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## VBCD Newsletter

The mission of the Van Buren Conservation District (VBCD) is to promote the conservation of natural resources through partnerships, providing public education, demonstrations, and technical assistance while working together for future generations.





## Join us for a Recycling Facility Tour!

Have you ever wondered what happens when your recycling is hauled away? Join the VBCD to see firsthand!

Don't miss the second (and last) opportunity to tour a recycling facility with the VBCD! We'll provide a bus and you bring your questions. We'll head to Elkhart to Recycle Works where all the recycling in southwest Michigan is sorted. VBCD's Kalli is excited to share where our recycling goes and why recycling right is important. Donovan Kelley, Facility Manager will join to show us around.

**RSVP Required, space is limited!**

 June 24, 2026 | 8:45 AM - 1:00 PM

 Meet at Community Mental Health parking lot | 801 Hazen St., Paw Paw, MI 49079



**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING COLLECTION**

**VAN BUREN CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**ONE DAY EVENT:**  
Bangor Fire Department  
June 10 | 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**HOSTING DROP-OFF DAYS:**  
Bangor Transfer Station  
41559 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Bangor  
June 13 & 20 | 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



## Bangor Electronics Recycling Opportunities

### We are coming to Bangor!

Bangor Electronics Recycling Collection | June 10, 2026 | 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM |  
Bangor Fire Department | 417 Arlington St., Bangor

We will be accepting electronics for recycling from any Van Buren County resident or landowner at no direct cost.

Come learn more about recycling and gather information from our Materials Management Project Manager for all your disposal needs.

### Can't make the event?

- June 13 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- June 20 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

[Click here to learn more](#)

**DISCOVER FRESH FLAVORS  
& LOCAL ADVENTURES**

[VanBurenCD.org/food-farm-fun](http://VanBurenCD.org/food-farm-fun)


**VAN BUREN  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

## Food, Farm, & Fun Guides Now Available

The 2026 Guides have arrived! Spring is in full swing, and there's no better time to explore, taste, and appreciate everything Southwest Michigan has to

 Paddle Season is On!

The 2026 paddling season has begun! Grab your kayak or canoe and hit the water - whether it's the Paw Paw or Black Rivers, or one of our many inland lakes, there's no better way to welcome the season. Find parks, trails, and launch points in the Parks & Outdoor Spaces section of our Guide.

 Nurseries, Greenhouses, & Farmers Markets Are Back!

It's official - nurseries, greenhouses, and early farmers markets are opening their doors. Whether you're planting a garden or stocking your kitchen with local goodies, now's the time to shop fresh and local.

 Fresh from the Farm

The fields are waking up! Get ready for the season's first harvests - fresh asparagus, radishes, rhubarb, strawberries, and herbs. Farms are buzzing with activity: baby animals are arriving, sheep are getting their spring trims, and hens are laying more eggs than ever.

 Summer Fun

Local events and festivals are filling up the summer calendar - June is packed with options! Join a summer library program for free, family-friendly fun. While on your adventures, remember to share the road. Keep an eye out for farm equipment—our farmers are hard at work.

Did you know that the VBCD distributes thousands of Guides all over Southwest Michigan AND at four State of Michigan Visitor Centers?

[Click here for the 2026 Guide!](#)

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# THE VAN BUREN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Invites You & Yours To Our**

ANNUAL MEETING



JULY 17, 2026

**Lawrence Village Park  
West Pavilion  
210 N Exchange St.  
Lawrence, MI 49064**

8:00 AM Breakfast Available  
8:30 & 9:30 AM Conservation Impacts Stories  
8:45 & 9:45 AM Award Presentations  
9:00 & 10:00 AM Meet the Staff  
10:45 AM Last Call for Breakfast

*Breakfast will be offered 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM*

**Please RSVP by July 9, 2026**

**[VanBurenCD.org/2026-annual-meeting](http://VanBurenCD.org/2026-annual-meeting)**

**269-657-4030 x5**

## You're Invited: VBCD Annual Meeting

Join your conservation community for a morning of connection, celebration, and good food at the VBCD Annual Meeting! Held centrally at Lawrence Village Park, we invite everyone to beat the heat and join us for breakfast!



Whether you can stay for a short time or a long time, we have you covered. The program will be offered beginning at 8:30 AM and once again at 9:30 AM to aim to accommodate attendees' schedules. Breakfast will be available

Celebrate another year of service in natural resource conservation and community. Chat with the team, congratulate the awardees, and enjoy a locally sourced breakfast. All are welcome and invited to attend and connect with your local conservation district team.

This event is free, but registration is requested. RSVP now at using the button below or call 269-657-4030 x5.

We can't wait to see you there - come celebrate conservation and community with us!

### **VBCD Annual Meeting**

 Friday, July 17, 2026 |  8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

 Lawrence Village Park | 210 N Exchange St., Lawrence, MI 49064

 Registration requested (click the button below)

[\*\*RSVP to Annual Meeting\*\*](#)

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## Help Us Locate an Invasive Plant

The CISMA Team of the Van Buren Conservation District are Southwest Michigan's invasive species experts. This year, we are turning our eyes towards invasive cinnamon vine. Cinnamon vine grows quickly, "blanketing" large areas and crowding out native plants. It spreads by seed and by dropping small potato-like structures, known as bulbils, off the vine. It can also spread via root tubers, which are thick, nutrient dense root pieces that new vines can grow from. The Team is surveying and treating known locations of cinnamon vine in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties. We will also manage new locations of cinnamon vine, pending landowner permission.

Cinnamon vine has very shiny, heart-shaped leaves, and it grows well in moist, disturbed areas. The thin vines spiral counter-clockwise. Their small, spiky, white or greenish-yellow flowers smell like cinnamon. If you think you have found cinnamon vine, please report it to the CISMA Team.

also contact us with any questions you have. If you think you have found cinnamon vine, email pictures and location information to [StrikeTeam@VanBurenCD.org](mailto:StrikeTeam@VanBurenCD.org) or call or text 269-366-7287.

Thank you for helping protect our shared resources from invasive species!

*Photo of Cinnamon Vine Leaf Close-up, Credit: Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org*

## Mark Your Calendars!

### JUNE

- Recycle Roundup – Paw Paw | Saturday, June 6 | [VanBurenCD.org](http://VanBurenCD.org)
- Electronics Recycling Event – City of Bangor | Wednesday, June 10 | [VanBurenCD.org](http://VanBurenCD.org)
- Electronics Transfer Station Host Drop-off – Bangor | Saturday, June 13 and Saturday, June 20 | [VanBurenCD.org](http://VanBurenCD.org)
- Juneteenth National Independence Holiday | Friday, June 19 | office closed
- Presentation at Covert Park Beach & Campground | Saturday, June 20
- VBCD Board Meeting | Wednesday, June 24 | [VanBurenCD.org](http://VanBurenCD.org)
- Materials Recovery Facility Public Tour | Wednesday, June 24 | [VanBurenCD.org](http://VanBurenCD.org)

### JULY

- Independence Day Holiday observed | Friday, July 3 | office closed
- Electronics Recycling Event – City of Hartford | Wednesday, July 8 | [VanBurenCD.org](http://VanBurenCD.org)

- VBCD Board Meeting | Wednesday, July 15 | [VanBurenCD.org](http://VanBurenCD.org)
- Van Buren Conservation District Annual Meeting | Friday, July 17 | 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM | Lawrence Village Park

## AUGUST

- Recycle Roundup – Paw Paw | Saturday, August 1 | [VanBurenCD.org](http://VanBurenCD.org)
- Electronics Recycling Event – City of Gobles | Thursday, August 6 | [VanBurenCD.org](http://VanBurenCD.org)
- Electronics Transfer Station Host Drop-off – Bloomingdale | Saturday, August 8, Tuesday, August 11, and Saturday, August 15 | [VanBurenCD.org](http://VanBurenCD.org)
- Power Hours at Antwerp Township Transfer Station | Tuesday, August 18
- Discover with the District: School Section Lake | Wednesday, August 19
  - Rain date: Wednesday, August 26
- Power Hours at Columbia Township Transfer Station | Saturday, August 22
- VBCD Board Meeting | Wednesday, August 26 | [VanBurenCD.org](http://VanBurenCD.org)

[Click Here for the Full VBCD Calendar](#)





The VBCD staff is working in the office and from home. You can find staff emails and phone numbers on our website [VanBurenCD.org/About](https://VanBurenCD.org/About) under "Meet Our Staff".

The Van Buren County USDA Service Center hours are 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. Please note that we remain a field office with a hybrid work setup, so if you are hoping to meet with one of us specifically, please contact us ahead of time to set up an appointment.

Photo Caption: **Van Buren Conservation District Board & Staff, 2025**

Left-to-right, third row back: Joey Pietrogallo, Lucas Hartman, Grace Bianchi, Gabriel Francisco, Kyle Mead, Colleen Forestieri, Alex Florian, Erin Fuller  
Second row middle: Abbie Bristol, Jena Johnson, Jacob Diljak, Emilly Hickmott, Jan Petersen, Lia Will, Kim Sinclair, Kalli Marshall  
Front row: Bill VanTassel, Paulette Rybarski, Ron Klein, Carl Druskovich

**VAN BUREN**  
**CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

## Van Buren Conservation District

1035 E Michigan Ave, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079

269-657-4030 x5

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