



# VAN BUREN

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP

### For Immediate Release

Contact: Alysha Albrecht

Phone: (734) 740-0547

Email: [Communications@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:Communications@vanburen-mi.org)

Website: [vanburen-mi.org](http://vanburen-mi.org)

### **VBT CELEBRATES GREAT LAKES AND FRESH WATER WEEK**

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, Mich., August 10, 2020- Van Buren Township is celebrating Michigan's Great Lakes and Fresh Water Week from August 8-16. Water is one of Southeast Michigan's most invaluable assets. The water we drink, the water we enjoy, the water we flush... It's all one water. Great Lakes & Fresh Water Week focuses on increasing public awareness of the shared responsibility for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater.

The Great Lakes, along with our smaller lakes and rivers, provide all the freshwater we could ever need. While this water is plentiful, we depend just as much on the water providers and systems responsible for treating and delivering the water we drink, the water that falls, and the water we send down the drain. The systems that treat our wastewater, drinking water, and stormwater are interrelated. It takes thousands of miles of pipes and a workforce of devoted professionals to cycle water out of our lakes and rivers, through our treatment plants, into our homes, back through wastewater treatment plants, and into our lakes and rivers again.

Here are a few tips to protect our water:

- Keep local storm drains clear. If you notice a storm drain backed up with leaves, lawn clippings, or garbage, remove the debris to allow water to flow freely.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash.
- Never fertilize your lawn before a storm event. If possible, reduce the amount of chemicals you apply to your lawn, including pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.

- If you can, plant a tree or implement a rain garden at your house. Green infrastructure, such as rain gardens, helps water absorb into the ground, preventing water and pollutant runoff.
- Pour fats, oils, and greases (FOG) into covered containers and cans, and dispose of them in the trash when full.
- Wipe down pots and pans with a paper towel to remove any remaining FOG.
- Avoid flushing medications down the toilet or drain when another safe option is available.
- Dispose of feminine products, tissues, paper towels, and other trash in the garbage.
- Only flush the Three P's down the toilet: pee, poop, and paper.

To keep our water fresh and flowing, it also takes a collective effort of everyone living in Van Buren Township to be stewards of our water resources. During Great Lakes and Fresh Water Week and beyond, all residents are encouraged to support our community's water resources. To learn more about how you can make an impact, visit <https://semcog.org/mionewater>. For questions and comments, please contact [publicservices@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:publicservices@vanburen-mi.org).

###