



Oct/Nov/Dec 2010



Franklin Communities



Van Buren Estates

16800 Lohr Road • Belleville, MI 48111 • (734) 697-4655

Home Sweet Home!

Home is where the heart is, and we want to offer a heartfelt welcome to our community. Please welcome our new neighbors, the Ayers family, Salisbury family, Owens family and the Meckstroth family.

Community Updates

We have a new sign in the front of the community welcoming everyone home; please watch weekly for new information on the sign.

We made some improvements to the pool this summer and we thank everyone for their patience while the pool was closed down.

Van Buren Resident Referrals

Thank you and congratulations to Patricia Ayers and Brandy Funsch for their referrals to the community. Be the next resident in the spotlight. Refer a friend, family member, coworker or someone you just met in the area and when they purchase a Franklin home we will give you \$500! It's that simple.

Van Buren Estates Fire Safety Day

We hope you had an opportunity to be a part of our fire and safety day on Aug. 13. Many smoke detectors were installed, parents had children finger printed and kids were able to learn bus and pool safety as well. Four lucky kids won backpacks full of school supplies and three won bicycle helmets. We also had nine residents win pizza coupons, gas cards, a massage and \$50 off their rent. A BIG thanks goes to U of M Trauma Burn Unit, Van Buren Police and Fire Departments, Wayne County Health Department, Lincoln Consolidated Schools, Sumpter Ace Hardware, Walmart, Meijer, First Alert, Loranger Chiropractic, AAA Sign and all of our volunteers, staff and employees that helped make this day a success!



Van Buren Estates Staff
Manager and Sales Tina Osborn
Assistant Manager Carol Lazette
Maintenance Mike Turnbull

Important Numbers
Office (734) 697-4655
Emergency Number (800) 708-0420
Franklin Home Sales (734) 697-6159

Franklin Home Spot Light
4 Pine, \$21,900, 14x70,
Three-Bedroom, Two-Bath.

Office Closed

Nov. 25 and 26 Thanksgiving
Dec. 24 Half Day Christmas Eve
Dec. 31 Half Day New Year's Eve

Germ-Free Hands

Sneeze into your elbow.

Santa Visits Van Buren Estates ...

Dec. 11 at noon, please be sure to register in the office by Dec. 3.



Local Events

LOWER HURON, WILLOW AND OAKWOODS METROPARK

17845 Savage Rd.,
Belleville, MI 48111

(800) 477-3182 or (734) 697-9181

www.metroparks.com

- Oct. 15 and 16: Evening lantern tours at Oakwoods Nature Center
- Oct. 23: Kids Kandy-N-Krafts at Oakwoods Nature Center
- Nov. 6: 3rd Annual Owl Festival at Oakwoods Nature Center
- Nov. 11: Veterans Day—Appreciation Day
- Dec. 12: Sunday with Santa at Oakwood Nature Center.

Registration required; please call 1 (800) 477-3182; vehicle entry fee waived.

Events are subject to change, please call ahead. A Metropark Vehicle Entry Permit is required to enter all parks—Annual \$25, Senior \$15, Daily \$5.

Belleville Area Museum

405 Main Street
Belleville, MI 48111
(734) 697-1944

Hours of Operation: Tues.—Sat.
Noon—4 p.m.

Hours are subject to change; closed holidays and weekends.



You, Too, Can Become an Author

Lots of people aspire to write their own book, but unfortunately the legwork of actually getting it published has deterred many brilliant writers from ever putting pen to paper. Fortunately in today's society, the powers of digital technology and self-publishing services take the red tape out of getting a book on the shelf. You don't have to be a celebrity with a scandalous story to tell or even have an English degree to see your manuscript in print. Ordinary people are discovering the options to affordably publish books for their personal libraries or to sell on their own.

Lots of options are available to get your project started. Tools range from total self-publishing services that allow you complete control over all aspects of your book to independent book

publishers that offer support in certain areas along the way. No matter what option you choose, you now have the power and resources to publish a professionally designed book on your own. Print-on-demand resources make printing in small quantities—even one at a time—possible.

To learn what services are best for you, check out sites such as *iUniverse.com*, *AuthorHouse.com* or *Lulu.com*, or search online for the keywords "self-publishing" or "independent publishing."



Three Cheers for a Great Toast

Many situations in life call for a formal celebration. While it's fun being part of a celebratory group, it's not always fun being responsible for one part of the party: the official toast. This practice requires at least one brave soul to stand before a crowd and offer a few words. While some excel at such social situations, others may shudder at the idea, getting tongue-tied and flustered. If you ever find yourself in need of such a speech, the following guidelines will help

you deliver a perfectly articulated toast every time.

First, acknowledge everyone in attendance to draw your audience in. Make them feel included, and thank them for coming. Then, offer a sincere thanks to the people responsible for pulling the event together.

After that, think about the reason you're celebrating. Is there a well-known quote or joke that instantly comes to mind? If so, both are easy transitions to the next part of the toast: honoring the person or reason for the event. This can be short and sweet or as lengthy as you wish, so long as the message is honest and comes from the heart.

A few more tips: Speak clearly and deliberately, maintain eye contact and smile. Remember, it's not really what you say but the fact that you're saying anything in the first place that matters.

The Many Ways to Earn Miles

Wouldn't it be nice if you could earn frequent flier miles while sitting at your computer? You can. Of all the ways to earn frequent flier miles, www.E-Miles.com goes a long way to help consumers reach their destinations. Signing up with E-miles is free, and it takes only a few clicks of the mouse to earn frequent flier points with airlines such as Delta and US Airways. In fact, you earn 100 miles just by enrolling. All E-miles asks in return is that you answer marketing questions from companies relevant to your interests. If that isn't easy enough to accumulate flier miles, consider these options:

Showtime. Membership to the movie outfit Netflix has flier-mile perks. That includes the airlines American and Delta, which will reward you with 1,500 miles for being a Netflix member.

The eyes have it. In the market for Lasik vision correction? You could earn 25,000 miles through Delta by having the procedure at a participating LasikPlus center.

Sleep on it. Some hotels, such as Radisson and Hilton, offer miles when you book rooms. You can earn points while you sleep.



Pumpkin Pie Muffins

Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup whole wheat pastry flour
- 1 1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 1 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup canned pumpkin puree
- 1/3 cup canola oil
- 1/3 cup water
- 2 tablespoons pumpkin seeds, raw and hulled

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350° F. Spray cups of a 12-cup muffin pan with nonstick spray. Sift flours, sugar, baking soda, cinnamon, salt, nutmeg and cloves into a large bowl. Stir in raisins. Beat eggs, pumpkin puree, oil and water together in another bowl. Add pumpkin mixture to flour mixture and stir until just blended.

Spoon batter into muffin cups, filling each about two-thirds full. Sprinkle with pumpkin seeds. Bake until a toothpick inserted into a muffin comes out clean, about 20 minutes. Cool in pan on a rack for 10 minutes; remove muffins from pan and serve warm, or cool completely on rack.

For more healthy ideas, visit Wiley.com to learn more about the book "Weight Watchers Eat! Move! Play!"

Wit & Wisdom

"We must not make a scarecrow of the law,
Setting it up to fear the birds of prey,
And let it keep one shape
till custom make it
Their perch, and not their terror."
—William Shakespeare

"That proves you are unusual,'
returned the Scarecrow;
'and I am convinced
the only people worthy of
consideration in this world
are the unusual ones.
For the common folks are like
the leaves of a tree,
and live and die unnoticed."
—L. Frank Baum

"I feel a little like the scarecrow
in the 'Wizard of Oz' who suddenly
discovers he had a brain
all along. He just didn't have
a piece of paper to prove it."
—Barbara Bush

"To see him striding along
the profile of a hill on a windy day,
with his clothes bagging and
fluttering about him, one might
have mistaken him for the
genius of famine descending
upon the earth, or some
scarecrow eloped
from a cornfield."
—Washington Irving

"Logical consequences
are the scarecrows of fools and the
beacons of wise men."
—Thomas Henry Huxley

"Better to smile on all
that smile, and show there is a
comfortable kind of old scarecrow."
—William Butler Yeats

Helpful Community Reminders & Tips



~Garbage~

Compost ends Wednesday, Nov. 17.

Waste Management will be collecting Christmas trees two weeks following the holiday.

~Prepare for the Cold Months~

Check your heat tape.

Properly insulate your home.

Secure your skirting; this will protect your water lines plus keep the critters out and prevent damage.

When temperatures drop, it is a good idea to open your cabinets under your sinks to share the heat inside your home.

Never leave your faucets dripping.

~Plowing~

Plowing season will begin soon.

Please remember, there is NO parking in the streets overnight.

~Reduce Your Heating Bill This Winter~

One of the least expensive ways to manage your heating costs would be to switch to a programmable thermostat. It may also be helpful to have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is operating efficiently.

Remember to change furnace filters often!

Franklin Communities Helping our Residents

*Franklin
Communities*



Are you in over your head? Let us help you!

Contact the Franklin Communities main office for a confidential meeting.

Offering different programs to fit your needs.

800.826.4659