Duty Crew program was implemented and it continues today which currently includes four paid-on-call/part-time firefighters on duty (two at Fire Station #1 and two at Fire Station #2) 24 hours, seven days a week. These four firefighters are the first responders to any calls for service, including but not limited to: vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, citizen assistance, utility emergencies and fires. Additional off-duty firefighters are then called in from home as the situation requires.

The Duty Crew program was developed and implemented for several reasons including: to ensure that the fire department continues to have prompt response times to emergencies; to help recruit new firefighters and retain current firefighters; and to effectively respond to an increase in emergency calls.

With people working longer hours and further away from home, it's becoming harder and harder to find people available at all hours of the day to respond quickly to an emergency. The Duty Crew system allows people to have a set schedule which they can then fit more easily into their work and personal life, versus being called out at any time of the day or night.

The use of a combination of duty crews and paid-on-call firefighters is a trend among fire departments nationwide, with full-time departments realizing they can't financially support the staff they used to, and solely paid-on-call departments realizing they can't continue to provide the same level of fire service without implementing duty crews.

Duty crews began officially on April 22, 2004. When not out on calls, each shift of duty crews has assigned tasks, such as cleaning areas of the fire station, inspecting apparatus & equipment, conducting tours of the fire stations, attending special events in the community, or attending specialty training. Firefighters sign up for duty crew shifts via an electronic scheduling system. Firefighters are scheduled to work on an average of 84 hours per month. Additionally, most firefighters work a full-time job somewhere else which consists of an average 160 hours per month.

We are "Committed to Excellence", by combining duty crews and paid-on-call firefighters, and are ensuring we continue to provide excellent fire service to our residents and to our neighboring fire departments that rely on us to provide mutual aid.

Ronald Folks, Battalion Chief
Van Buren Fire Department

September Days Senior Center

2009 Western Wayne County Senior Olympics



The 5th Annual Western Wayne County Senior Olympics were held August 17-21. Van Buren Township seniors brought home 30 medals by competing in a myriad of events. We hosted the Ballroom Dance and Shuffleboard Competitions. Thank you to all participants.

Linda Combs, Director
September Days Senior Center

Get Involved!

Try one of our classes:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Health Workshops | The Red Hat Society |
| Fitness Center | Yoga |
| Ceramics | Dance Exercise |
| Computers | Step Aerobics |
| Copy Cats Crafts | A.F.E.P. |
| Crochet | Jin Shin Jyutsu |
| Quilting | Norwegian Massage |
| Jewel Beading | Caregiver Support |
| Pinochle or Euchre | Grief Support |
| Bridge or Hand & Foot | Diabetic Support |
| Variety Club | Multiple Sclerosis Support |
| Travel | Photography |
| Scroll Saw | Matting & Framing |
| Glass Fusing | Wii |

The Choice is yours! Sign up today! Invite a friend!
See the September Days newsletter or stop by the office for times and more information! New classes are coming soon!

Non-seniors may participate in classes for a slightly higher fee. Please check at our office.

Fred C. Fischer Library Events

Still Bursting at the Seams...

Like libraries across the country, business is booming at the Fischer Library due in part to the troubled economy. The internet frequently has waiting lists as people search for jobs, polish resumes, and file for unemployment. This summer the library had record breaking numbers of Internet users, program attendance, materials checked out, and reference questions answered.

The summer reading programs served people from age 3 to 103. Over two hundred people attended the Grand Finale of the summer reading program, a performance by Fiddlers ReStrung. Due to the large turnout, the performance was held outside in the library's parking lot. The weather was great, and everyone had a good time. Congratulations to all of our summer readers!



Fall Programs @ the Library

Story Times

Family Story Time (preschool - elementary)

Mondays, 6:30 p.m., September 14 - October 5

Mondays, 6:30 p.m., November 2 - December 14

Preschool Pals (Ages 4-6)

Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m., September 8 - October 13

Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m., November 3 - December 15

Terrific Toddlers (Ages 2-4)

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m., September 9 - October 14

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m., November 4 - December 16

Friends of the Library used Book Sale

Saturday, November 7, noon to 3:00 p.m.

Harvest Fest

Saturday, October 17, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Bring the kids and enjoy old-time activities with your friends and neighbors! Dip candles and make cornhusk dolls and Indian corn jewelry. All activities are free and take place on 4th St. at the Library, Museum, and Farmer's Market.

Explore Your Family Tree

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., Oct. 28, Nov. 11 & 18, and Dec. 2

Discover your family roots with genealogist Ginger Bruder. Call or come to the library to sign up for this free program.

Book Discussion Groups

Evening Book Group, 1st Thurs. of the month, 7:00 p.m.

African American Book Group, Last Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Address: 167 Fourth Street, Belleville, MI 48111

Phone: (734) 699-3291

Website: www.belleville.lib.mi.us

Belleville Area Museum Events

Trick or Treat



Historical Society volunteers welcome trick-or-treaters to the museum on Halloween night.

Friday, October 30
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
 Main Street, Belleville

Sponsored by:
 Belleville Central Business Community

Belleville Harvest Fest



Harvest Fest volunteers Debby Hagan and Emmy and Don Keene are ready to teach children how to do laundry with a scrub board and a hand-cranked wringer.

Saturday, October 17
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

All activities are free and take place at the museum and library. Bring the kids and enjoy the bountiful harvest and old-time activities with your friends and neighbors.

Christmas Is Coming! Belleville Area Museum

Festival of Holiday Trees December 1 - 30

December will bring the museum's 14th 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.

Trick or Treat

Friday, October 30 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
 Main Street, Belleville

Sponsored by the:
 Belleville Central Business Community

2010 Historical Society Calendar



This 1948 parade photo will appear in the 2010 Belleville Area Historical Society Calendar. Belleville High School students organized a hurried parade to demand lights for the football field. Still lining Main Street were such beloved businesses as Hamilton Hardware,

Rexall Drugs, and Moss Brothers, a men's clothing shop.

The 2010 Historical Calendar will be available for sale by late fall. 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 \$7.00 each.

If you wish to place an order by mail, please call the museum at (734) 697-1944.

WHO'S IN THE SOOP? **HAUNTED HISTORY TOMBSTONE TOUR**

WHAT: A guided tour of Van Buren Township's oldest cemetery, established in 1832.

WHO: History lovers of all ages are invited to attend a family fun event!

WHEN: Saturday, October 10 at 6:00 p.m. Sharp!
 (Rain date, Sunday, October 11)

WHERE: Historic Soop Cemetery, located on Old Denton Road between Harbour Club Apartments and Belleville Lake.

WHY: Sponsored by the Belleville Area Historical Society to benefit the Belleville Area Museum.

GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE AT:

Van Buren Township Hall (734) 699-8900

Belleville Area Museum (734) 697-1944

Belleville City Hall (734) 697-9323

Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce (734) 697-7151

Fred C. Fischer Library (734) 699-3291

Kathy Horste, Van Buren Twp Historian (734) 697-3662

DONATION: \$7.00 Adults, \$3.50 Children (17 and under)

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Continued from Page 8

Trick or Treating

- Remind children of everyday safety before going out to trick or treat; not getting into stranger's cars, talking to strangers, looking both ways before crossing the street, etc.
- Know your children's trick or treat route, better yet, go with them to supervise.
- Closely supervise your children so that they do not eat candy before it has been inspected by you.
- Trick or treat during the early evening hours while there is still daylight.
- Have your children wear something reflective and carry a flashlight or use chemical light sticks for increased visibility.
- Only stop at homes that have porch lights on or look like they are "open for business".
- Do not cut through backyards or alleyways.
- Trick or treat in a group.

Additional Suggestions

- Explain to your children that vandalism is not part of the holiday celebration. Throwing eggs, shooting paintballs at homes, damaging or taking other's decorations and general mischievous behavior is dangerous and in some cases against the law.

Halloween is a fun time for all when even adults are reminded of their childhood. Working together we can make it a fun and safe holiday season for everyone in the community.

Officer Ryan Bidwell
Van Buren Public Safety

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY



WHAT: FREE one day drop-off for Van Buren Township residents
WHEN: October 17, 2009 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
WHERE: The Environmental Quality Company east parking lot, 49350 North I-94 Service Drive
WHY: To dispose of household hazardous waste in a safe and environmentally friendly manner



Below is a list of both acceptable and unacceptable items for collection. All products should be tightly sealed to prevent spillage while transporting to the facility and all containers brought to the collection must be left at the collection. Products will not be accepted in milk jugs because the plastic is thin and punctures easily.

Acceptable Items

Kitchen/Bathroom

- Bug Sprays
- Floor Care Products
- Furniture Polishes
- Metal Polish w/Solvent
- Medicines
- Nail Polish
- Cleaning Products

Miscellaneous

- Household Batteries
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- Artist Paints/Mediums
- Dry Cleaning Solvents
- Fiberglass Epoxy
- Solvents
- Lighter Fluids
- Pool Chemicals

Garage

- Transmission Fluid
- Auto Batteries
- Battery Acid
- Brake Fluids
- Car Waxes
- Diesel Fuel
- Fuel Oil
- Antifreeze
- Gasoline
- Kerosene
- Motor Oil

Garden

- Fungicides
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Pesticides
- Fertilizers
- Rat Poison

Miscellaneous

- Paints (All)
- Paint Thinners
- Varnish & Stains
- Wood Preservatives
- Gun Cleaning
- Cutting Oils
- Turpentine
- Aerosol Cans

Unacceptable Items

- Explosives & Ammunition
- Propane Tanks
- Industrial Waste
- Tires
- Medical Waste
- Smoke Alarms
- Asbestos
- Fire Extinguishers



Sponsored by:
The Environmental
Quality Company



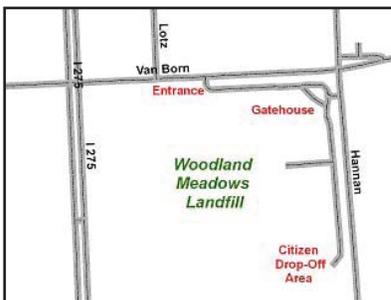
TRASH GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

GUIDELINES FOR LARGE QUANTITIES OF TRASH:

Large quantities of trash or remodeling materials will **NOT** be picked up at the curbside. As a Van Buren Township resident you have the option to utilize the Woodland Meadows Landfill located on the south side of Van Born Road, just west of Hannan Road (see map below). The citizen drop off area is located on the south side or back of the site. All vehicles entering the site must check-in at the gatehouse. Landfill hours are **Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.** and **Saturday from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.**

Guidelines for utilizing the Woodland Meadows Landfill under the Van Buren resident agreement with Waste Management are listed below:

- You **MUST** obtain a free landfill punch card from the Community Services Office, located at 46425 Tyler Road in order to utilize the landfill as a Van Buren Township resident. To obtain a landfill punch card you must provide proof of residency (i.e. current driver's license). The punch card entitles you to twenty-four (24) free trips per year. Only one card per address per year will be issued by the Township.
- A valid photo ID with matching address must be presented with the punch card at time of disposal.
- This free dumping privilege **cannot** be extended to contractors or commercial vendors. Commercial vehicles will be refused entry or must pay for disposal of waste.
- Each punch on the Landfill Pass is worth up to 4 cubic yards, if over 4 cubic yards per trip the card will receive an additional punch(es) based on the size of the load. To calculate cubic yards you can use the following formula: Length (ft.) x Width (ft.) x Height (ft.) divided by 27 = cubic yards.
- Yard waste (compost, leaves, ect.) must be separated from household waste.
- White goods **will not** be accepted at the Landfill. White goods are any appliance that does or once did contain Freon (A/C units, Refrigerators and Dehumidifiers).
- Scrap tire disposal is limited to eight (8) tires annually.
- Recycling is also available at the citizen drop-off area.



SHARPS/NEEDLES

Waste Management workers have seen an increase in loose needles in the trash. Please secure all needles/medical waste in a secure non-puncturable container, such as a laundry detergent container. **Please no loose needles in the trash!**

PET WASTE

Once the ground starts to thaw, pet owners begin to clean up the winter pet droppings. Please ensure that pet waste is double bagged and not placed loose in containers. Loose pet waste can create many health issues for our workers. Please double bag! Your efforts are much appreciated.

PAINT DISPOSAL

Latex paints may be disposed of at normal curbside trash removal, however they must be dried to a solid form. Oil based paints must be disposed of at Household Hazardous Waste Day which is held in October at the Environmental Quality facility located on the N. I-94 Service Drive. The date for this year is to be announced.

OIL DISPOSAL

Please **DO NOT** dispose of oil at the curbside. Many of the local oil change facilities will dispose of the oil for you for a nominal fee or you can also dispose of oil at Household Hazardous Waste Day in October. The date for this year is to be announced.

BATTERY DISPOSAL

The Township accepts Alkaline, Nickel Cadmium, Nickel Metal Hydride, and Lithium-ion batteries for recycling. There are buckets located just inside the main entrance to Township Hall where you can deposit these batteries. By recycling batteries, we can reduce the amount of metals entering our landfills and the potential for those metals to find their way into the wastewater leaving the landfills.

THINK GREEN FROM HOME is a RECYCLE BY MAIL program for fluorescent compact bulbs, fluorescent tubes and dry cell household batteries.

Energy Star Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) consume 75 percent less electricity than incandescent bulbs and last 10 times longer. One CFL can save \$30 in energy costs over its lifetime, reduce coal consumption by 200 pounds, and prevent more than 400 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

By recycling CFL's, tubes and batteries we reclaim the glass, metals, and plastics used to produce them. But recycling provides an added benefit, as these products contain heavy metals or other toxins that can contaminate the environment if disposed of in our landfill.

To purchase your Think Green From Home mail in boxes, go to thinkgreenfromhome.com.

TRASH GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

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!

Toters and Additional Containers:

Please bag items and place 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.

Set Out and Removal:

Toters, additional containers and trash should not be set out more than 24-hours/1-day in advance of your scheduled pick up day; and should be removed within 24-hours/1-day of your scheduled pick up day. Failure to remove containers or excess trash from the curb within 24-hours/1-day of your scheduled pick up day could result in a notice of violation and/or issuance of a citation under the Property Maintenance Code.

Large Quantities of Trash require a Landfill Pass: (See Page 13)

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS:

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

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.

Special Pickups:

Pickups for refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners must be called in ahead of time for special collection 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 they remain the property of Waste Management.

Stolen/Extra 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.

Stolen/Extra Recycle Bins:

If your Waste Management recycle bin is stolen or missing, you may purchase a new recycle bin at the Parks and Recreation Department at Van Buren Township Hall for \$7.50.

Please write your address on all containers!

Holiday Pickup Schedule:

If your trash day falls on a holiday, please continue to place your trash at the curb for removal on your regularly scheduled day.

YARD WASTE GUIDELINES

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!! NO SOD - Must be taken directly to Woodland Meadows Landfill by obtaining a Landfill Pass at the Township Hall in the Community Services Office.

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.

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 **ENDS the last full week of November** and will **RESUME the first full week of April.**

Brush

Bundle all brush whose branches are 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 curbside after that date.

RECYCLE GUIDELINES

Plastic

Bottles and Containers: Must be marked on the bottom with a **#1 through #7** in the recycle symbol. Butter tubs and trays from microwavable foods are not acceptable.
Rinse and remove all caps.

Tin

Tin Cans: Please rinse all cans before placing them in recycle bin.
Aluminum: Containers and foil.



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.



Paper

Newspapers: Including all inserts, advertisements, and magazines that are delivered with them.
ALL Paper: (color and white), ***NO** self adhesive or window envelopes, paper towels, tissue, paper cups, etc.
Brown Paper Bag: Keep them separate from your paper.
Telephone Books and paperback books, ***NO** hardcover books.

Cardboard

Cardboard: All cardboard boxes must be broken down (including moving boxes) into 2' x 2' bundles. Cardboard boxes are not acceptable rubbish containers.
**** No Pizza boxes ****

Tae Kwon Do



Ages: 8 to adult



Tuesdays & Thursdays
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
October 13 - December 17
(No class Nov. 3, 26 & Dec. 10)
January 12 - April 1

Emphasis is on self control, flexibility, coordination, and self defense. This class is taught by a five time national gold medalist in sparring and a national gold medalist in forms, with the assistance of skilled and knowledgeable blackbelts.

Testing dates will be announced throughout the class. Results of the test will be given during class time, if you are not present to receive the testing results, you may pick up results at our recreation office.

** Uniforms or loose clothing is recommended to wear during class. Uniforms can be purchased through the instructor. Karate shoes must be worn at all times except when sparring.

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

Will pro-rate classes.

Youth Floor Hockey
Sundays, September 27 - November 15
Sundays, January 31 - March 21

Ages: 7-10 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

This is a non-competitive program with emphasis on basic skills, teamwork and sportsmanship. No checking or high sticking will be allowed. Fundamentals will be taught the first hour; games will be played the second hour. Hockey equipment is provided, as well as mouth pieces which are required to be worn during play.

Athletic wear is preferred clothing while playing.

This program is held inside the gymnasium so gym shoes are required.

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

****NEW****

Kid Kwon Do

Ages: 2-6 Thursdays 6:15 - 7:00 p.m.
October 15 - December 17
(No Class Nov. 3, 26 & Dec. 10)
January 14 - April 1

This is a children's introductory class into Tae Kwon Do. Focus will be on stranger safety as well as games and exercises to develop coordination, balance, strength and flexibility. Students will work on basic martial art techniques that will prepare them with a head start for our Tae Kwon Do class as well as other sports they may go on to participate in. Students will be recognized for their improvements, achievements and hard work with stickers, certificates and ribbons.

Van Buren Residents = \$35 Non-Residents = \$50

FUN-DAMENTAL Basketball Camp

Fridays, September 25 - November 20
(No Class November 13 - Can register late)



Grades 3-5 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.
Grades 6-8 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.



This basketball clinic is offered to players seeking to learn the fundamentals of basketball and improve their individual and team skills. The emphasis will be on individual instruction with the focus being on the fundamental skills of: dribbling, passing, shooting, rebounding, and defense. All players will be given the opportunity to integrate these individual skills into game situations. Team offensive and defensive drills and controlled scrimmages will be offered as well as a variety of other individual contests. The emphasis of the clinic is for players to learn and improve skills in a fun, friendly, but competitive environment. Grades represented are for the 2009-10 school year. Instructor: Coach Chris Paris who has had nearly 20 years of basketball coaching experience for age groups ranging from elementary to high school basketball.

Athletic attire is recommended. There will be drills that will require some mild exertion, so the **instructors must be made aware of any medical issues** (asthma, etc.) prior to the first class.

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

****NEW****

Volleyball Skills Camp



Fridays, January 29 - March 19

Grades 3-5 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.

This camp is a great start for young athletes as they discover the game of volleyball. Small groups will be created for individual attention and critiquing of the game in order to learn and develop new skills. Fundamentals will include the essential skills such as passing, setting, attacking, and serving. Skill competitions and contest will be included to offer a fun and exciting way to learn the game on the court.

Grades 6-8 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

This camp is perfect for learning and enhancing skills for middle school athletes. All athletes will practice in small groups to allow for individual instruction and attention to the details of improving their skills. The essential skills that will be focused on through the camp are: passing, setting, attacking, blocking, and serving. Controlled scrimmages, skill competitions, and contests will offer a fun, exciting, and competitive way to learn and enhance skills.

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

****NEW****

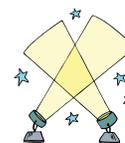
SNOW WHITE & THE SEVEN DWARFS

Spotlight in a Trunk

Friday, January 15

7:00 p.m.

Afterglow party to follow
(snacks & beverages)
Meet the cast



FREE!! FREE!! FREE!!

Come visit this classic fairy tale told with a twist - it is an audience participation show and will feature the youth in the audience!

Theater games will start the evening which will help to get the imagination juices flowing.

Next the tale will begin appealing to both youth and adults. Fun for the whole family!!

Youth Cheerleading

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



5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.
Ages: 6-14

Mondays,
September 14 - October 19
(6 weeks)

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

Winter Dates: To Be Announced
Please call the Recreation Department for more information at (734) 699-8921.



Gymnastics

Fall Session: Sept 19 - Nov 21 (10 weeks)
Instructor Laura Abney will teach fundamental skills of gymnastics.

Winter Session: TBA - Please call the Recreation Department at (734) 699-8921 for information.

Tot Tumbling Ages 3-5
11:00 - 11:30 a.m. Van Buren Residents = \$65
11:30 - 12:00 p.m. Non-Residents = \$80

Beginners Ages 6 & up
12:15 - 1:00 p.m. Van Buren Residents = \$70
Non-Residents = \$85

Intermediates Ages 6 & up
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Van Buren Residents = \$75
Non-Residents = \$90

5 FANTASTIC FITNESS FACTS

- People who eat breakfast are less likely to overeat later in the day.
- Exercise increases energy levels and increases serotonin in the brain, which leads to improved mental clarity.
- Regular exercise improves your heart and cardiovascular system making them function more effectively.
- Strength training has shown to alleviate back pain.
- The FDA recommends for those individuals who want to maintain their weight and fitness levels 30 minutes of activity daily.

An exercise program can be a fun addition to your week that doesn't have to cramp your schedule. Do a variety of exercises, set realistic goals for your routine and your fitness level, and enjoy yourself.



"New Class"

Urban Ballroom



Let instructor Dennis Radford enlighten you on Urban Ballroom Dance. Urban Ballroom dancing is a contemporary form of hand dance derived from the basic Cha Cha. A dance that takes two. Executing the Cha Cha along with turns, spins, dips and lifts. This dance fashions an urban flavor with the smoothness and elegance of each partner. It is danced on the beat of most urban music, some jazz, R & B and soul. It begins with the social or greystone position, then proceeds to the male leading his partner in a series of steps.

Ballroom Dance

Learn the basics of Beginning Ballroom Dancing. American: Foxtrot, Waltz, Swing or Disco Hustle. Latin: Cha-Cha, Tango, Mambo, Rumba, and others.

Wednesdays, September 16 - October 21

Wednesdays, October 28 - December 16

(No class November 25 and December 9)

Wednesdays, March 17 - April 21

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.



(6 week class) Couples Rates:

Van Buren Residents = \$45

Non-Residents = \$60

(6 week class) Singles Rates:

Van Buren Residents = \$35

Non-Residents = \$50



Wednesdays, January 20 - March 10

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

(8 week class) Couples Rates:

Van Buren Residents = \$65 Non-Residents = \$80

(8 week class) Singles Rates:

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

**** Partners are not required ****

Fridays, September 18 - November 20

Fridays, January 22 - April 2

(No Class February 12)

Beginner: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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

Van Buren Resident:

\$6 per class or \$50 (10 weeks)

A \$10 savings for payment of full enrollment.

Non-Resident:

\$7 per class or \$60 (10 weeks)

A \$10 savings for payment of full enrollment.

fresh moves | new music | pure motivation



Each 60 minute workout blends dance and muscle toning movements choreographed to today's hottest music, including Top 40, jazz, country, funk, and classics. Our instructors make all the routines fun and easy-to-follow. Every class includes a gentle warm-up, 30-minute aerobic workout, muscle toning and strengthening segment with weights, and a stretch finale.

Ongoing, Mondays & Wednesdays

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (Regular) (** free childcare)
 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. (Regular)
 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Ongoing, Tuesdays (Regular) 8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.
 (Regular) 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
 (Quick Cardio) 6:25 p.m. - 6:55 p.m.

Ongoing, Thursdays (Regular) 8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.
 (Regular)** 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
 (Express) 6:25 p.m. - 6:55 p.m.

Ongoing, Fridays (Regular)** 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
 (Regular) 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Ongoing, Saturdays (Circuit) 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Ongoing, Sundays (Regular) 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

\$25.00 joining fee
 \$36.00/monthly Easy Fitness Ticket (EFT)
 \$88/8weeks (cash or check) Walk-in = \$10.00



Spring Adult Softball

Registration for returning teams starts:
Monday, March 1, 2010



New team registration starts:
Monday, March 15, 2010

Deadline to register **April 19. Must pay in FULL!**
 Must have player contracts filled out prior to the first night of competition.

Tuesday "D" League = \$550 2 umpires
 Friday Co-ed League = \$500 1 umpire

Leagues start the week of April 27. League money must be turned in a week before league starts. Schedule will be completed when all money is turned in.

Summer/Fall Softball

Registration for returning teams starts:
Monday, June 7, 2010



New team registration starts:
Monday, June 21, 2010

Deadline to register **July 19. Must pay in FULL!**
 Must have player contracts filled out prior to the first night of competition.

Tuesday "D" League = \$550 2 umpires
 Friday Co-ed League = \$500 1 umpire

Leagues start the week of July 27. League money must be turned in a week before league starts. Schedule will be completed when all money is turned in.

**** Cool new additions coming to the fall tournaments ****

Tai Chi Chuan & Meditation

Tai Chi Chuan is the traditional Chinese martial art practiced for self defense. Tai Chi improves balance, flexibility, muscle strength, and cardiovascular to release tension by exercising all muscle groups and emphasizing breathing.

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Fridays, September 18 - November 20 (10 weeks)
 Van Buren Residents = \$35 Non-Residents = \$40

Fridays, January 8 - March 26 (12 weeks)
 Van Buren Residents = \$40 Non-Residents = \$45
**** Special Reduced six week rate ****
 Van Buren Residents = \$25 Non-Residents = \$30

Fridays, April 23 - June 11 (8 weeks)
 Van Buren Residents = \$35 Non-Residents = \$40

Fridays, July 9 - August 13 (6 weeks)
 Van Buren Residents = \$25 Non-Residents = \$30

Fridays, September 17 - November 19 (10 weeks)
 Van Buren Residents = \$35 Non-Residents = \$40

Boaters Safety Class

This course is designed to provide the boater with a wide range of information.

- General information concerning boats and maintenance.
- How to make boating more comfortable and safer.
- How to be a courteous boat operator.
- Laws and regulations that you must adhere to.

Saturdays, February 13, March 13, April 10
(lunch will be provided)
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



\$15.00 per person



Who must have this class?

- Persons born after December 31, 1978, if they wish to operate a personal watercraft.
- Those less than 16 years of age who wish to operate a boat may need this course.

Who should take this class?

- All persons who operate a boat or personal watercraft will find useful information.

Pre-registration is necessary!!!

Community Dance Social

Looking for a place to show off your dance moves? Come on over to the Van Buren Community Center to have fun while dancing to great music.

Saturdays, October 17, November 21,
December 19, January 16, February 20,
March 20, April 17

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

Dancing: 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.



Dance Lessons = \$8 per person
Dancing = \$8 per person
Both Lessons and Dancing = \$12

D.J. Terry B. plays a variety of music from salsa, big band, country to today's and yesterday's top 40's...

Light snacks provided or bring your own.

No alcoholic beverages.

**** Must pay at the door for lessons and/or dance social ****

ELEMENTS OF EXERCISE

Together with Van Buren Parks & Recreation now offering



ZUMBA Fitness has arrived!
NEW CLASS!!

FREE Zumba Classes
September 24 at 7:00 p.m.
January 7 at 7:00 p.m.

ZUMBA® is a fusion of Latin and International music - dance themes that create a dynamic, exciting, effective fitness system! The routines feature aerobic/fitness interval training with a combination of fast and slow rhythms that tone and sculpt the body. Zumba® utilizes the principles of fitness interval training and resistance training to maximize calorie output, fat burning and total body toning. Dance your way fit. Join the Party... Ditch the workout!

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

Session I: October 1 - November 19

Session II: January 14 - March 4

Session III: March 11 - April 29

Fee: \$48/8 weeks - 1 day session

You can register online at:

www.elementsofexercise.com/myclasspro
or at the Recreation Department. For more information please call (888) 363-3635.

Domestic Violence and Anger Management

Ongoing, Thursdays
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



Join Social Worker Moses Boone on a weekly basis to discuss issues of domestic violence and steps to fulfill anger management. Moses has twenty-four years of diverse work experience in human services. This a free program to assist those who are looking for help and understanding. Participants must meet with Moses Boone prior to registering for the program.

If you are new and interested in attending class, come 15 minutes prior to start of the session to meet Mr. Boone.

Card Making Technique Classes

Sign up for the classes you want. Classes do not need to be taken in order. Samples when available will be posted on the following sites: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClassesByDarlene/> and www.facebook.com group "Stampin' Up Classes by Darlene"

Instructor: Darlene Gerick **Level:** Beginners and above **Age:** 12+

Mondays, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. **Supplies Needed:** Adhesive, scissors and 12x12 paper trimmer

September 28 - Make 10 cards with a Fall theme, can use Birthday, Sympathy or Get Well sayings.

October 5 - Make 10 cards or treat toppers with a Halloween theme.

October 19 - Make 10 cards with a Thanksgiving theme.

November 2 - Make 10 cards to send out for Christmas.

November 16 - Make 10 cards to give as a gift or to keep for you, in a coordinating holder. Multiple themes.

December 7 - Make 10 cards to hold gift cards.

January 4 - Make a Card Organizer for the year. There will be a pouch for each month, with a calendar to mark you important Birthdays and Anniversaries so you never miss sending a card out.

January 25 - Learn 5 new techniques; make 2 of each for a total of 10 cards. Techniques: Rainbow Craft, Magic Card, Scratch and Sniff, Polished Stone, and Striped Wipe.

February 15 - Learn 5 new styles; make 2 of each for a total of 10 cards. Styles: Accordion Card, Crimped Envelope Pocket Card, Joy Fold Card, Spring Card, and Spring (flip flop) Card.

February 22 - Make 10 cards using punches, 2 of each for a total of 10 cards. These will be new cards, not repeats from last year.

March 1 - Make 10 Cards to send out for Easter.

March 29 - Flowers for spring. Make 10 cards, 2 of each design with a Flower Theme. Not just stamping, we will use some new techniques to make 3D flowers also.

April 19 - Embellish it! Make 10 cards using Ribbon, Buttons, Brads, Silk Flowers and/or Metal Accessories.

Van Buren Residents = \$14

Non-Residents = \$17



Scrapbooking:

Mondays 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Open Scrap

Do you have a scrapbook that you just can't find the time to finish or have you always wanted to make one but don't like to do it alone? This is a great opportunity to get away from the distractions at home and work on our projects at the lovely Van Buren Township Community Center with "Scrappers" alike! Bring your supplies and work on your scrapbook album at your own pace.

Meets the last Friday of each month:

September 25, October 30, November 20,

December 18, January 29, February 26,

March 26, April 30

5:00 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.

\$2 per person (pizza included)

Childcare = \$5 per child (must be potty trained)

****Must pre-register at least one day in advance for us to properly plan ****

March 15 - Make Scrapbook Pages for the 12 months. Create Holiday/Occasion Themed pages for New Years, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, 4th of July, Summer fun, Back to School, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Pages will fit in a 6 x 6 album (that you supply) or you can adapt them to fit in your 8 x 8, 8 1/2 x 11, or 12 x 12 album.

April 5 - Photo Wallet Album. Make a Photo Wallet Album for you, or to give as a gift. Holds 6 pictures with journaling blocks or 9 with no journaling (3"x5" photos)

Van Buren Residents = \$14

Non-Residents = \$17

Have an idea for a Card Class or Scrapbooking Class, let me know, suggestions for the next session of classes are welcome at: honie@comcast.net

Not-so-Scary Haunted Forest

Saturday, October 3

I'm all alone there's no one here beside me but YOU can be at Shrek's Not-so-Scary Haunted Forest Party

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. | Inflatables |
| 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. | Walk through Shrek's Forest |
| 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. | Balloon Creator, Public Safety and Fire Truck |
| 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. | Pumpkin Decorating (\$2) |
| 12:00 - 12:45 p.m. | Music |
| 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. | Barnyard Express - Farmer John shows and explains to kids how farm life works. He will bring along his barnyard furry friends for all to see and pet. |
| 2:30 - 2:45 p.m. | Tae Kwon Do demonstration |

Performance by Marilynn Marie - 17 year old will sing songs from Disney movies and Broadway.

FREE Cider and Donuts while supplies last.

**\$2 = per child
18 and older are FREE**

Scrapbooking All Day

**Saturday, October 10
Sign up for a half or a full day**

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | = \$15 |
| 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | = \$15 |
| 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. | = \$25 |

Coffee, lunch (sandwiches) dinner (pizza) included in price.

Looking for an opportunity to spend the day scrapbooking? Well look no further. You can sign up for half or the whole day. We'll supply the space and food you provide the materials and creativity.

Cricut and Cuttlebug will be available for use. The computer lab will be open this day for scrapbookers to download font or images for the cricut machine. So bring your USB flash drive.

Make and take a Stampin' Up project!

Sign up for the morning or evening PAGE CHALLENGE - Prizes will be awarded.

Get Up & Get Active

Monday - Friday, April 5 - 9

Ages: 9 and up 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Get Up & Get Active is about keeping your kids movin' while they are on spring break. Recreation staff will transport your child in the recreation funmobile (van) to the following day trips. On the last day a school bus will drive your child to Gameworks in Auburn Hills. It will be a week your kids will never forget.

Skatin Station Roller Rink
Honey Tree Grille Coney Island

Zap Zone Laser Tag
Jimmy Johns

Lodge Lanes Bowling
Pizza Hut

Livonia Parks and Recreation Swimming
Subway

Gameworks in Auburn Hills - lunch at Gameworks

Trips may not run in this order. We will know the order of the trips as the dates get closer.

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

Let us know your child's t-shirt size when you register. Lunch and t-shirt included in price.

Mom-to-Mom Sale

**Saturday, October 24
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

\$10 per space - includes a 6 ft. table

Looking to sell those gently used items your little one can no longer use? Sign up today for a space at the Van Buren Recreation Department. Please only sell items that are in good to great condition. This is an opportunity for you to sell your used children's items to someone else who will love them as much as your child did.

Sorry no refunds after purchase of space.

Brunch with Santa



Sunday, December 13
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 Van Buren Township Hall



Cost:

Adults = \$8 Children 3 and up = \$6
 Seniors = \$6 Children under 3 = FREE

**** MUST PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE ****

Ticket sales end Monday, December 7

Who can that be with a bright red suit and a shiny red nose? Well it's Santa and he invites all youngsters to come out for brunch with him.

Enjoy brunch while listening to old and new seasonal songs performed by the Belleville Brass Band. After brunch head to Santa's workshop for photos. Photos by Walgreens or bring your own camera.

This year the recreation department will be collecting donations for FMAR (Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue). Bring your donations to place under the "Giving Tree."

There are a limited number of seats available.
 NO onsite registration!

Please call for menu.

Holiday Arts & Craft Show Registration



Saturday, December 5
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



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

- **ALL CRAFTS MUST BE HANDMADE** (Non-handmade items will not be allowed.)
- Electricity is not provided.
- Crafters must provide their own display setup.
- Setup begins Friday, December 4, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Saturday setup begins at 8:00 a.m.
- Crafters are expected to stay until 3:00 p.m.
- Call for space availability before sending payment.
- Send 2 pictures of your display.
- Checks are payable to Van Buren Township.
- Call (734) 699-8921 for more information.

8' x 8' Space = \$20 bring your own table
 \$25 - 6 ft. table supplied

8' x 10' Space = \$25 bring your own table
 \$30 - 6 ft. table supplied

10' x 10' Space = \$30 bring your own table
 \$35 - 6 ft. table supplied

\$5 for each additional table

Holiday Lights Contest

It's that time again to brighten the outside of your home for the holidays.



Deck your home with lights of many...
 "Fa La La La La - La La La La"

Registration forms are due by December 10

Judging will take place Thursday, December 17. We will be randomly visiting the outside of your home on this evening. Please have your holiday lights on display. Winner will be called the following day. **** Must be a Van Buren Township resident ****

Winner receives:

Home photo in The Independent and a \$50 gift certificate to Applebee's restaurant.

Holiday Arts & Crafts Show



Saturday, December 5
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



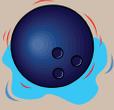
Location: 46425 Tyler Road

FREE entry

Enjoy handmade crafts from jewelry to wood to bird houses. Great holiday gift ideas!

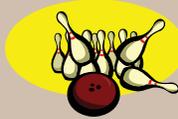
Concessions are available

Mother Son Bowl



Friday, May 14
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Meet at Lodge Lanes
46255 S. I-94 Service Drive



Moms and sons, spend the night bowling and eating pizza while having an awesome time! Grandmothers, aunts, big sisters are invited too.

Please register early, space is limited.

When registering, please let us know who you would like on your lane so we can organize teams in advance.

Van Buren Residents = \$20 per couple
Non-Residents = \$25 per couple
\$5.00 for each additional child
\$10.00 for each additional adult

Price includes 2-3 games of bowling,
shoes, pizza and pop.

Must register by Monday, May 4.

15th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance

Tinker Bell is inviting all Daddies and Daughters to spend a fairy magic evening together at the Van Buren Township Recreation Department. *Located at the Community Center 46425 Tyler Road.*



Friday, February 12
Evening Dance 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.



Saturday, February 13
Matinee Dance 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. (ages 5 & under)
Evening Dance 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Grandfathers, uncles, big brothers, etc... are invited as well. There will be no refunds. **No tickets sold at the door. Tickets are limited.**

Van Buren Residents = \$20 per couple
Non-Residents = \$25 per couple
\$5 for each additional child
\$10 for each additional adult

Must register by Friday, January 29

Pre-Marshmallow Drop Pancake Breakfast



Saturday, March 27
8:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.

Held at the Community Center,
46425 Tyler Road

Join us before the Marshmallow Drop for King Brothers' pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee. Please pre-register for the breakfast to help us plan accordingly. Participants can meet Mr. Bunny and Mrs. Bunny and get their pictures taken with them as well.

****Bring your Camera ****

Registration ends Monday, March 15

\$5 for adult
\$5 for child (includes admission
to the Marshmallow Drop)
Children 2 and under are **FREE!**

Marshmallow Drop



Saturday, March 27
Located at the Softball Field,
46425 Tyler Road



Heads up! Watch as thousands of marshmallows are dropped from a helicopter onto the softball field. Children only need to turn in one marshmallow to receive a treasure. There is no grand prize. Please remember to dress appropriately.

First Drop: 10:00 a.m. - ages 4 and under
Second Drop: ages 5-7
Final Drop to follow - ages 8-10
Drops are approximately 10 minutes apart.

\$2 per child

Rain Date: Sunday, March 28

First Drop at 1:00 p.m.
(No pancake breakfast)



Open Registration for all Camps begins Monday, March 1



First Session: June 21 - July 16 (4 weeks) No camp Friday, July 2

Second Session: July 26 - August 20 (4 weeks)

Registration for 1st session ends May 17 - Registration for 2nd session ends July 5

**** Please notice registration is based on grade level for the 2009-2010 school year, not age ****

Tot Camp: (Grades: K-1) Held at Van Buren Park
Van Buren Resident = \$400 Non-Resident = \$415

Day Camp: (Grades: 2-4) Held at Van Buren Park
Van Buren Resident = \$400 Non-Resident = \$415

Tween Camp: (Grades: 5-8) Held at Van Buren Park
Van Buren Resident = \$400 Non-Resident = \$415

All Camps Run From: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Camps Include: transportation for those who live in Van Buren Township and the City of Belleville, one camp t-shirt, games, crafts, field trips, socialization with peers, supervision from highly trained counselors, and a chance for camper to just be a kid while enjoying the outdoors.

MUST PAY IN FULL, only partial refunds after registration date. No refunds given a week before camp starts.

1st Session Parent Orientation: Monday, June 7
2nd Session Parent Orientation: Monday, July 12

It is highly recommended for parents/guardians to attend camp orientation. Camp packets and transportation times will be dispersed at the meeting. Plus meet and greet with your campers' counselors.

Tot Camp 6:00 p.m.
Day Camp 6:30 p.m.
Tween Camp 7:00 p.m.

Miss Spider's Tea Party



Sunday, May 2
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Please don't be frightened of Miss Spider, instead come and join her for an afternoon of enchantment. Mothers, daughters, grandmothers, etc... are invited to our 8th Annual Tea Party.

Tea and a light brunch provided.

September Days Garden Club will share their fun ideas to make your garden special.

- Create your own mini garden -

Van Buren Residents = \$20 per couple
Non-Residents = \$25 per couple

\$5.00 for each additional child
\$10.00 for each additional adult

Must register by Monday, April 26

Get Up & Get Out

Friday, November 13
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Ages: Everyone
FREE!!!

Children MUST be accompanied by an adult.

Come watch **Monsters vs Aliens** on the big screen TV...
Showing at 6:30 p.m.

Popcorn and other munchies provided. Jump on inflatables, create Cool Crafts, rock on the Wii "Rock Band 2", play ping pong, just get up & get out!!

Make a bear, puppy, or bunny in the Build-A-Bear mini workshop. Final product will be donated to the Mott Children's Hospital (**limited supplies**). Other crafts will be available to make and take home.

Jitterbugs, Inc. - Youth Dance

Fall Session: starts September 15 & 16

Winter Session: January 4

Spring Recital will be held in June.

Saturdays:

Mommy & Me Movement	(1-3 years with a caregiver)	10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Ages 1-3
Preschool Ballet/Tap		10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Ages 3-4
Kinder Ballet		11:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Ages 5-6
Kinder Tap		11:30 - 12:00 p.m.	Ages 5-6

Tuesdays:

Mommy & Me Movement	(1-3 years with a caregiver)	4:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Ages 1-3
Kinder Ballet		5:00 - 5:30 p.m.	Ages 5-6
Kinder Jazz		5:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Ages 5-6
Kinder Tap		6:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Ages 5-6
Preschool Ballet/Tap 1		6:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Ages 3-4
Senior Ballet		7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Ages 10+

Wednesdays:

Jr. Ballet	5:00 - 5:45 p.m.	Ages 7+
Jr. Jazz	5:45 - 6:30 p.m.	Ages 7+
Jr. Tap	6:30 - 7:15 p.m.	Ages 7+
Performance Team	7:15 - 8:00 p.m.	Ages 6+
Senior Jazz/Tap	8:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Ages 10+

Register with instructor, Jennifer Valinski (734) 777-0201.

Fee Schedule:

1/2 hour classes = \$127 (14 weeks) or \$32/month
 45 min. classes = \$141 (14 weeks) or \$36/month
 1 hour classes = \$155 (14 weeks) or \$40/month
4 months of lessons September - December
 Mommy & Me = \$77 (14 weeks) or \$20/month
 (10% off 2nd child enrolled in Mommy & Me)

Please note you will receive 10% off all tuition for three or more classes that your child/children are enrolled in.

ALL RECITAL COSTUMES ARE FREE for each class enrolled with the exception of Mommy & Me!



HAUNTED FOREST

Fridays & Saturdays
October 23, 24, 30 & 31
8:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Located at Van Buren Park on the
 S. I-94 Service Drive.



NOT RECOMMENDED FOR SMALL CHILDREN

Admission: \$8.00 per victim
 (\$7.00 with valid school identification)

****Group rate tickets are available for advanced purchase, starting October 20th****

For more information, please contact the
 Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department at (734) 699-8921.

Project Youth

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

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

**** Must have a copy of both household incomes if a 2 income family.**

Refund Policy

Patron satisfaction is our most important objective. Full refunds will be issued if the Recreation Department cancels a program. Refunds will be given during the first week of the class/program ONLY. NO refunds after one week of classes starting. A \$10.00 administrative fee per person, per program, per season will be charged for all refunds requested by the participant. Credit vouchers are another opportunity for a refund. \$10.00 administrative fee is waived for credit vouchers. Refunds or reduction of fees will not be given for classes missed by the participant. Refunds will be received in the mail within 4-6 weeks. No refunds for one-day programs, community events, and trips.

Register Early!

Register for a program at least one week prior to the start of class. This will help eliminate the need to cancel classes due to low enrollment. Reserve your spot today!

Program Cancellation or Modification

Van Buren Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel or modify a program due to low enrollment or other unforeseen circumstances. Registrants will be notified if changes occur to their respective programs.

Volunteers

The Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department is looking for volunteers to assist with our community activities, events, and youth programs. There is something for everyone - ongoing volunteer programs or a few hours of activity helping others. Upcoming volunteer opportunities include: Not-so-Scary, Haunted Forest, and Marshmallow Drop. For more information, please contact Jennifer Wright at (734) 699-8921 or jwright@vanburen-mi.org.

ADA Accessibility

The Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department is working toward making all of our facilities, programs, services and activities accessible to everyone. Individuals requiring an auxiliary aid or accommodations should advise us of your needs at the time of registration or a minimum of 72 hours prior to the start of the service. Every effort will be made to make the facilities accessible.

Important Recreation Phone Numbers:

Van Buren Soccer Association
(734) 480-3966 or www.vanburensoccer.com
You must register with the Association for soccer.

Belleville Cougars
(734) 740-8981 or www.bellevillecougars.com
You must register with the Belleville Cougars.

Belleville Area Little League
(734) 487-9335
www.eteamz.com/BellevilleAreaLL
You must register with Belleville Area Little League.

Belleville Tiger Swim Club
(734) 697-9494
You must register with Tiger Swim Club.

All of the above groups are parent run organizations. Groups use recreation department's facilities only.

Western Wayne County Therapeutic Recreation

WWCTR offers various sports programs for those with physical challenges: Blaze Wheelchair Basketball, Blaze Sports Sled Hockey, Blaze Sports of Westland Sports Team for People with Physical Challenges Track & Field, Blaze Sports Power Soccer Program, Blaze Sports Wheelchair Hockey. For more information on these sports leagues visit the WWCTR website at www.ctr.info.

The communities of Livonia, Canton, Westland, Northville, Dearborn, Wayne, Van Buren Township, Redford, Garden City, Romulus and Plymouth are pleased to enter into a partnership with Wayne County to provide recreation services for individuals with disabilities. A grant from Wayne County will allow these Western Wayne communities to collaborate to provide additional therapeutic recreation programs. The Therapeutic Recreation (WWCTR) program seeks to coordinate the various programs of the participating communities, foster collaborations and a sharing of resources. Programs include respite nights for families, field trips, swimming and activities for all ages, martial arts, t-ball and cheerleading for children, dances, craft classes and more for adults. For more information on programs and events or to be included on a mailing list for these events, please go to www.wwctr.org.

Event/Program Sponsor

If you are a business or person looking to sponsor a Van Buren Township recreational event or program, please call (734) 699-8921. With your help we can provide a child who may not otherwise be able to join a recreation class an opportunity to do so at no cost to them. Also sponsoring an event is a fun way to showcase your business name.



Not-so-Scary Haunted Forest at Van Buren Park

Check out our Gymnasium!



Many of our classes are held in our gymnasium, plus there are also open gym times when basketball or volleyball can be played, check out our gym schedule on page 30.

Backstop/Outfield Fencing Sponsorship

Here is your opportunity to showcase your business at the Gregg Brinkerhoff/Chuck Coleman Memorial Softball Field located behind Van Buren Township Recreation Department. Give your support to the community while advertising your business.

**Sponsor a 4' x 6' Aluminite sign
(any color) for \$350
\$50 renewal fee each year to keep displayed.**

Call Deputy Director Jennifer Wright for more information and/or sponsorship form.



Van Buren Township Parks

Van Buren Park 50901 S. I-94 Service Drive

Located on the S. I-94 Service Drive between Belleville and Rawsonville Roads.



Amenities: Hiking trails, 3 playstructures, picnic areas, pavilions, horse shoe pits, volleyball court, basketball court, grills, beach area, sled hill (winter only), ice rink (winter only), restroom facilities and concession area.

Entry Fee:

\$3.00 daily pass

\$15.00 Van Buren/Belleville Resident Annual Pass

\$20.00 Non-Resident Annual Pass

\$8.00 Seniors (55 or older) Annual Pass

Riggs Heritage Park 12945 Martinsville

Located on Martinsville off of Huron River Drive.



Amenities: Pavilion, restroom facilities, trails and natural scenic views.

No entry fee

Quirk Park & Senior Garden

Located on Quirk Road behind Van Buren Township Hall. Parking is available at the Community Center or at the Quirk Park Pavilion located on the corner of Quirk and Ayres Roads.



Amenities: Playstructure, walking paths, vita course, picnic tables, grills, pavilion, soccer fields, shuffleboard, checkers and chess tables.

No entry fee

French Landing Park 12090 Haggerty Road

Located on the West side of Haggerty Road just South of the S. I-94 Service Drive.



Activities: French Landing Park offers fishing, picnic areas and a playground.

No entry fee

Haggerty Neighborhood Park

Located in Haggerty Subdivision with entrances located on both Hamilton and Jackson Streets.



Amenities: Playstructure, swings, pavilion, picnic tables and grills.

No entry fee

All Park Hours:
8:00 a.m. until Dusk - Open all year round.

Gym Fall/Winter Schedule

Sunday	Youth Hockey Jazzercise Open Gym Gym closes at 5:50 p.m.	12:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. 4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
Monday	Walking Jazzercise Open Gym Jazzercise Open Adult Gym Gym closes at 8:50 p.m.	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. - 7:35 p.m. 8:00 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.
Tuesday	Jazzercise Open Gym Jazzercise Tae Kwon Do Gym closes at 8:50 p.m.	8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. - 6:55 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.
Wednesday	Walking Jazzercise Open Gym Jazzercise Open Adult Gym Gym closes at 8:50 p.m.	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. - 7:35 p.m. 8:00 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.
Thursday	Jazzercise Open Gym Jazzercise Tae Kwon Do Gym closes at 8:50 p.m.	8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. - 6:55 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.
Friday	Walking Jazzercise Open Gym Jazzercise Open Gym Gym closes at 8:50 p.m.	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.
Saturday	Jazzercise Gymnastics Teen Open Gym Gym closes at 5:50 p.m.	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. - 5:50 p.m.

**** Children 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Parents/Guardians please make certain that you are here prior to closing to pick up your child. Times are subject to change. ****

If you have any questions or would like to verify gym times please call the Recreation Department at (734) 699-8921.

How to Register for Classes/Programs

Walk In:

Register at the Community Services Desk, Monday - Friday between 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:50 p.m. and Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 5:50 p.m. We are located at 46425 Tyler Road between Belleville and Beck Roads. Registration is taken on a first come, first serve basis. We accept cash or check. Please make checks payable to: Van Buren Township.

Mail In:

Print all information on registration form, be sure to include phone number and class name. Mail to the address on the registration form with a check or money order. Please do not mail cash! All mail will be processed on a first-come basis.

Open Gym Participants

Patrons who show one of the following will pay:

Valid Driver's License showing current Van Buren Address

\$3.00

Current School I.D.

\$2.00

Non-Residents

(Must show current I.D.)

\$5.00

Everyone MUST HAVE a picture I.D.!!

** Any disregard of gym rules can result in being banned from the gym **

Registration/Waiver Form

Participant's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Age, if under 18: _____

Email Address (recreation brochure will be sent out electronically): _____

Health conditions, allergies, special precautions, necessary accommodations, or anything staff should be aware of (such as wheelchair use, seizures, diabetes, etc.): _____

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 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

Charter Township of Van Buren

46425 Tyler Road
Van Buren Twp., MI 48111

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**Upcoming Holiday Events
At the Belleville Area Museum**

Saturday, December 5: Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce "Christmas Lights Parade". Parade steps off at 6:00 p.m. Following the Parade: City Christmas Tree-Lighting Ceremony on the Museum Lawn.

Saturday, December 12: Children's Christmas Ornament Workshops, 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 12 & 19: Have a photo taken with Santa at the Museum.



The Western Wayne County Quilting Guild
Presents A Quilt Show

Come Sail Away!

October 16 & 17, 2009

Wayne County Community College District
Western Campus
9555 Haggerty Road
Belleville, Michigan 48111

Hours: Friday 9-5
Saturday 9-3

\$5 Daily Admission
\$3 Students and Staff
Children 12 & under are Free



Raffle Quilt
Vendors
Door Prizes
Demonstrations

www.wwcqg.org

Treasured childhood stories come to life in Belleville

Come watch as treasured childhood stories come to life in Belleville!!! The Belleville Area Council for the Arts is pleased to introduce a **new program** of professional Children's Theater performed by the Wild Swan Theater's touring company. "Wild Swan Theater has been delighting family audiences since 1980 with performances that blend storytelling, movement, and music into magical, accessible experiences".

Jack and the Beanstalk Saturday, October 17
"This humorous version of Jack's adventure climbing the magical beanstalk is sure to please our littlest audience members. A very silly (and unscary) giant is just no match for Jack's wits as he scrambles up and down the beanstalk, rescuing his father from the giant's clutches and earning back his pet cow, Milky White".

Honey Pot of Pooh Saturday, November 21
"Dip into our honey pot of stories featuring children's all time favorite bear, Winnie the Pooh. Little theater goers will love joining Pooh as he hums his way through the Hundred Acre Wood. Whether he's pretending to be a cloud to trick the bees out of their honey, hunting Heffalumps with Piglet, or stuck in the doorway of Rabbit's house, Winnie the Pooh is just about the best friend a child could have".

Plays will be held at South Junior High School located on Owen Street at Sumpter Road at 11:00 a.m. and are 45 minutes long. Advance ticket sales begin September 1 and can be purchased at Main Street Flowers and Pro Hardware. Both Businesses are on Main Street. Admission is \$6.00 per play or \$10.00 for the series, intentionally priced to be affordable.

Come see why the Youth Librarian at the Saline District Library said "The cleverness of the costuming, the perfect match of the scripts with intended audience, and - above all - the skill and enthusiasm of the performers ALL combine to create performances no child should miss." And why a 2nd Grade Teacher at Novi Woods Elementary School said "That was one of the best assemblies we have had. That's covering 17 years!"

This new program is a large added cost for the Art Council but it is well worth it. The Council believes our children are entitled to enjoy an important delight - children's theater. We are seeking sponsors as the cost of the plays is approximately \$3,500.00. Van Buren Township is already a proud sponsor and has given \$500.00. We need your support and hope you will do the same. We are asking community organizations and benefactors to help us meet these costs. To make a donation please call (734) 697-4455.

Very truly yours,

Barbara Rogalle Miller
Event Co-Chair

Sara Henkel
Event Co-Chair

Don't forget to visit our website at:
www.vanburen-mi.org