

**CITY COMMISSION**

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

**CITY DIRECTORY**

City Hall 695-3844

Building Department 695-0011

Cemetery 695-3971

Code Enforcement 695-0006

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](http://www.cityofbuchanan.com)

**DO YOU HAVE A WATER LEAK?**

Undetected leaks can drip hundreds of gallons of water wastefully down the drain and can cost a significant amount of money too. A little detective work can catch these leaks easily. Check your toilets, faucets, outside taps and sprinkler systems. Two easy ways to check for water leaks are:

1) Put 15 drops of food coloring in the tank of your toilet and do not flush. Wait one hour, if you see colored water in the bowl that means there is a leak in the toilet.

2) Write down the number on your meter at night, before you go to bed; do not use any water. In the morning read the meter again and compare the number from the night before. If the number has changed without using any water there is a leak in the system and a plumber should be called.



**YARD WASTE PICK-UP**

The City will pick up grass clippings, leaves, hedge trimmings or garden waste on a "pay per bag" basis in City approved, 30-gallon kraft paper bags, which can be purchased at City Hall for \$2.50 each. Pick-up will be on Mondays, from April 6th through October

26th. Residents must call the City's yard waste line at 695-2440

(24-hour answering machine) to request pick-up. **PLACING**

**LEAVES, GRASS CLIPPINGS, ETC. IN THE STREET IS ILLEGAL.**



**BUCHANAN'S FARMERS' MARKET**

The Buchanan Farmers' Market will be open every Saturday through October 24, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Enjoy fresh produce, baked goods, perennials, live demonstrations and more! Each month there will be a different theme for vendors and market goes to enjoy. They are: July - Arts & Crafts, August - Storytelling, September - Go Green & Support Ag, and October - Safety. Visit [www.buchananfarmersmarket.com](http://www.buchananfarmersmarket.com), to find out more about the Market.

**COMMON COMMITTEE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES - 7:30 PM**

Thursday, July 2nd - Kennedy's Kitchen (Irish, Celtic Music)

Thursday July 9th - Heartland Country Cloggers (Appalachian Style Clogging)

Thursday, July 16th - Emie Givens & White Lies (Country & Western)

Thursday July 23rd - Billy Nicks Motown Review (Motown Oldies, R & B)

Thursday, August 6th - Blackwell & Michael (Bluegrass, Blues & Brazilian)

Thursday, August 13th - Kelly J Swing Band (Swing Music & Old Standards)

**BUCHANAN OLD MILL FESTIVAL**

This year the Old Mill Festival will be August 28, 29 & 30th. Among the festivities will be a parade, 5K Extreme Race, kids games, classic car cruise-in, The Beatles vs. Elvis Show, and fireworks! Come join us for food, music, spirits and fun events.

**DON'T MISS THE FUN - CELEBRATE SUMMER'S LAST STOP**

## LOWER ST. JOSEPH/GALIEN RIVER WATERSHED

Local governments in Berrien and Cass Counties that have been identified as urbanized areas by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) have formed a cooperative agreement to fulfill their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Municipal Storm Water Discharge Permit requirements. The Berrien and Cass County urbanized areas are located in the Lower St. Joseph/Galien River Watershed (LSJ/GRW). This cooperation made among the local governments in these two counties led to the creation of the Southwest Michigan Water Quality Partnership.

### Southwest Michigan Water Quality Partnership

The LSJ/GRW is made up of three distinct drainage areas within Berrien and Cass Counties: the St. Joseph River Watershed from the Indiana state line (excluding the Paw Paw and Dowagiac River Watersheds), the Galien River Watershed, and the Lake Michigan Coastal drainage areas from Hager Township to the Village of Michiana.

### Public Education Plan

The participating municipalities in the LSJ/GRW Watershed have come together to create a Public Education Plan (PEP). The PEP will guide the educational efforts in the watershed. It will describe efforts to educate and empower the public about ways they can reduce storm water pollution. Outreach activities will reach diverse audiences with a variety of viewpoints and concerns. Successful implementation of the PEP will form partnerships with local agencies and organizations and use educational materials and strategies that are familiar and relevant to the area students.

### BRUSH PICK-UP

From Monday, April 6th through Monday, October 5th, the City will pick up brush and limbs. Crews will make one pass through the City each month. Brush and limbs must be neatly stacked, laying in one direction on the tree lawn area between the curb and sidewalk. Items will not be accepted if tied in bundles or if it exceeds 6 ft. in length, 6 ft. in height and 6 ft. in width. Branches or tree trunks must be 4 inches or smaller in diameter. Tree stumps are not acceptable.

## SUMMER 2009 TAX INFORMATION

Summer taxes are payable on or before Monday, August 10, 2009. After this date, a 4% penalty will be added. Please do not send tax remittances after October 31, 2009, as any unpaid taxes will be added onto the winter tax notice, which will be mailed December 1, 2009.

If you received your blue and white tax bill and your taxes should be paid by your mortgage company, you must send them your tax bill immediately. Failure to do so may result in your taxes becoming delinquent. In this case, any late or delinquent charges will be the responsibility of the homeowner. If you no longer own this property, please forward the tax notice to the new owner. Summer Tax Deferment Information has been included with this newsletter and tax mailing. If you are eligible, simply request a homestead form from our office, complete the form and return to City Hall for processing.

## NEW ORDINANCE REGARDING THE GROWTH OF WEEDS OR PLANT GROWTH.

To summarize, at the May 26, 2009 meeting, the City Commission adopted a new ordinance stating all premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of 8 inches. Weeds are defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other than trees or shrubs; however, this term shall not include cultivated flowers and gardens. Upon failure of the owner or agent having charge of a property to cut and destroy weeds after service of a notice violation, they shall be subject to prosecution in accordance with Section 106.3

and as prescribed by the authority having jurisdiction.

Upon failure to comply with the notice of violation within the allowed time frame, any duly

authorized employee of the jurisdiction or contractor hired by the jurisdiction shall be authorized to enter the property in violation and cut and destroy the weeds, and the costs incurred shall be paid by the owner or agent responsible for the property.

