



Van Buren County 2024 Citizen Planner Program

A Land Use Training and Certificate Course for
Community Land Use Decision-Makers

Van Buren County Citizen Planner

Begins Tuesday

March 12, 2024

6:00—9:00 PM

Classes held in person at:

Van Buren ISD Conference Center
490 South Paw Paw St.
Lawrence, MI 49064

Dates: March 12, 19, 26, April 9,
16, and 23.

Program will NOT meet on April 2nd

Citizen Planner is a time-tested educational program proven to be comprehensive without being overwhelming. The program is delivered "locally" to provide a convenient way for busy community leaders to obtain the latest technical knowledge and the proficiency they need to perform their duties more effectively and responsibly.



Citizen Planner Classroom Sessions

Citizen Planner instructors include MSU Faculty, MSU Extension educators, planners and attorneys. The core classroom program consists of six sessions:

- **Understanding the Planning and Zoning Context** – Learn the legal sources and limitations of planning and zoning authority, and explore your understanding of ethical decision-making.
- **Planning for the Future of Your Community** – Recognize the function and importance of a master plan, know the process for developing one and its relationship to zoning.
- **Implementing the Plan with Zoning** – Discover the importance of zoning, learn how zoning is administered and gain confidence in your zoning reviews, including site plans.
- **Making Zoning Decisions** – Learn how to adopt and amend a zoning ordinance, understand the role of the zoning board of appeals and obtain skills in basic property development methods.
- **Using Innovative Planning and Zoning** – Strategize with placemaking and design-based solutions for local and regional success in the New Economy.
- **Successfully Fulfilling Your Role** – Strengthen your ethical decision-making skills, apply standards to your decision-making and know when to ask for help.



**The Van Buren County Citizen
Planner Program is a partnership
with Van Buren County**

Contact

Kara Kelly: cplanner@msu.edu

Visit <http://citizenplanner.msu.edu>.

Van Buren County Citizen Planner

Classes: Tuesdays, March 12 - April 23

Understanding the Planning and Zoning Context

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Planning for the Future or Your Community

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Implementing the Plan with Zoning

Tuesday, March 26, 2024
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Making Zoning Decisions

Tuesday, April 9, 2024
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Using Innovative Planning and Zoning

Tuesday, April 16, 2024
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Successfully Fulfilling Your Role

Tuesday, April 23, 2024
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Course Location

Van Buren ISD Conference Center
490 South Paw Paw St.,
Lawrence, MI

Local Contact

Tyler Augst: augsttyl@msu.edu or
269-436-0520

Course Fee

The course fee is \$250 per participant for the complete core program. The fee covers registration and course materials. A group (4 or more) discount is available. Participants that complete all six sessions will receive a certificate of completion.

How to Register

Online registration is available at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/CPVanBurenCounty24/>. Payment can be made by credit card, check; an invoice is created with registration. Group registration is also available online. A \$45 cancellation fee is assessed if registration is canceled after **February 27, 2024, the registration deadline.**

Grants/Scholarships

A grant program, Risk Reduction Grant Program (RRGP), may be available from your community's liability insurance provider. Michigan Township Participating Plan offers to its municipal members one per community, which covers the complete registration cost reimbursement for completion of the Citizen Planner Program. For more information, please visit us on the web at www.theparplan.com. For member governments of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA), contact **Cara Ceci** at 800-243-1324 for more information regarding grants for education and training through the Risk Avoidance Program (RAP). For municipalities obtaining insurance through Nickel & Saph, Inc. Insurance Agency contact **Stephen R. Saph, Jr.** at 586-463-4573 or stephenjr@nickelsaph.com. Contact your local community liability risk insurance carrier to see if similar grants or similar grants or scholarships are available.

Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities may request accommodations by emailing Kara Kelly (cplanner@msu.edu) two weeks prior to the event to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests made less than two weeks prior to the event will be met if possible.



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