WELCOME TO VAN BUREN!

We are excited to have you join our community and are pleased to welcome you to the Village of Van Buren. Our Village is a vibrant and welcoming community that prides itself on its small-town charm, strong spirit, and rich history. From our tree-lined streets to our friendly neighbors who value both tradition and progress, you will find a sense of belonging.

Throughout the years, Van Buren has remained one of Hancock County's most desirable communities. In order to maintain the charm and character that keeps it so attractive, we ask that you familiarize yourself with our ordinances that have been designed to protect the integrity of our Village.

Below is a list of valuable information for new residents:

Village Communication: Please follow us on the Village website at **www.vanburenohio.org** or on Facebook by going to **https://www.facebook.com/VillageofVanBuren** and hit the "Like" button. We also post information in the Village display case located at the Post Office and The Findlay Courier. These three communication options will provide you with what the council is working on, the latest news, events, and alerts.

Village Council: The Village Council meetings are held the 3rd Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Van Buren High School Community Room. If you are unable to attend a council meeting, you can submit your questions or concerns on the Village website under the "Contact Us" tab.

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Van Buren High School Community Room. When planning a new project, please consider the application time for zoning approval before starting. If you need a copy of the Zoning Code and Land Use Plan or various zoning forms such as fencing, utility fees, etc., please visit the Village website and click on the "Zoning" tab.

Zoning Board of Appeals: The Zoning Board of Appeals is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the Van Buren High School Community Room. Applications are due 10 days prior to a hearing unless there are no agenda items for review.

Permits: Building permits are required for any structural change, pool, fence, garage, deck, etc. You can obtain an application to acquire the proper permit by downloading the application from the Village Website **(**https://eheitkamp8.wixsite.com/villageofvb/zoning), or by contacting the Zoning Inspector at 419-299-3234.

Village Ordinances: Residents must comply with all Village ordinances along with maintaining their property. A list of property ordinances such as tall grass/weeds, dilapidated structures, junk/rubbish on premises, sidewalks, and similar issues can be found at **https://eheitkamp8.wixsite.com/villageofvb/ordinances-and-resolutions.**

Park: The Village of Van Buren maintains Hoadley Park which is located at the end of Ash Street. Hoadley Park has a shelter house and a basketball court that is available for use by residents and community organizations.

Jamboree Festival: The annual Jamboree Festival takes place in the month of July and features many family friendly activities including several local singers.

Call Before You Dig: To protect our water, sewer, and gas lines the Village and Arlington Natural Gas Company need you to call the Ohio Utility Protection Service (OUPS) at 1-800-362-2764 or 811 before you dig. This service is free and your local utility company will identify these lines for you. It is also required by law to call; otherwise, you may be responsible for damages to the water, sewer, gas lines, and/or other underground structures.

Trees: Preserving and enhancing the natural assets of the Village is a high priority in Van Buren. The efforts of the Environmental Stewardship Committee have resulted in the budgeting and planting of 8 to 10 new trees for each of the past several years. We ask that no person plant, prune, brace, cable, spray, or perform any work on a tree planted in the right-of-way without first obtaining the prior approval of the Infrastructure Committee.

Unoperated/Unlicensed Vehicles: No private residence may have any unregistered, unlicensed, or partially dismantled motor vehicles on their property unless housed by a fully enclosed building. This ordinance can be found at **https://eheitkamp8.wixsite.com/villageofvb/ordinances-and-resolutions.**

Dogs and Farm Animals: Per Ohio Revised Code 955.22 (C), dogs are required to be confined to their property or under reasonable control at all times by leash, tether, adequate fence, supervision, or secure enclosure to prevent escape. A maximum of 3 dogs are allowed per residence. All dogs that are more than three months old must be registered. This ordinance can be found at **https://eheitkamp8.wixsite.com/villageofvb/ordinances-and-resolutions**. You can register your dog(s) at **https://www.doglicenses.us/OH/Hancock**. **Additionally, the Village does not allow the harboring of any type of farm animals within the Village limits.**

Recycling: A Recycling Drop-Off Center is located on the Van Buren Schools property just east of the bus garage. The center is open 24/7 and handles glass (brown and clear), plastics (#1 & #2), tin cans, aluminum cans, newspapers, magazines, and cardboard only. Recycling is a simple way for the residents to help the environment and preserve natural resources from being depleted.

Trash pickup: The Village does not offer community trash pickup. Trash bins may only be placed on the curbside the night before pick-up and must be removed by the night of pick-up.

Fall Yard Waste Pick-up: The Village of Van Buren sponsors a yard waste pickup during the first Saturday in November from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a rainout date scheduled for the second Saturday in November. We ask that your yard waste be ready by the Friday prior to the first Saturday in November. All items must be placed at the rear of the property along the alleys. The following yard waste that will be removed are tree limbs or branches, bagged leaves, bagged grass clippings, and shrub branches. This service is for yard waste only. No other items will be picked up.

Leaf Collection: Leaf collection for the Village will begin the first week of November with leaves being picked up three times during the month of November. The days for pickup will be determined by the number of leaves that have been raked up to ensure that it is a full day of pick-up. Leaves must be raked to the front of your home within the boulevard. Please do not rake leaves into the street and please make sure there are only leaves in the pile. Hidden debris may damage the equipment. Additionally, bagged leaves and grass clippings will not be picked up during leaf collection. If leaves are raked into the street, the resident could be subject to a fine under the Ohio Revised Code. This item will be enforced due to our recent plugged storm sewer lines.

Register to Vote: If you have moved from your current place of residence, you must register that change with the Board of Elections at **https://hancockcountyohioelections.gov/registration-information**. The Village of Van Buren resident's voting precinct is located at the Allen Township Building located at 12829 State Route 613, Van Buren, OH 45889.

Allen Township/Van Buren Sportsplex: The complex provides a quality sports facility for children ages 4-18 that attend the Van Buren Local Schools and surrounding area. The Sportsplex features baseball fields, soccer fields, picnic sites, restrooms, and a shelter house. The Sportsplex is located at 12829 State Route 613, Van Buren, OH 45889. Please follow them on Facebook or to register for a particular sport by going to **https://www.facebook.com/vanburensportsplex**.

Van Buren Local Schools: The Van Buren Local School District is comprised of a high school, one middle school, and one elementary building. Our student enrollment is approximately 1,100 students K-12 with all students located on one campus. Learn more about the Van Buren Local Schools at **https://www.vbschools.net** or if you have any questions, please call 419-299-3578.

Van Buren State Park: Originally inhabited by the Shawnee, the area surrounding Van Buren State Park is rich in woods and agricultural lands. The park's 296 acres offer a calm, peaceful retreat with camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, and picnicking opportunities that can be enjoyed year-round. Learn more about the Van Buren State Park at **https://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/van-buren-state-park**.

Hancock County Sheriff's Department: The Hancock County Sheriff's Department is committed to serving and protecting our community. Please call 419-424-7097 or 911 to report any concerns or accidents.

City of Findlay – Water and Sanitary Departments: The City of Findlay provides and operates water and wastewater to the Village of Van Buren. For problems or questions concerning water leaks, water pressure problems, rusty water/quality, or sewer smell, please call the Water Department Monday - Friday from 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at 419-424-7192 and select option #2. For weekdays after 5:00 p.m. or any weekends, please call 419-424-7193 and select option # 3. To reach the Sewer Treatment Plant, which is available at all hours, please call 419-424-7193 and select option # 3.

American Electric Power (AEP): AEP produces and delivers safe, reliable, and affordable energy that powers our homes and businesses. For problems or questions concerning check outage status, reporting an outage, or reporting a safety hazard like downed wires, please call AEP's Customer Operations Center immediately at 800-672-2231 which isavailable 24 hours a day.

Arlington Natural Gas Company: Arlington Natural Gas Company provides natural gas that heats our homes and businesses. For questions or if you smell natural gas inside your home or business, please call 419-299-3330.

Allen Township Fire Department: The Allen Township Fire Department is committed to providing the highest level of service to our community. For all emergencies, please call 911.

The Village of Van Buren's mission statement is **"We value our past, cherish our present, and work together to thoughtfully plan for the future".** The Van Buren Village Council is dedicated to maintaining the Village's unique character and improving the lives of our residents. Please feel free to contact us at **vanburenoh@gmail.com** or 419-299-3234 to discuss any questions or concerns.