

CITY OF BUCHANAN



CITY MANAGER SEARCH

“The City of Buchanan, Michigan is seeking a quality leader who will serve our community with distinction. We offer our next City Manager an excellent opportunity to move our community forward. Located in picturesque Southwest Michigan, Buchanan is an easy drive to Chicago and the University of Notre Dame. If you prefer the waterfront, Lake Michigan is so close you can hear the waves.”

Sean Denison, Mayor
City of Buchanan



CITY OF BUCHANAN, MICHIGAN

CITY MANAGER

- **POPULATION**
4,300
- **SIZE**
2.5 sq. miles
- **FULL-TIME STAFF**
31
- **TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET**
\$8,026,198
- **TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET**
\$4,260,461
- **SALARY RANGE**
\$95,000 - \$103,000



WELCOME TO BUCHANAN

“LIFE IS BETTER HERE”

The City of Buchanan, Michigan (population 4,300) is seeking a talented, proven leader to serve as their next City Manager. The city employs a unified and impressive team of 31 staff members. The five-member City Commission has an excellent professional relationship and fully supports and recognizes the council-manager form of government.

Buchanan is best known as a small bustling community located in scenic Southwestern Michigan. Perfectly located just 13 miles north of the University of Notre Dame, about an hour from downtown Chicago and 12 miles southeast of the highly touted Warren Dunes. The Dunes are located on Lake Michigan and serve as a significant tourism magnet for over 1,000,000 visitors per year.

The City of Buchanan is most proud of their stunning park system. Whether you desire to play basketball at Victory Park, walk along the waterfront at McCoy Creek Trail or enjoy the Butterfly Garden at Old City Hall Park, our residents and visitors appreciate our vast greenspace.

Eat Fresh. Eat Healthy. Eat Local. The Buchanan Farmers' Market is a regional draw. With a May 6, 2023 reopening date, the Market features all the greatness of the Southwest Michigan farm produce. The area is a leader in grape and cherry production. The summer aroma of the Buchanan region is well worth the drive.

If you enjoy culture and the arts, Buchanan is the proud home of the Roti Roti Art Center. Located along West Front Street, the Art Center offers a pottery studio, an art gallery, gift shop and plenty of shows to entertain the entire community.

Our next City Manager will inherit a well-run city with quality schools, plenty of parks, a bustling downtown and a city team that understands and values the term “quality public service.”



THE THRILL ON THE HILL



- **What is Thrill on the Hill?**
 - Thrill on the Hill is an annual event that takes place in Downtown Buchanan. Our DPW team transforms the hill on E Front St into a 500ft Waterslide. For three days Downtown Buchanan hosts around 10,000 people that come to slide, listen to live music, and enjoy this summer event! Learn more and look through pictures at [Buchanan's Thrill on the Hill Facebook page](#).
- **Why did the date change from August to July?**
 - Our city staff loves bringing Thrill on the Hill to our community. This is an annual event that we all look forward to. This year we are changing our traditional date of the first weekend of August to avoid conflicts with our biannual election cycle. This will allow our city staff to be more focused and energized for both events and allow for our citizens to have less congestion downtown.
- **What do I need to bring to Thrill on the Hill?**
 - Come prepared for a full day of fun activities! Many of our guests bring beach chairs and sun cover to be able to relax and enjoy watching the hill. Be prepared to slide by bringing your own approved tube, swimsuit, sunscreen, and plenty of water.
- **What should I know before sliding?**
 - All tubes **MUST** be approved before sliding. This is to ensure that the hill maintains its integrity and that the sliding can continue on without interruption. Approved tubes will be free of hard/sharp objects. Also, be sure to store your jewelry before heading up the hill. All sharp objects are hazards to ripping the hill—safety first!



THE BUCHANAN PROMISE

“HELPING GRADUATES ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS”

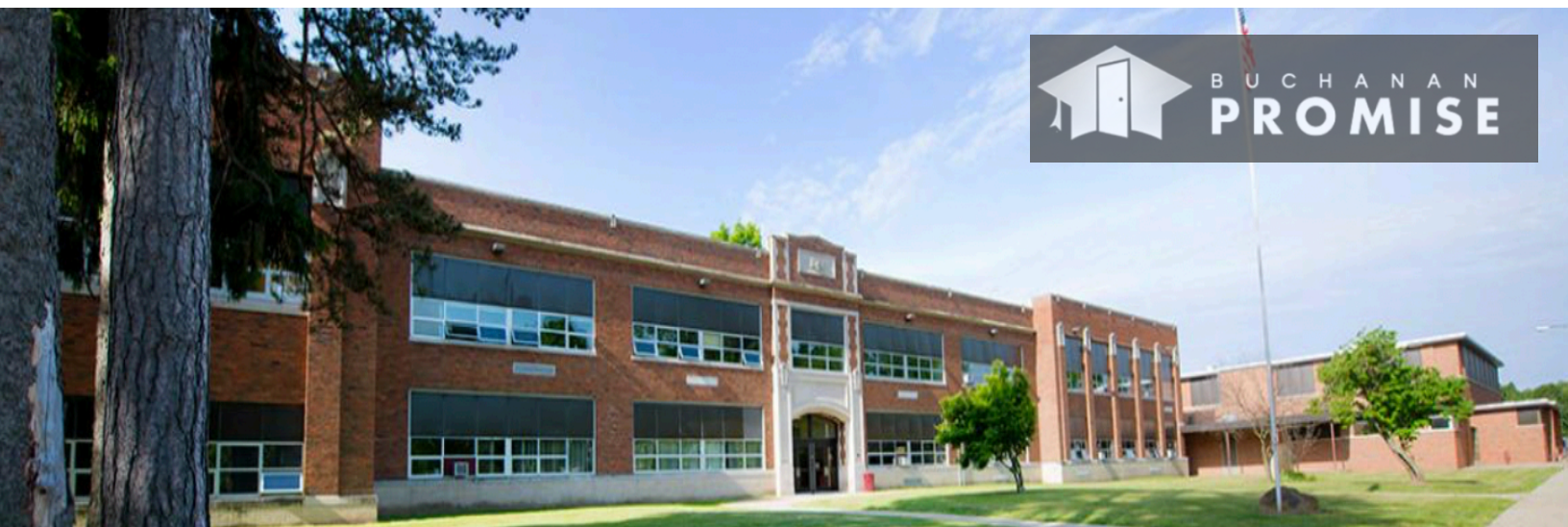
Generosity is easy to find in Buchanan. Back in 2016, the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation was named the beneficiary of a very generous multi-million-dollar bequest to support a new scholarship program for Buchanan Community Schools.

The Buchanan Promise provides for a \$15,000 college or trades scholarship to those students who attend a minimum of 9th-12th grade at Buchanan Public Schools. The goals of the Buchanan Promise are to promote post-secondary education, cultivate economic development and create a more vibrant Buchanan community.

The origin of the Buchanan Promise can be traced back to Walter E. Schirmer, Sr. who was President of Clark Equipment, headquartered in Buchanan, starting in 1963. He was one of the four founders of the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation in 1978, where he established two permanent funds, the Walter E. Schirmer Memorial Scholarship, and the Walter E. Schirmer Fund for the Buchanan Library. He had a deep love for the community, rooted in traditional values.

His legacy carried on with his son Walt, Jr. (Wally) as he was known. He began his own fund in 1994 with the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation. In October 2015, he began to formulate the plans for today's Buchanan Promise.

Together, the Schirmer's family unparalleled generosity will benefit Buchanan high school graduates for decades to come.



THE RIGHT FIT

The Buchanan City Commission recognizes the importance of education and municipal experience. In addition to both, the City is focused on finding “the right fit” for our welcoming community.

The ideal candidate will bring the following personal characteristics:

- Bring an easy-going personality that will **remain calm** while facing challenges.
- Listen first, respond second. Be a proven **listener** who will make Buchanan their “home.”
- The City Commission is willing to consider candidates who have yet to serve as a City Manager.
- Bring ethical **leadership** to the community with an open mind. Don’t be afraid to admit your mistakes. Build trust at all times.
- The City Commission seeks a proven **community builder**. Be involved in the community, get to know our city and build relationships with the community through collaboration amongst all stakeholders, not just those in Buchanan.
- Be **visionary**. Be able to consider long-term, big picture needs without losing sight of the details.
- Bring a strong record of financial management. City Managers must understand the “wants” from the “needs.”
- Bring **innovative ideas** to the City Commission that will continue to move our city forward.
- Be a **compassionate leader**. As the saying goes, show them that you care, before you show them what you know.
- Bring inclusive, strong **communication skills** with a mindset to unite rather than divide.

THE OLYMPICS OF MOTORCROSS

ALL EYES ON BUCHANAN

The City of Buchanan was the proud host of the annual Motorcross Des Nations, also known as the Olympics of Motorcross. This marks the fifth time that the United States has hosted the event and the second time it has been contested in Buchanan. The event is hosted at RedBud MX and in 2022 welcomed over 300 racers from 34 nations across the world. Over 100,000 visitors flocked to Buchanan to enjoy the sights and sounds of action-packed racing.

The RedBud MX has been a staple in Buchanan since 1972. The track offers outstanding motocross and is home to LaRocco's Leap. LaRocco's Leap, constructed in 1991, is the longest jump in the MX circuit stretching 120 feet.

Buchanan is proud to be the home of the RedBud MX and plays an important role in the success of the roar of the crowd!



HOW TO APPLY

DEADLINE TO APPLY: FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2023

To join the Buchanan Team, please submit a cover letter, resume and five professional references to Frank L. Walsh, Walsh Municipal Services, LLC. Applications will be received at walshmuni@gmail.com. Please indicate in your cover letter whether you are requesting confidentiality as allowed under the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

The City of Buchanan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

