

Deputy City Manager Barb VanDuren Retires



Barb VanDuren has left the building – but her impact on the City of Wyoming and the region will be felt for generations to come.

After more than 14 years as deputy city manager, VanDuren retired in January. City staff, council members, residents and community and business leaders celebrated her

during a send off celebration at the Wyoming Branch of the Kent District Library.

Recognized as an opinion leader and consensus builder among other municipal officials, VanDuren served on the boards of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, West Michigan Economic Partnership, Michigan Municipal League and Urban Mayors and Managers. She also served as director of the Wyoming Economic Development Commission, Downtown Development Authority and Housing Commission.

VanDuren coordinated all economic development for the City and

worked with a number of industrial property owners, paving the way for expansion, investment and new owners. She was instrumental in the development of the 28th Street West plans and the redevelopment of Site 36, a public-private partnership between the City, developer Lormax Stern and economic developer The Right Place. She also was the force behind the first Wyoming Gives Back, which has become an annual event that collects donated toys for the Salvation Army's Angel Tree effort.

Upon the retirement of the City's administrative services director, VanDuren took over direct supervision of the Information Technology, Assessing, Treasurer and Risk Management. Also under her leadership, the City was successful in highlighting all the good things it has to offer.

Before arriving in Wyoming, VanDuren served as city manager in Wayland. She received a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Central Michigan University and a master's degree in public administration from what she calls the "Harvard of the Midwest" – aka Grand Valley State University.

In retirement, VanDuren plans to enjoy time with her family, especially her grandson, and stay involved in the Wyoming community.

MAYOR'S

Message



At the writing of this letter, I am preparing to deliver the 2015 State of the City Address at 7 p.m. on Feb. 2 in Council Chambers.

I look forward to reporting on the past year and sharing my expectations of prosperity throughout the coming months.

During the address, I will discuss the significant challenges we have faced and how our community members subsequently came together to support one another.

I will also highlight the enormous positive impact of voters approving the renewal of our public safety millage in August, which has allowed us to continue such programs and initiatives which include officers visiting our schools daily, expanding our crime lab and restaffing the Gezon fire station. I will review our long-term economic vision and describe significant development that is taking place throughout the City.

I hope that you will be involved and be informed, and that I will see you at the State of the City Address.

Mayor Jack A. Poll

News Briefs

PARKS AND RECREATION

SENIOR MEAL PROGRAM serves lunch at the Wyoming Senior Center, or WSC, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. For participants more than 60 years of age, the suggested donation is \$2.75. The suggested donation for all other seniors is \$4.50. Menus are available in the WSC front lobby. Pre-registration is recommended. Call 726-1274 or stop by the kitchen on Tuesday or Thursday from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. to register.

PUBLIC SAFETY

CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS will be available Thursday, Feb. 12 Thursday, Feb. 12 at Wyoming Fire Station #1, 1500 Burton St. S.W. from 5 to 8 p.m. Pre-register by calling Safe Kids of Greater Grand Rapids at 391-7233 ext. 2.

LIBRARY

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE – IRS-certified student volunteers will prepare and e-file taxes free of charge for individuals whose annual income falls below \$52,000. Volunteers will be available at the Wyoming branch beginning the week of Jan. 31 through April 11 on Tuesdays from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This program is sponsored by the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 871-6147 or visit taxhelp.davenport.edu after Jan. 15.

EARLY CHILDHOOD ESSENTIALS: SO MUCH TO DO, SO LITTLE TIME – Managing time is a skill that provides for successful balancing of responsibilities as well as joy in life. Family and the tasks and jobs that need to be completed at home and at work don't need to compete with one another. This session offers one hour of professional development. Registration is required and class size is limited. Adults only please; child care is not provided. Sponsored by Great Start to Quality The session will be held on Monday, Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

KD ALE: HOME BREWING 101 – Join Edward Long from Siciliano's Market and local home brewer Matt Ross for a presentation on the basics, including ingredients, equipment, process and everything else you need to get started on Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 6 p.m.

HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE – On Thursday, Feb. 19 from 2 to 6 p.m., Cherry Street Health Services enrollment staff and other community organizations will be on-site to provide adults information about the Healthy Michigan Plan and assistance in applying. There will be a question and answer session. For more information, call 1-866-299-1339 or visit www.cherryhealth.org.

ADULT BOOK CLUB is a friendly, informal discussion on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. January's selection is "The Corrections" by Jonathan Franzen. February's selection is "A Prayer for Owen Meany" by John Irving.

Kent District Library is on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/KDLnews>. Follow for updates on programs, events and resources at your library. For further details on these and the library's many programs, stop in the library to pick up a program guide, check out the web page at www.kdl.org or call 784-2007.

Telephone Numbers

Mayor's Office	530-7227
City Manager.....	530-3173
City Clerk	530-7296
Police Department.....	530-7300
Fire Department	530-7250
Public Works	530-7260
Utilities	261-3550
Planning & Community	
Development.....	530-7258
Parks & Recreation.....	530-3164
Building Inspections.....	530-7285
Assessor	530-7231
District Court.....	257-9814
Treasurer	530-7280
Utility Billing.....	530-7389
Wyoming Senior Center.....	530-3190
Wyoming Public Library.....	784-2007

Meetings

City Council Meeting | on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers.

City Council Work Sessions | on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers.

Planning Commissions Meetings | on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers.

Zoning Board Of Appeals | on the first and third Monday afternoons of the month at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers.

Parks & Recreation Commission | on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at City Hall in the West Conference Room

Wyoming City Council

Jack Poll, Mayor
 Sam Bolt, Mayor Pro tem,
 Council Member-at-Large
 Dan Burrill, Council Member-at-Large
 Kent Vanderwood, Council Member-at-Large
 Bill VerHulst, 1st Ward Council Member
 Richard K. Pastoor, 2nd Ward Council Member
 Joanne Voorhees, 3rd Ward Council Member

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