



Buchanan City News

"A Fine Place To Live"

www.cityofbuchanan.com

City Directory

City Hall	695-3844
Bldg. Dept.	695-0007
Cemetery	695-3971
Police	695-5120
D.P.W.	695-3232
Water	695-3846
Wastewater	695-5291
Code Enfor.	695-0006

Commissioners

Joe Scanlon, Mayor

David Hagey, Mayor Pro Tem

Flo King

Lon McGuire

Patricia A. Moore

Frequent Numbers

Courthouse	695-3887
Landfill	695-2500
Animal Control	471-7531
Sec. of St.	684-3531
Chamber	695-3291
Reliable	(800)677-1083
Library	695-3681
PostOffice	(800)275-8777
School	695-8400

October 1, 2005
Volume 10 No. 3

302 N. Redbud Trail
Buchanan, MI 49107

Oak Ridge Cemetery Clean-up

The City will be conducting clean-up activities in the Oak Ridge Cemetery beginning October 1st. Employees will be removing broken flower containers and grave ornaments. There shall be only one flower container per grave. Flower containers should always be located at the end of the marker to facilitate mowing, trimming, and leaf pick-up. All summer decorations and summer flower containers remaining after October 1st will be discarded. Please help keep the cemetery a scenic place for our ancestors by keeping individual grave sites neat and tidy. The cemetery staff appreciates all those that help maintain their ancestral burial sites.

Curb Side Mailboxes

Many residents have installed the new style plastic mailboxes. The new mailboxes are larger and stick out farther into the street past the curb lines. When the city begins plowing snow this winter, many of these mailboxes will be hit by the plow blades. The front of the mailbox is to be located 12 inches behind the face of the curb, or if there is no curb present, then they should be 12 inches back from the edge of the pavement. The city has implemented a policy that will no longer pay residents for replacement of mailboxes hit by city snow plows if they do not meet the Federal 12 inch set back limit. Please check the set back distance of your mailbox and relocate the post back as necessary in order to meet the 12 inch limit.

Flushing Fire Hydrants

The City of Buchanan Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants Monday, October 3rd; Tuesday, October 4th; Wednesday, October 5th; and Thursday, October 6th between 7:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. This may stir up some sand or rust. A discoloration of the water may be a result of this process. Residents should run their water to check for discoloration before using.

Summer Taxes

It's not too late to pay your 2005 summer taxes that were due August 10th. To avoid having your summer taxes rolled over to the winter bill, please pay your summer tax amount due plus 4% late fee charge before October 31st. You can make your payment by mail, at City Hall, Chemical Bank Shoreline or use our drop box located between the parking lot entrances at City Hall.

Have you signed up to pay your Utility Bills Electronically?

The City offers two convenient ways to pay your utility bills electronically, free of charge.

Please log on to www.cityofbuchanan.com, click on the maroon "Pay your utility bills electronically" button for all the details. If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 695-3846.

Paying City Bills just got easier!

Chemical Bank Shoreline at 128 N. Main Street now accepts payments for City of Buchanan property taxes and water/sewer bills.

Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

The Buchanan City Fire Department will be having their annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on October 30th. Tickets are available from any City Firefighter or in the Fire Chief's office at City Hall for \$4.00 or at the door for \$4.50. For more information call 695-0007.

"Light it Right"

Sure, it's still hot out there. But December will be upon us in no time. It's not too early to start thinking about winter holidays.

Right now, our Downtown looks striking with the hanging pots and curbside planters. As colder weather approaches, those planters will give way to banners, garland, and wreaths. Thanks to your generosity last year, Buchanan was able to replace many of the old, weathered wreaths. Our new streetscape was complemented by new holiday decor.

This year, the DDA and Chamber continue their mission to deck the Downtown in style. Join us in that venture, won't you please? Donate to Buchanan's "Light It Right" drive today and light up Downtown like never before!

Donations in any amount are gratefully accepted. Wreaths can be purchased as memorials for only \$250. Contact Michelle at 695-3291 for more information. And remember.....Buchanan's greatest asset has always been its people.

Blood Drive Schedule

Due to the over whelming response from its citizens at the recent blood drives for Kyle Zelmer, Buchanan is now on a regular 8 week schedule for blood donations. The following organizations have graciously volunteered to host a blood drive:

- ◆ December 1, 2005 - Loyal Order of Moose #449
- ◆ January 26, 2006 - Senior Center
- ◆ March 23, 2006 - Masonic Lodge 68
- ◆ May 18, 2006 - Buchanan High School Student Council
- ◆ July 13, 2006 - American Legion Post 51

Volunteer Positions

There are still volunteer position's on a few Board's/Committee's that need to be filled. We encourage residents to become involved with your City government. Call the City Clerk at 695-3844 if you are interested.

Holiday Lighting Ceremony

The Holiday Lighting Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, December 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at The Common. This celebration has become a family tradition for many, and a great way to start the holiday season. The parade will start at 6:30 p.m., followed by the lighting ceremony, caroling, and refreshments to be served at the Senior Center building. Santa has been known to nibble on a few cookies and take early wish list requests from kids of all ages.

Notary Services

Notary Public Services are available during regular business hours at City Hall.

Fall Leaf Pick-Up Program

Streetside leaf pick-up for the City of Buchanan is scheduled to start on October 17th and continue through November 23rd. October 3rd is the last scheduled pick-up of kraft recycling bags until spring and October 8th is the last scheduled pick-up of brush until spring. **Residents are asked to rake their leaves into the street.** The Department of Public Works can extend the leaf pick-up program at their discretion.

Leash Law Enforcement

The Buchanan City Police Department would like to alert all resident animal owners that it will be enforcing the City's Park and Recreation Ordinance section 62-65 specifically paragraph 13 which requires domestic animals to be on a leash no longer than six (6) feet in length. Paragraph 13 also requires the person who has custody of the animal to be responsible for the removal of any animal solid waste the animal may deposit in the park. This issue has become of heighten importance due to the increasing number of attendees, especially children visting our city's parks, The Common, and sponsored events.

Citizens have complained about animal owners bringing their animals to the park and not cleaning up after them. Animals are welcome at the City's parks but they have to be on a leash and the custodian is responsible to clean up any solid waste from the animal.

The cost and fines for this violation are \$90 and/or five days in jail. For more information regarding this enforcement, please call 695-5120.

Did you know??

- ◆ Homeowners should drain their hot water tanks annually, after City workers flush fire hydrants. This will help prevent rust from circulating through your plumbing.
- ◆ Homeowners can have 1 large item (per month) picked up by Reliable Disposal for FREE on designated pick-up day. You must call 1-800-677-1083 to schedule pick-up service. On all other days, there will be a \$10 pick-up charge per item.
- ◆ City residents are allowed three garage sales per year. Permits are issued at City Hall for \$2.00 (per garage sale). City Wide garage sale does not count towards the 3 that are allowed, and those permits are \$3.00

Cemetery Decorations

Winter Decorations may be maintained from November 1st through April 1st. If they are not removed by April 2nd, they will be considered abandoned and shall be disposed of.

Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses will be sold at City Hall from December 1, 2005 through February 28, 2006. Proof of rabies vaccination is required as is proof of neutering and the Berrien County renewal form. The cost per license is \$15 each or \$5 if neutered.