

**AGENDA**  
**SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP**  
**March 11, 2026**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Minutes of February 11, 2026
4. Correspondence
5. Public Comments, Audience Members are allowed 3 minutes to discuss items not on the Agenda (5 minutes for groups)
6. Approval of Agenda
  
7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - A) Affordable Housing Updates
  - B) Short Term Rental Updates
  - C)
  
8. NEW BUSINESS
  - A) Habitat for Humanity/Affordable Housing Project
  - B) Resolution 26-05 Regarding LED Traffic Control Devices
  - C) Road Usage for Multisport Event
  - D) Local Zoning/Local Decision Alert from MTA
  - E) Land Division Act Amendment
  - F) Marijuana Tax Income
  - G) Lawn Maintenance
  - H) Lighthouse Ridge Apartments Pilot Request
  - I) Donation Agreement Senior Services
  - J) Resolution 26-06 to Introduce Ord 173 Amending Ord 172
  - K)
  
9. REPORTS
  - Airport
  - Building/Electrical/Mechanical
  - Building Committee
  - Fire/Ambulance
  - Library
  - Park Committee
  - Planning Commission
  - Roads
  - Senior Services
  - Water/Sewer Authority
  - Zoning Board of Appeals
  
10. TREASURER'S REPORT
  
11. BOARD COMMENTS
  
12. ADJOURNMENT

**SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

**Present:** Stein, Poole, Wiatrowski, and Fisher

**Absent:** DeGrandchamp, Bertorelli and Lewandowski

**Meeting was called to order** by Supervisor Stein at 7:30 p.m.

**Motion by Wiatrowski**, supported by Poole to approve the Minutes of the January 14, 2026 Regular Meeting as presented. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**Chief Brandon Hinz** was in attendance and gave a report for SHAES. Chief Adam DeBoer reported for SHPD and Allison Berman from Joey Andrews office gave a report.

**Motion by Poole**, supported by Fisher, to approve the Agenda. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**Graham Welling from Wallick Communities** reported on the Lighthouse Ridge project. He will bring the Pilot before the township board meeting next month.

**Motion by Wiatrowski**, supported by Poole, to adopt Resolution 26-04 for the PUD and Rezoning of Lighthouse Apartments. All voted in favor by roll call vote. Motion carried.

**Motion by Stein**, supported by Poole, to accept the resignation of Jean Stein from the Library Board. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**Reports** from various committees and authorities were received. W.C. Askew was in attendance for the Road Commission. Diane Rigozzi reported for Senior Services.

**Motion by Fisher**, supported by Poole, to approve payment of anticipated bills in the amount of \$214,516.70. All voted in favor by roll call vote. Motion carried.

**Meeting adjourned** at 9:02 p.m.

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LaManda Riston, Deputy Sup.

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Ross Stein, Supervisor





THE **CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS & CASS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION** INVITE YOU TO JOIN AN INFORMATIONAL SESSION ABOUT

# Data Centers



**Dr. Sarah Mills** is an associate professor of practice as well as the director of the Center for EmPowering Communities at UM's Graham Sustainability Institute. She conducts research at the intersection of energy policy and land use planning – especially in rural communities.

Her current work focuses on how renewable energy development impacts rural communities (positively and negatively), the disparate reactions of rural landowners to wind and solar projects, and how state and local policies facilitate or hinder renewable energy deployment.



### The Details

 **Cass County Commissioners' Chambers**  
120 N. Broadway St., Cassopolis, MI 49031

 **Thursday, March 26, 2026**

 **5:00 p.m.**

 **Stream live or watch later**  
at [youtube.com/@casscountymigov](https://youtube.com/@casscountymigov)

### Why Attend?

- Learn how data centers differ from other large-scale developments
- Understand land use, infrastructure, and policy considerations
- Participate in an informed, community-focused discussion

### Please note:

This event features a Q&A session. Those wishing to ask questions must attend **in person**.



Brenda Bertorelli <shtwp.clerk@gmail.com>

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## Clearance Letter For South Haven Townshio, MI

1 message

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**Kalamazoo MI** <kalamazoo@workingamerica.org>

Mon, Mar 9, 2026 at 12:11 PM

To: adeboer@southhavenmi.gov, shtwp.supervisor@gmail.com, shtwp.clerk@gmail.com

Cc: "Michael Conway (He/Him)" <mconway@workingamerica.org>, Ahmed Eltouny <aeltouny@workingamerica.org>, Dennis Oney <doney@workingamerica.org>, Phaedra Cooke <pcooke@workingamerica.org>

Adam DeBoer

Ross Stein, City Manager

Brenda Bertorelli, City Clerk

9761 Blue Star Memorial Hwy,

South Haven, MI 49090

Dear Adam DeBoer, Ross Stein, and Brenda Bertorelli,

Working America, a community affiliate of the AFL-CIO, will again be conducting a door-to-door organizing drive in the greater South Haven Township area **starting 10th of March 2026, and continuing at least through 10th of July 2026.**

**For the weeks of 3/10/26 - 7/10/26 our canvassers will be in your county's area. If this changes dramatically I will send further updates to assist officers by providing the most accurate information available.**

The purpose of this letter is to ensure the safety of our staff, and to provide you with background information on Working America and our canvassing operation, so that you are aware of our activities and have the information you need to respond to any inquiries about our work. **Please notify all police officers and dispatch** of our presence so that they are aware of our constitutionally-protected right to engage in our membership drive.

**If there is any further communication that is requested from us on this matter, please respond to this email. Otherwise we will assume the information has been received and properly distributed.**

Working America is a chartered affiliate of the AFL-CIO with over five million members who are associate members of the AFL-CIO. Working America is a not-for-profit 501(c)(5) labor organization that engages in education, and legislative and political advocacy, in support of good jobs, education, living wages, secure pensions, affordable health care, retirement security, and other issues of importance to working families.

Working America's canvassers are professionally trained and may at times carry prominently displayed picture identification cards or wear red safety vests that display their affiliation with Working America. The purpose of our membership drive is to educate working people about issues that affect them, sign up new members, and at times receive voluntary dues from our members. **Our organizers do not sell any kind of products.** Our canvassing typically operates in the late afternoon and evening, **from 3:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.** – the hours when working people are most likely to be home. **Courts have recognized the right of canvassers to canvass during these hours, notwithstanding any local or state curfews.** See *Ohio Citizen Action v. City of Englewood*, slip opinion 10-3265/3293 (6th Cir. 2012); *City of Watseka v. Illinois Public Action Council*, 796 F.2d 1547 (7th Cir. 1985) ; *New Jersey Citizen Action v. Edison Township*, 797 F.2d 1250 (3d Cir. 1986)

As a courtesy to all communities in which we canvass, we notify each town or city before starting work there. We have attached the AFL-CIO resolution establishing Working America as a chartered affiliate, and a letter from the Internal Revenue Service recognizing our tax-exempt status under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code as an affiliate of the AFL-CIO.

Because Working America is engaged in constitutionally-protected political speech in its canvassing operation, **it is not required to obtain a permit** prior to engaging in this activity. *Watchtower Bible & Tract Society of New York v. Village of Stratton* **536 U.S. 150** (2002); *Ser Empl Intl Union v. Mun Mt Lebanon*, 04-4646 (3rd Cir. 2006). **Please notify all police officers and dispatch of our presence so that they are aware of our constitutionally-protected right to engage in our membership drive.**

We look forward to talking with residents in your community about Working America and its advocacy in support of working families. Feel free to give us a call at any time with any questions. Thank you in

advance for your cooperation.

Our hours of operation are:

**Mon - Fri (10am - 9pm)**

Sincerely,

Michael Conway, **Deputy National Field Director**

Cell: (617) 548-3062

Dennis Oney, **Senior Field Director**

Cell: (480) 501-9015

Phaedra Cooke, **Field Director**

Cell: (623) 216-4737

**Working America - AFL-CIO**

Enclosures

1. AFL-CIO Executive Council resolution establishing Working America as a permanent charter
2. AFL-CIO tax-exempt determination letter from the IRS (covers Working America as an affiliate of the AFL-CIO)
3. Copy of Working America-Kalamazoo roster as of the time of writing. (**THIS MAY NOT BE AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST, . . . . . AND OTHER STAFF MAY BE PRESENT DURING THE DATES GIVEN**)

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**3 attachments**

 **US Treasury Letter.pdf**  
138K

 **Permanent Charter for Working America.pdf**  
62K

 **Working America Kalamazoo Office Roster as of 3\_2\_26 - Google Docs.pdf**  
43K

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**Fwd: Lakeshore Habitat: Follow Up**

1 message

**Steins** <steins1983@gmail.com>

Sun, Mar 8, 2026 at 11:24 AM

To: Brenda Bertorelli <shtwp.clerk@gmail.com>, Mike DeGrandchamp <mike@degrandchamps.com>, Hillary Fisher <shtwp.treasurer@gmail.com>, Maureen Lewandowski <molew@comcast.net>, Dave Wiatrowski <bigboredave@yahoo.com>, Phil Poole <ppoole@southhavenmi.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dave Rozman** <drozman@lakeshorehabitat.org>

Date: Thu, Mar 5, 2026 at 11:46 AM

Subject: Re: Lakeshore Habitat: Follow Up

To: Steins &lt;steins1983@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: James Royster &lt;jroyster@lakeshorehabitat.org&gt;

Thanks Ross for the follow up.

As far as a rough idea of what we would want to do, we have not put too much thought or concepts together as of yet. We wanted to see if it was a viable option but also discuss your zoning and desires for the property as well.

In general, we focus on affordable homeownership for those earning 30-80% of the area median income and our desire is to create community centric neighborhoods where individuals and families can thrive.

Here is a  [video](#) of our current 42 unit development, in partnership with Jubilee Ministries, on the south side of Holland. This is an 8 acre site with 18 single family detached units and 24 townhomes. All for homeownership.

This can at least give you an idea and visual of what we are developing as a starting point.

If there is anything more specific that would help, or if it would be helpful for me to attend the township board meeting, please let me know.

Thanks

**Dave Rozman** / Executive Director

**Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity** / 12727 Riley Street Holland MI 49424

direct 616.393.8001 x104 / mobile 616.403.5814

[www.lakeshorehabitat.org](http://www.lakeshorehabitat.org)



We build  
**strength, stability**  
**self-reliance**  
and shelter

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**From:** Steins <[steins1983@gmail.com](mailto:steins1983@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 10:45 AM  
**To:** Dave Rozman <[drozman@lakeshorehabitat.org](mailto:drozman@lakeshorehabitat.org)>  
**Cc:** James Royster <[jroyster@lakeshorehabitat.org](mailto:jroyster@lakeshorehabitat.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Lakeshore Habitat: Follow Up

Good morning gentlemen,

I have spoken with the township attorney about disposing of township property. He said that it wouldn't be a difficult to do. The township is still working on updating the zoning ordinance and land use map. If you could provide me with a rough idea what you would like to do, I can bring it up at the township board meeting next week.

Thanks,

Ross

On Wed, Feb 25, 2026 at 2:27 PM Dave Rozman <[drozman@lakeshorehabitat.org](mailto:drozman@lakeshorehabitat.org)> wrote:

Good afternoon Ross,

I wanted to follow up to our conversations around the property that SH Township has that you have identified as a potential spot for affordable housing.

I believe you were going to have some conversations internally about the property as a next step.

We would like to continue conversations with you if this property is an option for a potential affordable housing development.

Thanks Ross,

**Dave Rozman** / Executive Director  
**Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity** / [12727 Riley Street Holland MI 49424](https://www.lakeshorehabitat.org)  
direct 616.393.8001 x104 / mobile 616.403.5814  
[www.lakeshorehabitat.org](http://www.lakeshorehabitat.org)



We build  
**strength, stability**  
**self-reliance**  
and **shelter**

**Resolution Regarding LED Traffic Control Devices**

WHEREAS, South Haven Charter Township desires the installation of LED Traffic Control Devices on Intersection of 16th + 72nd Street; and

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Road Commission's (VBCRC) current Sign Policy (2018-05) allows for the installation of LED Traffic Control Devices as they are in compliance with the MMUTCD. However, they are costly to install and/or replace and also require maintenance and can be subject to failures/breakdowns.

NOW, THEREFORE, the South Haven Charter Township Board resolves and agrees as follows:

1. That South Haven Charter Township will pay for any and all costs associated with the purchase and installation of a LED Traffic Control on 16th + 72nd St..
2. That South Haven Charter Township will pay for any and all costs associated with the maintenance, replacement and/or removal of a LED Traffic Control Devices on 16th + 72nd St. as may be deemed necessary by the VBCRC for a minimum of 10 years following installation.
3. That the VBCRC's Engineering Staff shall have the sole discretion, based upon sound engineering decisions made in the best interest of the VBCRC, to remove the LED Traffic Control Devices at any time following installation upon written notice to South Haven Charter Township.

The foregoing Resolution offered by \_\_\_\_\_, second offered by \_\_\_\_\_.

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

No: \_\_\_\_\_

Absent: \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution Adopted/Rejected.**

The Supervisor declared the Resolution adopted/rejected (circle one) on March 11, 2026 at a Regular Meeting of the South Haven Charter Township Board.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Township Clerk

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**ACTION ALERT: Local zoning could no longer be a local decision- CALL NOW**

1 message

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**Michigan Townships Association** <legislation-michigantownships.org@shared1.ccsend.com> Thu, Feb 19, 2026 at 4:08 PM

Reply-To: legislation@michigantownships.org

To: shtwp.clerk@gmail.com

**ACTION ALERT****Local zoning could no longer be a local decision**

A bipartisan, bicameral group of legislators announced this week a package of bills to strip local governments of their ability to plan their community's future. While the legislation purports to address the state's housing shortage, rather, it is yet another attempt to preempt local authority and local decisions. Affordable housing is essential across the state, but it should not come at the expense of local input by requiring local governments to follow one-size-fits-all, prescriptive requirements from the state. The legislation does not consider the full scope of factors impacting attainable housing, including labor shortages, rising labor, material and land costs, and state mandates, and instead places the blame solely on local governments. We ask lawmakers to instead work toward a true, comprehensive solution to help resolve the housing shortage, rather than imposing top-down measures that silence voices in Michigan's communities.

The proposal consists of nine bills, four of which were before the House Regulatory Reform Committee today. The local preemption bills are expected to be approved quickly by the House.

**MTA urges you to contact your legislators immediately.**

**Three of the four bills introduced impacting townships are:**

- **HB 5529 - Lot Size**, sponsored by Rep. Kristian Grant: Prohibits local ordinances from requiring a minimum parcel or lot size greater than 1,500 square feet for detached single-family residence where the parcel is accessible and will be served by public sewer and public water. The bill is co-sponsored by Reps. Joe Aragona, Reggie Miller, Carrie Rheingans, and Stephen Wooden.

- **HB 5530 - Lot Size**, sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Wertz: Prohibits a minimum parcel size greater than 1,500 square feet for detached single-family residence where the parcel is accessible and will be served by public water and public sewer. The bill is co-sponsored by Reps. Joe Aragona, Kristian Grant, Carrie Rheingans, and Stephen Wooden.
- **HB 5531 - Study Requirements**, sponsored by Rep. Cynthia Neeley: Creates a 60-day decision shot clock after receipt of an application by a local unit of government, even an incomplete application. Permits local units of government to require reasonably necessary studies in reviewing a site plan application but limits when additional information can be required for the same application after initial studies requested. Limits circumstances of when additional information can be required for the same application after initial approval. Co-sponsored by Reps. Kristian Grant, Reggie Miller, and Carrie Rheingans.

### Five remaining bills pending introduction that are also part of the proposed package include:

- **Duplex by Right:** Creates a statewide definition of “duplex.” Mandates duplexes are a permitted use in any district where single family residences are allowed and not subject to any procedures different from a single family residence.
- **Parking Requirements:** Mandates parking requirements at no more than one space per dwelling unit for multi-family residential use of property and allows mobile homes in any residential zone.
  - **“Mobile home”** means a structure that is transportable in one or more sections, built on a chassis, and designed to be used as a dwelling, with or without a permanent foundation, when connected to the required utilities, and includes the plumbing, heating, air-conditioning, and electrical systems contained in the structure.
- **Accessory Dwelling Units:** Creates a statewide definition of “accessory dwelling unit” (ADU). Mandates ADUs are permitted by right in residential zoning districts and **not subject to a public hearing**. ADUs are prohibited from density calculations, additional parking requirements, and owner occupancy requirements. Also allows mobile homes in any residential zone.
- **Setback Requirements:** Mandates setback requirements at **15 feet or less from the front property line and five feet from the sides and rear** for dwellings or outbuildings if the local unit of government is located in whole or part within a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) or is located adjacent to a MSA area. This would impact 662 townships in Michigan.
  - A Metropolitan statistical area is determined by the decennial census (updated April 10, 2025) and there are 16 MSAs in the state
- **Dwelling Size:** Prohibits a minimum area requirement greater than 500 square feet for a dwelling.

MTA remains committed to working with lawmakers to find solutions to provide affordable housing and preserve local authority as communities must balance housing, infrastructure, economic growth, community identity and natural resources.

Contact your state representative today to ensure residents and locally elected leaders have the freedom to engage in vigorous debate on matters that impact their community every day.

Michigan Townships Association | 512 Westshire Drive, Lansing, MI 48917

[michigantownships.org](http://michigantownships.org)



Michigan Townships Association | 512 Westshire Drive | Lansing, MI 48917 US

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH HAVEN  
RESOLUTION NO. 26-06**

**RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE  
AN ORDINANCE # 173 TO AMEND ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR  
A PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES**

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of South Haven ("Township"), Van Buren County, Michigan, held at the Township Hall in said Township on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following Resolution was offered by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_.

WHEREAS, South Haven Charter Township wishes to encourage developers to build affordable housing by accepting a service charge or payment in lieu of property taxes (a "PILOT"), as authorized by the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 356, MCL 125.1401 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Township adopted an Ordinance creating a PILOT for the proposed Sunset Grove Housing Development (the "Ordinance"); and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to amend the PILOT Ordinance for Lighthouse Ridge to add the Authority as a third-party beneficiary to the Township's contract with Wallick Group.; and

WHEREAS, Section 20 of the Michigan Charter Township Act, Act 359 of 1947, MCL 42.1 et seq, as amended ("Act") requires each proposed ordinance be introduced in written or

printed form, identified by a number and short title and, following introduction of the proposed ordinance, requires the Clerk to publish the proposed ordinance as provided in the Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Township Board of the Charter Township of South Haven, resolves as follows:

1. The Township hereby introduces Ordinance No.173, An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance to Provide For A Payment In Lieu of Taxes, attached as **Exhibit A**.

2. The Township Board will consider adopting the Ordinance at a meeting on April 8, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

3. Pursuant to Section 20 of the Act, the Clerk is directed to publish the Ordinance in accordance with Section 8 of the Act by posting the Ordinance in the office of the Clerk and on the Township's web site. The Clerk is further directed to publish notice of posting in a form substantially conforming to that attached as **Exhibit B** to this resolution describing the purpose of the Ordinance and that the Ordinance is posted in the office of the Clerk, on the Township's web site and in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township within seven (7) days of the posting.

4. A copy of the Ordinance shall be available for examination at the office of the Clerk and copies may be provided for a reasonable charge.

5. Any and all resolutions that are in conflict with this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent necessary to give this Resolution full force and effect.

YEAS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN     )

) ss.  
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN )

I, Brenda Bertorelli, Township Clerk of the Charter Township of South Haven, hereby certify this to be a true and complete copy of Resolution No. 26-06, duly adopted at a meeting of the Township Board held on the 11th day of March, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

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Brenda Bertorelli, Township Clerk

**EXHIBIT A**

**SOUTH HAVEN TOWNSHIP  
ORDINANCE NO. 173**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR  
A PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES**

**THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH HAVEN ORDAINS:**

**Section 1. Amendment of Section 6**

Section 6 of Ordinance is hereby amended to read, in its entirety, as follows:

To the extent permitted by law and notwithstanding the provisions of Section 15(a)(5) of the Act to the contrary, a contract between the Charter Township of South Haven and the Sponsor with the Authority as third party beneficiary under the contract, to provide tax exemption and accept payments in lieu of taxes, as previously described, is effectuated by enactment of this Ordinance.

**Section 2. Severability.**

The various sections and provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be severable, and should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any section or provision of this Ordinance other than the section or provision so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

**Section 3. Inconsistent Ordinances.**

All other ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

**Section 4. Effective Date**

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after publication.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Township Clerk

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH HAVEN**

**NOTICE OF POSTING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 173  
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR  
A PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that at its meeting on March 11, 2026, the Township Board received a proposed ordinance entitled “An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance To Provide For A Payment In Lieu Of Taxes,” which will be considered for adoption on **April 8, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.**, at a meeting of the Township Board at the Township Hall, 09761 Blue Star Memorial Hwy, South Haven, MI 49090. The proposed ordinance would amend PILOT Ordinance for Lighthouse Ridge to add the Authority as a third-party beneficiary to the Township’s contract with Wallick Group.

The proposed ordinance is available in its entirety for public inspection. The proposed ordinance is posted at the office of the Township Clerk, 09761 Blue Star Memorial Hwy, South Haven, MI 49090 and on the website of the Charter Township of South Haven, <http://www.southhaventwp.com>.

Brenda Bertorelli, Clerk  
South Haven Township Hall  
09761 Blue Star Memorial Hwy  
South Haven, MI 49090  
(269) 637-3305

**DONATION AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_, 2026 (the “Effective Date”), by and between SENIOR SERVICES OF VAN BUREN COUNTY, INC. (“SSVBC”), a Michigan nonprofit corporation, whose address is 08337 M-140 Highway, South Haven, MI 49090, and CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH HAVEN (the “Township”), whose address is 09761 Blue Star Highway, South Haven, MI 49090 (each of SSVBC and the Township shall individually be a Party, and, collectively, the “Parties”).

**RECITALS:**

WHEREAS, SSVBC is funded, in part, through funds paid to it by the Township from a millage authorized under the Activities Or Services For Older Persons Act, Act 39 of 1976 (MCL 400.571 *et seq.*) (the “Act”); and

WHEREAS, SSVBC owns the real estate commonly known as 8729 M140 Highway, South Haven, MI 49090 (Tax Parcel No. 80-17-015-005-01) (the “Property”) and desires to sell the Property for development as senior affordable housing, with SSVBC carrying on as a partner in the partnership developing the Property for housing under Michigan’s Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (“LIHTC”) program; and

WHEREAS, the Township supports SSVBC’s plan to develop the Property for senior housing; and

WHEREAS, improvement of senior housing is one of the activities and services to be promoted under the Act (see MCL 400.572(c)); and

WHEREAS, in order to assist in the development of the Property as set forth above, SSVBC desires for the Township to join it in issuing a Request for Proposal (the “RFP”) for developers of the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to assist the SSVBC in issuing a Request for Proposal (the “RFP”) for developers of the Property; and

WHEREAS, SSVBC is making a restrictive donation of a ten percent (10%) interest in the Property, as more fully described in this Agreement, so as to allow the Township to have an ownership interest in the Property for purposes of furthering the RFP process and the desired development of the Property;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and obligations herein contained, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, it is agreed by and between the Parties as follows:

## ARTICLE I - PURPOSES AND NATURE OF THIS AGREEMENT

### Section 1.01 Purposes of this Agreement

The Parties hereby enter into this Agreement for the term provided and for the purpose of setting forth their respective rights and obligations in connection with the restrictive donation of the Property interest from SSVBC to the Township and their joint ownership of the Property.

### Section 1.02 Nature of the Tenancy

This Agreement shall not constitute the Parties as general partners or joint venturers, nor constitute any Party as the agent of the other except as herein expressly provided, nor in any manner limit the Parties in carrying on their respective separate businesses or activities, nor impose upon either Party any fiduciary duty by reason of a Party's carrying on its separate business or activity, nor impose upon either Party any liability or obligation except as herein expressly provided. The Parties shall be tenants in common with respect to their ownership of the Property.

## ARTICLE II – RESTRICTIVE DONATION & TERM

### Section 2.01 Timing and Form of Restrictive Donation

Contemporaneously with the execution of this Agreement, SSVBC shall transfer a 10% tenant in common interest in the Property to the Township by Quit Claim Deed in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, with the transfer being effective as of the Effective Date. There shall be no purchase price to be paid by the Township to SSVBC for the transfer of the aforementioned interest in the Property. Restrictions on the Township's rights to use and control the Property and also limits on its liability related to the Property are set forth more fully in Article III.

### Section 2.02 Term

This Agreement shall be in effect for a term beginning on the Effective Date and shall continue until the time at which the developer selected through the RFP submits to MSHDA a LIHTC Application and that Application results in either a credit being allocated to the Property or a rejection of a credit. If the Application is granted and a credit is allocated to the Property, the Township's intent of aiding the construction of senior housing on the Property will be achieved and the Township will then deed its interest in the Property back to SSVBC upon SSVBC's request. If the Application is denied through no credit being allocated to the Property, the Township's intent of aiding the construction of senior housing on the Property will not be achieved and the Township will then deed its interest in the Property back to SSVBC upon SSVBC's request. There shall be no purchase price to be paid by the SSVBC to the Township for the transfer of the aforementioned interest in the Property.

**ARTICLE III - MANAGEMENT OF THE PROPERTY**

**Section 3.01 Management of the Property**

- a. The day-to-day management and control of the Property shall remain vested in SSVBC during the term of this Agreement, with SSVBC being solely liable for any costs related to the Property, including maintenance costs, insurance, and property tax/assessment (if any).
- b. SSVBC shall be entitled to take any rental income paid with respect to the Property during the term of the Agreement, free of any claim from the Township. For the avoidance of any ambiguity or doubt, rental income shall not include any PILOT paid to the Township based on annual shelter rents pursuant to the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, as amended (the "Act"), or any Municipal Services Agreement between the Township and any owner of the Property as a condition of approval of a housing project under the Act.

**Section 3.02 Request for Proposal Process**

For purposes of developing the Property as more fully described in the Recitals, SSVBC and the Township will cooperate in publishing the RFP and then compiling, reviewing, and analyzing any responses to the RFP received from prospective developers. The Parties will promptly review the submissions received through the RFP after the close of the submission deadline and will jointly decide whether to select a proposal received through the RFP process.

**ARTICLE IV - SALE, ASSIGNMENT, TRANSFER, OR OTHER DISPOSITION**

**Section 4.01 Prohibited Transfers**

Except as provided in this Agreement, no Party may sell, transfer, assign, or otherwise transfer or mortgage, hypothecate, or otherwise encumber or permit or suffer any encumbrances of all or any part of its fractional undivided interest in the Property, and the Party's rights under this Agreement unless approved by both Parties. Any attempt to so transfer or encumber any such interest without such approval shall be void.

**Section 4.02 No Partition**

Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement or any rule or law to the contrary, no Party shall file or pursue any partition, dissolution, or liquidation petition or action in any court with respect to the Property.

**ARTICLE V - GENERAL**

**Section 5.01 Notices**

All notices, demands, or requests provided for or permitted to be given pursuant to this Agreement must be in writing, which shall be effective upon being deposited in the United States mail.

Section 5.02 Governing Laws

This Agreement and the obligations of the Parties hereunder shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan. Venue for any action filed to enforce this Agreement shall lie only in Van Buren County, Michigan.

Section 5.03 Entire Agreement

This Agreement and **Exhibit A** constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relative to the Property and its operation. No variations, modifications, or changes shall be binding upon any Party unless set forth in a document duly executed by or on behalf of such Party.

Section 5.04 Severability

If any provision of this Agreement or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be invalid or unenforceable to any extent, the remainder of this Agreement and the application against the Parties hereunder shall be enforceable in equity as well as at law or otherwise.

Section 5.05 Binding Agreement

Subject to the restrictions on transfers and encumbrances set forth herein, this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the undersigned Parties and their respective legal representatives, successors, and assigns. Whenever, in this instrument, a reference to any Party is made, such reference shall be deemed to include a reference to the legal representatives, successors, or assigns of such Party.

Section 5.06 Recitals

The Recitals are hereby incorporated by reference into this Agreement and the Parties acknowledge the accuracy and completeness of the Recitals.

SENIOR SERVICES OF VAN  
BUREN COUNTY, INC.:

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH HAVEN:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Rigozzi  
Its: Executive Director

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_

## EXHIBIT A

### QUIT CLAIM DEED

Title and Survey Examination Not Requested

The Grantor, SENIOR SERVICES OF VAN BUREN COUNTY, INC., a Michigan non-profit corporation, quit claims to CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH HAVEN, whose address is 09761 Blue Star Highway, South Haven, MI 49090, a Ten Percent (10%) tenant in common interest in and to the following described premises situated in the Township of South Haven, County of Van Buren, and State of Michigan:

Beginning at a point found by commencing at the Northeast corner of Section 15, Town 1 South, Range 17 West; thence North 89 degrees 21 minutes 13 seconds West on the North section line, 1316.14 feet to the West line of the West 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4; thence South 00 degrees 00 minutes 21 seconds East on same, 909.06 feet to the place of beginning of this description; thence South 89 degrees 21 minutes 13 seconds East 342.08 feet; thence South 00 degrees 00 minutes 21 seconds East 200.01 feet; thence North 89 degrees 21 minutes 13 seconds West 342.08 feet to the West line of the West 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4; thence North 00 degrees 00 minutes 21 seconds West on same, 200.01 feet to the place of beginning;

Tax Parcel No.: 80-17-015-005-01 (for 2026);

Commonly Known As: 8729 M 140 Hwy, South Haven, MI 49090.

For the sum of less than ONE HUNDRED AND NO/100 (\$100.00) DOLLARS on both the County and State tax. This conveyance is exempt from the State transfer tax pursuant to MCL 207.526(a) and is exempt from the County transfer tax pursuant to MCL 207.505(a).

Subject to zoning regulations, easements, leases, building and use restrictions, reservations, covenants, conditions and restrictions of record and conditions that would be disclosed by an accurate survey of the premises, and further subject to all taxes and special assessments which shall hereafter become due and payable.

Together with all improvements, fixtures, easements, hereditaments and appurtenances associated with the subject premises.

The Grantor grants to the Grantee the right to make zero divisions under Section 108 of the Land Division Act, Act No. 288 of the Public Acts of 1967.

# *Michigan Township Services - Allegan, Inc.*

111 Grand Street  
(269) 673-3239 fax: (269)673-9583

## *Permits Issued For SOUTH HAVEN TOWNSHIP*

### **Building**

Date	Permit #	Site Address	Construction Cost	Permit Cost	Owner	Type Of Construction
2/3/2026	SHB26005	77206 Pinewood Ln	\$13,771.00	\$182.00	Ryan	Kitchen Rmdl /Window
2/13/2026	SHB26006	10336 Blue Star Hwy	\$450,000.00	\$1,040.00	10336 Blue Star Hw	Kitchen/Addition
<b>Building Totals</b>			<b>\$463,771.00</b>	<b>\$1,222.00</b>		

### **Electrical**

Date	Permit #	Site Address	Construction Cost	Permit Cost	Owner	Type Of Construction
2/4/2026	SHE26006	17349 72nd St		\$115.00	Carr	
2/6/2026	SHE26007	71355 C. R. 388		\$387.00	Matthew Barker	Rmdl Warehouse/Office
2/6/2026	SHE26008	76161 16th Ave		\$122.00	Brown	
2/13/2026	SHE26009	04805 Blue Star Hwy		\$60.00	Solomon's Temple	
2/13/2026	SHE26010	13165 Deercreek Dr		\$331.00	Davis	New Res w/ Att Garage
2/13/2026	SHE26011	77206 Pinewood Ln		\$175.00	Ryan	Kitchen Rmdl /Window
2/20/2026	SHE26012	00043 Streamwood Dr		\$160.00	Evelt	Rmdl Mstr Bath & Closet
2/23/2026	SHE26013	08859 M-140 Hwy		\$165.00	Brickman	
<b>Electrical Totals</b>				<b>\$1,515.00</b>		

### **Mechanical**

Date	Permit #	Site Address	Construction Cost	Permit Cost	Owner	Type Of Construction
2/4/2026	SHM26004	18781 76th St		\$115.00	Sumner	
2/4/2026	SHM26005	74900 14th Ave		\$210.00	Hatter	New Res w/ Att Garage
2/13/2026	SHM26006	1721 71 1/2 St		\$115.00	Sinuk	
2/17/2026	SHM26007	20096 Elm Ave (AKA 20096		\$115.00	Springer	
2/20/2026	SHM26008	13165 Deercreek Dr		\$235.00	Davis	New Res w/ Att Garage
2/23/2026	SHM26010	13282 M-140 Hwy		\$211.00	O'Hodge Properties	Accessory Building
<b>Mechanical Totals</b>				<b>\$1,001.00</b>		
<b>Mechanical Totals</b>			<b>\$463,771.00</b>	<b>\$3,738.00</b>	<b>\$373.80</b>	

## SOUTH HAVEN AREA REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY MINUTES

February 18, 2026

Pursuant to Act 267 of 1976, as amended (Open Meetings Act), the Board Members of the South Haven Area Regional Airport Authority (SHARAA) met at the South Haven Area Regional Airport, 73020 C.R. 380, South Haven, Michigan on Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

Jon Woodhams Called a regular meeting of the South Haven Area Regional Airport Authority Board to order at 7:30 pm.

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jon Woodhams, Geneva Township, Chairman  
Brent Nichols-City of South Haven, Vice Chairman  
Mary Hosley, City of South Haven  
Mike Gillian, Covert Township  
Julian Allen, Covert Township

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jim Sankofski, Casco Township  
Fred Bower, alternate for Covert Township  
Todd Jensen, South Haven Township  
Ross Woodhams, alternate for City of South Haven

- I. **Agenda:** Mary Hosley motioned to approve the agenda for the February 18, 2026, Airport Board meeting. Brent Nichols seconded this motion. **All voted in favor. The motion to approve the agenda carries. YEA 5 / NA 0**
- II. **Public Comments:** NONE

Mary Hosley motioned to approve the consent agenda, and Brent Nichols seconded this motion:

#### Consent Agenda:

- Expenses from:
- November 2025 totaling: \$12,791.40 and December 2025 totaling: \$67,419.82 and January 2026 totaling: \$29,673.33
  - Manager's reports dated: December 17, 2025 and January 21, 2026, and February 18, 2026
  - Minutes of November 19, 2025 and January 9, 2026

A roll call vote to approve the consent agenda was taken and **all voted in favor. The motion carries. YEA 5 / NA 0**

III. **Committee Reports:** NONE

IV. **Old Business:** NONE

V. **New Business:**

Airport Management presented an overview of the funding timeline associated with the Airport Terminal Program (ATP). Following discussion, a general consensus was reached to obtain additional information before proceeding further. Staff will coordinate a follow-up meeting with engineering consultants Mead & Hunt to review outstanding questions and provide further clarification on the program, and the funding requirements associated with the grant.

VI. **Member Comments:** NONE

Brent Nichols moved to adjourn the meeting and Mary Hosley seconded this motion.  
The meeting was adjourned at: 8:22pm

**SOUTH HAVEN AREA REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

Jonathon Woodhams, Chairman  
Brent Nichols, City of South Haven, Vice Chair  
Todd Jensen, South Haven Township  
Mary Hosley, City of South Haven  
Ross Woodhams, alternate for City of South Haven  
Mike Gillian, Covert Township

Julian Allen, Covert Township  
Jim Sankofski, Casco Township  
Fred Bower, alternate for Covert  
Township  
Nancy Kelley, Treasurer  
Dan Sanborn, Secretary

JOURNAL REPORT FOR SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TWP

Post Date	Journal	Description	GL Number	GL Description	DR Amount	CR Amount
03/11/2026	CD	ASSESSING SOLUTIONS 53710 PULVER ROAD THREE RIVERS, MI 49093		GEN 32310 to 00148		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	4,375.00	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		4,375.00
					<u>4,375.00</u>	<u>4,375.00</u>
03/11/2026	CD	BEST WAY DISPOSAL 7901 DAN SMITH RD WATERVLIET, MI 49098		GEN 32311 to 0006		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	2,424.00	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		2,424.00
					<u>2,424.00</u>	<u>2,424.00</u>
03/11/2026	CD	BEST WAY DISPOSAL 7901 DAN SMITH RD WATERVLIET, MI 49098		GEN 32312 to 0006		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	146.22	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		146.22
					<u>146.22</u>	<u>146.22</u>
03/11/2026	CD	BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNICATIONS 101 W KALAMAZOO ST BLOOMINGDALE, MI 49026		GEN 32313 to 0007		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	194.00	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		194.00
					<u>194.00</u>	<u>194.00</u>
03/11/2026	CD	BS&A SOFTWARE 14965 ABBEY LANE BATH, MI 48808		GEN 32314 to 0011		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	11,404.00	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		11,404.00
					<u>11,404.00</u>	<u>11,404.00</u>
03/11/2026	CD	CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN 539 PHOENIX ST. SOUTH HAVEN, MI 49090		GEN 32315 to 0015		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	1,274.85	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		1,274.85
					<u>1,274.85</u>	<u>1,274.85</u>
03/11/2026	CD	CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN 539 PHOENIX ST. SOUTH HAVEN, MI 49090		GEN 32316 to 00116		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	24,042.70	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		24,042.70
					<u>24,042.70</u>	<u>24,042.70</u>
03/11/2026	CD	DAVID WIATROWSKI 13517 BLUE STAR HIGHWAY SOUTH HAVEN, MI 49090		GEN 32317 to 0019		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	1,300.00	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		1,300.00
					<u>1,300.00</u>	<u>1,300.00</u>
03/11/2026	CD	DON JOLLAY 16961 LAKEVIEW DRIVE VANDALIA, MI 49095		GEN 32318 to 00164		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	592.96	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		592.96
					<u>592.96</u>	<u>592.96</u>
03/11/2026	CD	ELEVATE LANDSCAPE COMPANY PO BOX 424 SOUTH HAVEN, MI 49090		GEN 32319 to 00117		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	2,627.00	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		2,627.00
					<u>2,627.00</u>	<u>2,627.00</u>
03/11/2026	CD	HAVEN MAID 17160 CR687 SOUTH HAVEN, MI 49090		GEN 32320 to 0029		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	400.00	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		400.00
					<u>400.00</u>	<u>400.00</u>
03/11/2026	CD	HERALD-PALLADIUM C/O PAXTON MEDIA GROUP PO BOX 1200 PADUCAH, KY 42002		GEN 32321 to 00120		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	1,277.25	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		1,277.25
					<u>1,277.25</u>	<u>1,277.25</u>

JOURNAL REPORT FOR SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TWP

Post Date	Journal	Description	GL Number	GL Description	DR Amount	CR Amount
03/11/2026	CD	KCI 3901 EAST PARIS SE GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49512		GEN 32322 to 00122		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	130.72	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		130.72
					<u>130.72</u>	<u>130.72</u>
03/11/2026	CD	MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP SERVICES 111 GRAND STREET ALLEGAN, MI 49010		GEN 32323 to 0055		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	5,796.75	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		5,796.75
					<u>5,796.75</u>	<u>5,796.75</u>
03/11/2026	CD	SEPTIC TANK SYSTEMS CO. INC. 5946 124 TH AVE FENNVILLE, MI 49408		GEN 32324 to 0065		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	325.00	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		325.00
					<u>325.00</u>	<u>325.00</u>
03/11/2026	CD	STEIN, ROSS 14149 73RD STREET SOUTH HAVEN, MI 49090		GEN 32325 to 00118		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	89.92	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		89.92
					<u>89.92</u>	<u>89.92</u>
03/11/2026	CD	TASHA SMALLEY 111 GRAND STREET ALLEGAN, MI 49010		GEN 32326 to 00161		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	56.89	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		56.89
					<u>56.89</u>	<u>56.89</u>
03/11/2026	CD	VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION PO BOX 156 LAWRENCE, MI 49064		GEN 32327 to 0093		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	30,087.16	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		30,087.16
					<u>30,087.16</u>	<u>30,087.16</u>
03/11/2026	CD	VERIZON BUSINESS PO BOX 6040 CAROL STREAM, IL 60197-6040		GEN 32328 to 00157		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	20.02	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		20.02
					<u>20.02</u>	<u>20.02</u>
03/11/2026	CD	WILLIAMS AND WORKS , INC 549 OTTAWA AVEN NW SUITE 310 GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503		GEN 32329 to 0111		
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	537.98	
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		537.98
					<u>537.98</u>	<u>537.98</u>
Report Total:					537.98	537.98
TOTALS:						
			101-000-001.000	CASH CHECKING-STURGIS		87,102.42
			101-000-202.000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	87,102.42	
GRAND TOTAL:					<u>87,102.42</u>	<u>87,102.42</u>

Total = 87,102.42      87,102.42

Est Bills:

- 1.) City of South Haven = \$1300.<sup>00</sup> (Est)
- 2.) Mich Gas = \$500.<sup>00</sup>
- 3.) Foster + Swift = \$3000.<sup>00</sup>

Total for Est: \$ 4800.<sup>00</sup>

Total for March 2026  
\$ 91,902.<sup>42</sup>



## Van Buren Conservation District March 2026 Program Update

Spring will be here before we know it, and we have a lot in store for Van Buren County. As always, the VBCD is here to help you, our community, and natural resources. We'd love to hear from you!

**Grant Received** - The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development recently awarded us a Regenerative Agriculture Education & Outreach grant to expand and enhance education and outreach events that promote regenerative agriculture practices and farmer-to-farmer networks. Be sure to check out our Farming for the Future conference (March 11) and an on-farm field day that will be scheduled later this year.

**Tree Sale** - Last chance! The pre-sale period closes March 29 at 11:59 PM. Leftover seedlings will be available for sale April 10 and 11, but we usually sell out of many species before then. Adding these seedlings to your property encourages large scale pollinator and wildlife habitat building and adds to our community's beauty. Profits from the sale go back into our conservation efforts and programs. Shop the sale at [VanBurenCD.org/Shop](https://VanBurenCD.org/Shop)

**Farming for the Future** - We're excited to host our 19th Farming for the Future Conference! Supporting Van Buren County farms, businesses, and stewardship is important to us. The event includes the resources, experts, and topics to support that vital work.

Date & Time: March 11, 2026 | 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Van Buren Conference Center | 490 S Paw Paw St., Lawrence, MI 49064

Registration required. Lunch will be provided. [To register, click here.](#)

*Emily Hickmott*

Emily Hickmott, Executive Director

**Upcoming Events** (details available on [our website](#))

- Farming for the Future Conference | March 11
- Discover with the District: Kal-Haven Trail | Saturday, March 21 | [VanBurenCD.org/discover-2026](https://VanBurenCD.org/discover-2026)
- VBCD Board Meeting | March 25 | [VanBurenCD.org/About](https://VanBurenCD.org/About)
- Tree Sale Order Pickup & Leftover Sale | Friday, April 10 & Saturday April, 11 | [VanBurenCD.org/shop](https://VanBurenCD.org/shop)
- VBCD Board Meeting | April 22 | [VanBurenCD.org/About](https://VanBurenCD.org/About)
- VBCD Annual Meeting & Director Election | July 17 | details to be announced



# Van Buren Conservation District

## March 2026 Program Update

### Program Updates

**Resource Recovery & Recycling** (*Kalli Marshall, Jacob Diljak*) – Five communities have worked with us to make their drop-off centers a place that you can bring foam in for recycling year-round. You can learn more about where and how by checking out the announcement at [VanBurenCD.org/foam-recycling](http://VanBurenCD.org/foam-recycling) Our 2026 collection events have been announced. This year's electronic recycling opportunities have been changed to make it easier to keep those valuable materials in the economy. [VanBurenCD.org/van-buren-county-recycling-collections](http://VanBurenCD.org/van-buren-county-recycling-collections)

**Outreach** (*Jacob Diljak*) – Jacob delivered annual reports to our local municipal offices and partners, highlighting the impacts of last year's work. He is wrapping up the Food, Farm, Fun Guide, which should be ready to check out in April, just in time for our Tree Seedling Sale event which he's also been working hard to organize and make a success. Our goal is to see over 13,000 native seedlings planted in Van Buren County and Southwest Michigan through this sale this year.

**Agriculture & Water Quality Team** (*Erin Fuller and Colleen Forestieri*) – In 2025, we helped local farmers install 396 acres of no-till and 3,112 acres of cover crops. These best management practices prevented about 1,150 TONS of sediment runoff to our lakes and streams. We provided \$100,128 in cost-share dollars to help farmers try conservation practices. We also worked with lakefront landowners to plant 300 native trees and shrubs to help keep our lakes clean.

**Invasive Species SWxSW Corner CISMA Team** (*Alex Florian and Jena Johnson*) – We should receive decisions from funders on the grant applications we submitted last fall in the coming weeks which helps us finish planning our invasive species management and education for the rest of the year. February saw us connecting with local contractors about their role in preventing the spread of invasive species. We also started the process of hiring the VBCD's seasonal Invasive Species Strike Team Crew.

**Conservation Technical Assistance Program: MAEAP and Regenerative Agriculture Programs** (*Kyle Mead*) – Kyle has been visiting producers for both new and re-assessments and has completed several verifications this last month. He also restarted a state-wide CTAP Tech Team Monthly Meeting (virtual) to provide MAEAP training to newer technicians. These help other technicians get producers to the finish line of MAEAP Verification. The tech has also been assisting NRCS staff with I&E worksheets (5 producers) needed for NRCS Contracting as well as Record Collecting from producers to verify compliance for CSP payments (6 producers).



## Van Buren Conservation District March 2026 Program Update

**Natural Resource Technical Assistance** (*Gabriel Francisco*) - Gabe continued to meet with landowners about their resource concerns on-property and in the office. Federal conservation program payment deadlines and application deadlines continue to be a focus of his time. Contact our office for help navigating federal programs to assist with land and water concerns.

**Forestry Assistance Program** (*Benjamin Savoie, Barry Conservation District*) - Ben is working across nine counties, including Van Buren County, supporting our forests. Working with landowners, Ben works in the Qualified Forest Program to save landowners money and strengthen forest health. Thank you to Van Buren County's Digital Information team for helping Ben connect with landowners who could benefit from this program.