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## Topic: Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Van Buren Township Fire Department personnel is committed to educating the public about the perils of fire and ways to prevent a fire from occurring.

One way that the Fire Department had been effectively teaching school age kids about fire safety was through the hands-on interactive experience of its smoke house. For the past few years, due to financial issues, the line item for Fire Prevention has been the first to go – being reduced to virtually nothing. Due to lack of funding, the smoke house sat unused in the back parking lot.

It was disheartening to be unable to provide fire safety educational programming, especially when we received frequent calls to bring out the smoke house for special events by the schools and neighborhood homeowner associations.

In the interest of reviving the public educational fire safety programming, I tasked the fire department staff with evaluating repairs required to bring the smoke house back to safe standards. A thorough inspection of the smoke house revealed it was in a lot worse shape than originally thought. It needed some dire work just to allow people to enter it, more or less allow any children through it!

After obtaining estimates to refurbish the smoke house, I contacted the Van Buren Civic Fund, which graciously donated the funding to restore it to “as good as new.”

I cannot thank them enough for their generous donation to restore the smoke house so we can re-establish our fire safety program here in the community.

With deepest respect on behalf of the Van Buren Township Fire Department,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Besson", written over a white background.

Daniel C. Besson  
Fire Chief / Emergency Management Coordinator

***For Immediate Release 6/24/2013***