



Buchanan City News

“A Fine Place To Live”

City Directory

City Hall	695-3844
Utility Dept.	695-3846
Bldg. Dept.	695-0007
Cemetery	695-3971
Library	695-3681
Police	695-5120
D.P.W.	695-3232
Water	695-0257
Wastewater	695-5291
Code Enfor.	695-0006

■ Commissioners

David Hagey, Mayor

Flo King

Melissa Fisher

Joe Scanlon, Myr Pro-Tem

Susan Lee

■ Frequent Numbers

Schools	695-8400
Post Office	695-5821
Courthouse	695-3887
Landfill	695-2500
Animal Cr.	471-7531
Sec. of St.	684-3531
Comcast Cable	683-1584
Chamber	695-3291
Reliable	(800)677-1083

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302 N. Redbud Trail
Buchanan, MI 49107

From the City Manager's Desk: “Positioning Buchanan for Success”

As a way of introduction, I would like to briefly describe what attracted me to the City of Buchanan. It was important for my wife, Cornie, and I to live near our family, which is located in and around Southwest Michigan. I was also looking for a community with a significant population that offered a range of municipal services. Buchanan appealed to me professionally because of its use of State economic development tools, ability to obtain grant dollars for projects as well as the variety of community assets existing within the community. Personally, we were looking for a place to call home and begin the next chapter in our lives. We are proud to have Buchanan as our new home and look forward to sharing it with family and friends.

The City of Buchanan, along with ten other communities in Michigan, recently received a strategic planning grant called “Blueprints for Michigan Downtowns 2003” from the State of Michigan to help revitalize the downtown. Unlike other studies, this will not “sit on the shelf” once completed. This project will require tracking for the next five years. Our progress will be monitored and the eleven communities chosen for the Blueprints Program will be used as models for the rest of Michigan.

I am sincerely optimistic about Buchanan's future. I find Buchanan a place with a great sense of community pride and the ability to overcome adversity. Buchanan's assets are strong with an outstanding Public School system (even before the tennis team became State Champions!), unique historical/cultural amenities such as Pears Mill and the Tin Shop Theater, an exceptional outdoor gathering place in The Common, and a natural treasure in McCoy Creek that accents the downtown as it meanders through the heart of the City. These amenities are undoubtedly a recipe for success and indeed the ingredients that the State of Michigan views as enormous potential. The Blueprints Program will be a key first step in understanding the actions necessary to make downtown successful.

I would like to invite all those interested in the revitalization of downtown Buchanan to participate in the planning process scheduled for the week of October 20th. Details for the meetings will be announced soon.

I am truly fortunate to serve as the City Manager of Buchanan and am excited to be a part of making Buchanan a better City.

Please feel free to visit me at City Hall or call me at 695-3844.

Very Truly Yours,
Michael L. Hughes
City Manager

Buchanan Arts & Cultural District

Buchanan Arts & Cultural District is in full swing. Be sure and visit an event scheduled at the Tin Shop Theatre, Pears Mill and/or the Common. The schedule's of these lovely facilities is too numerous to list but brochures with schedules can be obtained at different locations around the City (City Hall, Chamber of Commerce, etc.) Also the Buchanan Area Recreation Board has several events planned for the summer, check their schedule. A BIG THANK YOU goes to the volunteers that make these events possible.

Tax Assessment Information

Summer tax notices are payable on or before Monday, August 11, 2003, postmarks are not accepted. This is the last day to pay taxes without a 4% penalty. Please do not send tax remittances after October 31, 2003, as any unpaid taxes will be rolled onto your winter tax notice, which will be mailed December 1, 2003.

If you received your blue and white tax notice and taxes should be paid by your mortgage company, you must send them your tax bill immediately. Failure to do so may result in taxes going 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.

For your convenience, a payment dropbox is located at the entrance of City Hall's parking lot.

Board of Review Opening

The City is seeking a Buchanan City resident to be a member on the Board of Review. If you have any questions regarding this position please call our Assessor Department and speak with Gordon Schrieber. He is in Buchanan on Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To obtain a Participation Form for the position, call the City Clerk's office and you can either pick one up at City Hall or can be mailed to you.

Nominating Petitions for City Commissioner

Notice to interested individuals for special election nominating petitions for Buchanan City Commissioner.

Two (2) seats for a three (3) year term on the Commission will be voted on during the City Election to be held November 4, 2003.

Nominating petitions to qualify as a Candidate for a Buchanan City Commissioner are available at City Hall, 302 N. Redbud Trail.

The first day Nominating Petitions may be accepted in the City Clerk's office will be July 25 and the last day to file Petitions is August 5, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Nominating Petitions shall contain not less than 30 and no more than 50 signatures of qualified registered electors in the City.



Payment Processing Survey

We would like to know if our residents would consider using the option of paying their water bills and taxes by a bank electronic payment system, via the Internet or telephone. To provide this service, the City of Buchanan will incur processing costs, so we want to know your opinion....

Yes, I would use the automatic payment system

No, I like to pay my bills by check or cash

Please detach and mail back with your tax or water bill payment or drop it off at City Hall or use our payment drop box.