

Hello,

With spring in full force, we are sure everyone is either looking forward to getting back to VBP, or currently already enjoying your time at VBP. Hope everyone had a great winter!

This winter has been a very busy one at VBP. Below are some updates.

Tree Update:

As part of our ongoing tree management plan, this past February, over 20 diseased trees that were on Association property were removed and their corresponding stumps were ground out. In addition, stumps from trees that National Grid removed over the last few years were also ground out. This is the first phase of our tree management plan. Each year we will need to continue to remove diseased trees. With all of the work that was done in planning last year, and removal this February, the hope is that we will be in more of a maintenance mode, proactively dealing with issues as they arise on an annual basis.

In addition, it’s important that we plant new trees. If you would like to donate a tree in memory of a loved one, please reach out to Bill Winslow. For those that have already donated, we will be starting the process of planting new trees shortly. The trees that are planted will be diversified and resistant to disease, as recommended by the Arborist.

Pump Update:

Unfortunately, we have had significant issues with our pumps this winter. Pump #1’s motor burned out, and Pump #2 is not operating at capacity. As a result, we had to replace Pump #1 at a cost of well over $10,000. Pump #2 is currently being looked at, in the hopes it can be fixed and brought back to operating at full capacity. As a result of these issues, as well as ice jams, the water levels in the field got to be very high, and was at risk of encroaching on cottages located around the field. To remedy this, we had to have a company come in and manually pump out the fields.

This spring, a team will be looking at the current configuration and looking for solutions to balance the load between the two pumps, prevent ice jams, and most importantly deal with the excessive amount of water flowing into the field from neighboring communities.

In March, a group from the Board, Maintenance Team, and VBP Community went to the Portland Town meeting to solicit support in not only dealing with the water coming into VBP, but also help in developing a plan to better deal with these drainage issues. A special thank you to all of those individuals that actively got involved on behalf of our VBP Community. We have also reached out the Chautauqua County and will be reaching out to the Army Corp of Engineers.

Also, a very special thank you to Bruce Barclay and Tom Lesch in dealing with these pump issues. They have spent countless hours in trouble shooting the issues, and working to drain the field. Tom in particular had to spend a good part of the winter at the pumps dealing with these issues. Including standing on ice trying to break up the ice jams. Our community is exceptionally fortunate to have them looking out for us.

Boat/Trailer Parking:

Starting this season, there will be designated boat/trailer parking for VBP OWNERS only. Utilizing this parking area will require a permit, signed waiver, and a fee of $25 (funds will be applied towards any maintenance costs for the area). Parking will be available June 1st thru September 30th. Non permitted trailers will be towed away at the owner’s expense. To obtain a permit, or if you have any questions, please contact Bill McClintic.

Security Update:

Unfortunately, there were some break ins to cottages at VBP over the winter. Most of the information that we have, we obtained from facebook posts, therefore, we do not necessarily know all the facts. Jeremy McAfee, who is a member of the Van Buren Point community is an expert in the area of security, and will be meeting with the Board to offer any suggestions on how we can improve security, specifically in the off season. A big piece of this is individual cottage owners taking steps to implement security measures at their respective cottages. Jeremy will provide us with feedback on actions that the Association and individual cottage owners can take. We will be sharing this with you. We may also have a community meeting to help strategize and share information. More to come.

General Information:

* Garbage and recycle pick up will start Monday May 6th.
* If you have any special needs over and above general garbage pick up, please contact Best Way at 716-672-7237.
* Spring-clean up begins.  Only natural debris in the Dump! No metals, plastic, glass, pressure treated wood, or nails. Please follow the signs that indicate where to dump what.  The branch and limb area is toward the back marked by two signs.  Please stack them sideways and as far back as possible.  In addition, the dump is only to be used for small debris, not for large trees. Please do not have your contractors utilize the dump for any large tree work. Only grass, leaves, branches and small debris.
* Beach Clean Up 2019 - Saturday, May 25th at 9:00am.  The last two years were a success. If you are around the Point that weekend, please stop by.   Remember work gloves if you have them.
* 4th of July Parade on July 4th - 9:00 am merchandise sale / 10:00 am parade
* Association meeting on Saturday, July 6th at 10:00am - Community Center
* 5K Race on Sunday, July 7th at the Community Center
* Association meeting on Saturday, August 31st at 10:00am - Community Center
* Please clean up after your dogs.  For convenience, there are a few stations set up with doggy poop bags.  Please make sure the bags make it into the trash.
* For your safety, when utilizing the various public access ways around VBP, please remember to stay on the access way, and not stray onto personal property, as there may be tripping hazards.
* The year round speed limit on all VBP roads is 15 mph. For everyone’s safety, please do not drive faster than 15 mph.
* Enclosed is a 2019 Hazardous Waste disposal schedule for Chautauqua County (thanks Bruce for providing)
* No Hunting on VBP property.

The Women’s Club has been busy during the off-season planning for 2019. Their efforts are so instrumental in making VBP the special place that it is. Attached is a letter from the Women’s Club, and a calendar of events. Thank You Women’s Club!!!

In 2018 we formed a History Club. The Club is responsible for collecting pictures and memories of Van Buren Points past. Please visit the History page on our website, [www.vanburenpoint.org](http://www.vanburenpoint.org) to see some of what has been collected thus far. Thank you to everyone who contributed pictures, and memories. We are off to a great start, and look to be even more active in 2019. If you are interested in participating, please contact Dan Cella at [dancella1009@gmail.com](mailto:dancella1009@gmail.com).

Please be sure to continue to visit the web page at [www.vanburenpoint.org](http://www.vanburenpoint.org) for updates and listing of events. There is no need to log into the site to view all the content.

If you’d like to reach out to the Board, please email [vbpboard@gmail.com](mailto:vbpboard@gmail.com), or contact one of us directly.

Look forward to seeing everyone as we start a new season!

Van Buren Point Association Board,

Amy Atkinson

Mike Brown

Dan Cella

Jane Feightner

John Hogg

Beverli Horrocks

Bill McClintic

Marti Webster

Bill Winslow