

CITY COMMISSION

Barbara Clark, Mayor
Carla Cole, Mayor Pro-tem
Patricia Moore
William Norton
Warren Weaver
Meg Mullendore, City Manager
mmullendore@cityofbuchanan.com

CITY DIRECTORY

City Hall 695-3844

Building Department 695-0011
Cemetery 695-3971
Code Enforcement 695-0006
Fire (non-emergency) 695-0007
Fire Emergency 911
Police Department 695-5120
Public Works 695-7547
Wastewater 695-5291
Water 695-3846

FREQUENTLY REQUESTED PHONE NUMBERS

Animal Control 471-7531
Buchanan Schools 695-8400
Chamber 695-3291
County Courthouse 684-5274
Landfill 695-2500
District Library 695-3681
Post Office 1-800-275-8777
Reliable Disposal 1-800-677-1083
Secretary of State 1-888-767-6424

www.cityofbuchanan.com

Buchanan Downtown Development Authority (DDA) News

In May, through the efforts of the DDA, Buchanan was selected to participate in the Michigan Main Street Program at the Associate Level. The Michigan Main Street Program (MMS) began in 2003 and is housed within the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. It is part of the National Main Street Center, a division of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The MMS is also in partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office. Communities working on revitalization of traditional downtowns and wish to participate are selected through a competitive application process. Being an Associate Level Community means that over the next year we have access to experts in downtown revitalization from all over the country.

MMS utilizes the Main Street 4-Point Approach focusing on: 1) Design - which enhances the downtown physical environment while preserving the historic buildings and creates an inviting atmosphere downtown; 2) Economic Restructuring - Market Analysis to strengthen and expand the existing economic base and recruit new businesses; 3) Promotion - markets Buchanan's unique character to residents, visitors, investors & business owners, and, 4) Organization - a structure of governing board consisting of the DDA and volunteer committees supported by a paid director.

If you love Buchanan and are interested in participating in this program please contact Debra Patzer at 695-3844 or email dpatzer@cityofbuchanan.com.



December 4th - Holiday Lighting Ceremony

Buchanan's Annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony Parade will kick off the event at 6:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to walk in the parade should gather at the McCoy Pond Park near the corners of Front and Redbud for staging, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The parade will follow Front Street to the Senior Center. After the parade, the Common will be lit by Santa and Mrs. Claus. There will be music and a community carol for all to enjoy.

Afterwards, get warmed up in the Senior Center with hot cocoa and cookies. The children can visit Santa and Mrs. Claus.



City Offices Holiday Hours

All City offices will be closed for the holiday season on the following days:

- * Thursday, December 24th
- * Friday, December 25th
- * Thursday, December 31st
- * Friday, January 1st



HAVE A SAFE AND WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON, AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



Dog Licenses Sold at City Hall

City Hall will sell 2010 Dog licenses from December 1st through February 27th. The fee is \$15 for non-neutered pets and \$5 for neutered pets. You must provide proof of rabies vaccination, proof of neutering, and the Berrien County Renewal Form to purchase a dog license.



Winter Property Tax Information

Winter taxes are due on or before February 16, 2010. After February 16th, a 3% late charge fee will be added. After Monday, March 1st, taxes are delinquent and will be turned over to the County Treasurer. Postmarks are not accepted. Please allow 7 to 10 days to avoid having it returned for late payment. All payments received after the due date, regardless of postmark, will be returned for additional interest. When paying taxes by mail, please allow an additional 7 to 10 days, to avoid having a penalty if the taxes are not received by the deadline.

If you received a green and white tax notice and your taxes are paid by a mortgage company, you must send them your tax bill immediately. Failure to do so may result in your taxes going delinquent. In this case, any late or delinquent charges are the responsibility of the homeowner.

If you are a senior citizen (62 years of age), or a paraplegic, quadriplegic, eligible service person, veteran or eligible widow, blind person, or a permanently disabled person, with an annual household income of \$40,000 or less, and you filed a summer deferment, remember your summer tax amount is included in your winter bill, which is due by February 16, 2010. Remember to bring your winter tax bill with you when making your payment.

Ice Removal

As an ongoing effort to keep our rivers and streams free from pollution, remember these tips when removing ice from sidewalks and driveways. Manually remove as much ice as possible before applying salt. Use only enough salt as required to melt ice from driveways and sidewalks. Better yet, try using alternatives like sand or calcium magnesium acetate (CMA). Salt damages ecologies by threatening both flora and fauna, while also reducing the amount of clean drinking water. For more stormwater information, visit the following website: www.swmpc.org/water.asp

Holiday Travel - If traveling during the Holidays, be watchful of the weather, and be safe!

Sewer and Water Improvement Projects

The City of Buchanan received funds from the MDEQ for both Sewer and Water Improvements to be made during the years 2009 and 2010. The 2009 projects included lining several sanitary lines in the City, rehabilitating the City's lift station controls and renovating the City Wastewater Treatment Plant. The projects began in Spring of 2009 and are currently underway. The sewer projects are expected to be complete in early 2010. While there were some temporary interruptions in the sewer service, no further interruptions in service are expected. The city plans to kick-off its water improvement projects in March of 2010.

The Water improvements, funded by a Drinking Water Revolving Fund Loan through MDEQ include a new well and transmission, new main to supplement the City's existing system, a new water control facility to manage water treatment and supply operations, a new tower based billing system, a new 3rd St. water main, water valve replacements and water tower improvements. The total water project cost is estimated to be \$2.9 million. The City received forgiveness of 40% of the project costs through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, saving the City an estimated \$1.1 million. Construction for the improvements is scheduled to begin in April 2010. While steps will be taken to limit service interruptions, it is possible that, at times, water service may be intermittent. Residents and businesses will be notified a minimum of 48 hours in advance of any possible service interruptions.

Construction will be completed near November, 2010. Questions regarding the upcoming improvements can be directed to Abonmarche, Kenton C. McAndrew, Group Director, 269-927-2295, x 122.

Winter Parking

For the City's snow plows to effectively remove snow, remember not to park on streets from 2:30 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. (it is illegal to park overnight on any public street in the City). This is essential for road maintenance in winter.

Remember, over night parking in public parking lots is prohibited, unless you are in a designated lot, with a valid parking permit issued by the Buchanan Police Department.

