VAN BUREN COUNTY 2023 FOOD, FARM, & FUN GUIDE

Local food, fun on the farm, and outdoor recreation

VAN BUREN

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Use map number to locate advertisers on centerfold map



WHY BUY LOCAL?

Local is more than a place on a map. Local is your friends and family, your neighbors, their farms, businesses, and events. Buying local builds resilient local food systems, stronger communities, and local economies. What better place to do this than Van Buren County!

Michigan ranks second in agricultural diversity in the US. We can see that here in Van Buren County—our soil and climate allows a huge diversity of food to thrive. Take a look at how we rank statewide!

Amongst Michigan's 83 counties, Van Buren County ranked in market value:

- 1st in fruits, tree nuts, and berries
- 4th in cultivated Christmas trees
- 5th in vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes
- 16th in hogs and pigs
- 23rd in milk from cows
- 26th in poultry and eggs

(*National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture)

Whatever the reason, buying local is full of benefits. Here are some benefits of buying locally-grown food:

1. The Fresher, the Better!

Fresh food does not just taste better, it is better! Buying food locally cuts the time it takes to get food from farms to your table. Food loses nutrients as time passes after being harvested, which means less nutrients are lost with locally-sourced foods!

2. Better for the Environment

Store-bought food can come from hundreds of miles away, creating tons of pollution. Local food creates far fewer pollutants making it better for the environment.

3. Accountability

Since the farmers grow or raise the food themselves, they know what goes in it. They are accountable for what goes into making food, ask the farmer themself!

4. Better for the Local Economy

Money spent locally, stays local. Local businesses pay local taxes, hire local workers, and support other local businesses. Keeping your money local means it spreads locally, which benefits all of us.

5. Supporting the Local Farmer

Buying from local farms helps keep our neighbors in business. This helps maintain our rural character and helps farmers afford to support their families and their community.

Check out these resources on local food: www.localharvest.org www.fairfoodmatters.org www.foodmatters.org www.mifma.org www.michiganfarmfun.com www.localdifference.org



MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL Assurance Program (MAEAP)

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) offers free, confidential, and non-regulatory farm assessments. These assessments help farmers comply with state and federal laws and Michigan Right to Farm Guidelines. Verifications show that all practices, procedures, and operations on the farm are environmentally sound, according to Michigan's Generally Accepted Agricultural Practices (GAAMPS). MAEAP verifications come with:

- preferred consideration for technical assistance and cost-share
- regulatory protections
- recognition as a top steward in the community
- an enduring sense of pride and accomplishment
- RUP Credits

MAEAP evaluates four system areas: farmstead, cropping, livestock, and forest/wetland/habitat.

Look for the logo! The logo means that the farm has been MAEAP verified. The "Working On" means the farm is working on MAEAP verification.





Are you a farmer or grower?

Do you know Kyle Mead — the Van Buren Conservation District Senior MAEAP Specialist who has been serving Van Buren County for 19 years? If not, reach out today to learn how he can help you!

Kyle Mead, Senior MAEAP Specialist Cell phone: 269-205-3377 Email: maeap@vanburencd.org

SWXSW CORNER CISMA (COOPERATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT AREA)

The Southwest by Southwest Corner Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) protects our shared natural resources from invasive species in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. We provide and enable community education and responsible management of invasive species on public and private land. Invasive species are living things that are not from our area and that cause damage to our economy, human health, or our environment. They can be plants, animals,



insects, diseases, or even algae. Though Michigan has many invasive species, there are still many more we are working to keep out. The best thing we can do is find and treat them early! The CISMA provides educational resources and on-the-ground management. You can contact our CISMA Coordinator Alex Florian at 269-633-9044 and invasivesed@vanburencd. org or our Strike Team Coordinator Abbie Bristol at 269-633-9058 and invasivesmgmt@vanburencd.org for more information.



FARMERS MARKETS

(May - October)

Farmers markets are a great place to purchase local food and products directly from vendors. Check out Van Buren County's farmers markets!

Almena Farmers Market

Saturdays 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (June - September) 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (October) Decatur Farmers Market Sundays 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (July - October) | Select Fridays 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Lawrence Farmers Market Saturdays 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (July - October) Lawton Farmers Market Saturdays 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (July - September) Mattawan Farmers Market Wednesdays 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (June - September) Paw Paw Farmers Market Sundays 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (July - September) South Haven Farmers Market Wednesdays 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM (June - August) | Saturdays 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

29TH STREET FARM STAND

Type: Vegetables, herbs and flowers Location: 30839 29th St., Paw Paw, MI 49079 Directions: 2 miles east of M-40 on M-43, 1/4 mile north of M-43 Hours: 9am to 8pm every day May to November Phone: (269) 628-2392 E-mail: info@29thstreetfarm.com Website: http://www.29thstreetfarm.com

We are a family farm dedicated to providing morning-picked produce and flowers of the finest quality. Asparagus in May, flower bouquets, delicious tomatoes, summer vegetables to pumpkins and winter squash. Kale, swiss chard, collards and okra. Herb cutting garden including cilantro, basil, dill, rosemary and mints. Please check our website for an extensive list.

APPLE A DAY FARM, LLC

Type: U-Pick Sweet and Sour Cherries and Apples Location: 53392 38th Ave. Bangor, MI 49013 Directions: From M-43, 2 miles south on CR 215, then east on 38th Ave. Hours: mid/late June-beginning of July, also September-October; hours vary. Call or check our Facebook page. Website: www.facebook.com/Apple-A-Day-Farm-212330585461592/ Contacts: Danielle Oliver Phone: (269) 674-7127 E-mail: appleadayfarm17@yahoo.com

We farm 3 varieties of already picked/u-pick sweet and sour cherries and 6 varieties of apples. Located two miles south of M-43 on 38th Avenue just east of Bangor. Our hours vary depending on weather and fruit availability, and are posted daily on our Facebook page. Season is mid June-mid July and September-October.





ALMENA FARMERS MARKET

OPEN SATURDAYS

June through September 9 AM - 1 PM October 10 AM - 2PM

Baked Goods | Seasonal Fruit & Veggies | Art & Woodcraft | Flowers | Sausage | Maple Syrup & Jams More

> Almena Township Pavilion 27625 CR 375, Paw Paw, MI 49079

🕜 @ALMENAFARMERSMARKET

Visit our friendly market and see all we have to offer!

BARDEN'S FARM MARKET

1101 Phoenix St. South Haven, MI 49090 (269) 637-0000 & bardensfarmmarket.com FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Open April-October: Monday-Sunday

We are conveniently located .2 miles west of the South Haven exit (20B) off of I-196

We support our local farms (as well as our own), by bringing the best fruit and vegetables from the farm to you. We grow some of our own

hanging baskets, cut flowers, herbs, sweet corn, tomatoes, beans, peppers, beets, pickles and zucchini.

Our Farm Market offers fresh pies, baked goods, jams & jellies, local honey & syrup, homemade salsa, guacamole, house made sandwiches, salads, and soups.

Selling Local Michigan Craft Beer, Ciders and Wine!





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2023 Van Buren County Food & Farm Guide



34448 44th Ave, Paw Paw, MI 49079 T: 269.657.3500 1475 116th Ave, Otsego, MI 49078 T: 269.672.5727 37988 Co Rd 388, Gobles, MI 49055 T: 269.521.7655



Norking On

📵 @brooksidefarmsmi | www.brooksidefarmsmi.com







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Your support makes it possible.

www.swmlc.org

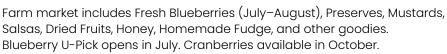


SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN LAND CONSERVANCY

DEGRANDCHAMP FARMS

Type: Farm Market/U-Pick Blueberries Location: 76241 14th Ave. South Haven, MI 49090 Directions: Exit 18 off I-196, 3 miles south of South Haven on Blue Star Hwy & 14th Ave. Hours: Open Fri-Sun in June 9am-5pm, Open Daily July-Aug 8am-6pm, Open Fri-Sun Sept-Oct 9am-5pm **Phone:** (269) 637-3915 E-mail: info@degrandchamps.com Website: www.degrandchamps.com









DRUSKOVICH FARMS

Family-owned and operated for over 5 generations. Quality strawberries, melons, fresh cut glads & sweet corn, all locally grown on our farm. Irrigated alfalfa and alfalfa/grass blend hay available in small square bales.

Just 3 miles northwest of Decatur on CR 352. See us also at the Lawrence Farmers' Market.

7:30am-5:00pm June-Sept (Labor Day)

druskovichfarms@gmail.com Follow us on Facebook @druskovichfarmsllc 50335 CR 352 Decatur, MI 49045 | (269)423-7342

What kind of adventure are you looking for in Van Buren County?

Birding • Running • X-Country Skiing • Hiking • Bicycling Geocaching • Snowmobiling • Just Enjoying Nature



Visit the Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail on Facebook, Instagram or at our website, **kalhaven.org**. Write us at *info@kalhaven.org*

EGLY GRASSFED BEEF

Type: Grass Fed & Grass Finished Beef Location: 65701 39th St, Paw Paw, MI 49079 Directions: Paw Paw Road to 39th St, south ½ mile, before CR 358. Hours: Please call. Phone: (269) 657-1787 or (269) 370-2134 E-mail: eglyreddevons@yahoo.com Website: www.eglygrassfedbeef.com



We are a small, family owned beef producer. Our cattle are raised entirely on the alfalfa, clover and grasses grown on our MAEAP-verified farm. We raise our Red Devon/Wagyu cattle naturally in a friendly, humane, and socially responsible atmosphere, assuring our customers a healthy and flavorful alternative for their table.

GREAT MEAD HALL & BREWING COMPANY

Type: Winery / Brewing Co. Location: 215 W. Monroe, Bangor, MI 49013 Directions: M-43 in Downtown Bangor Hours: Fridays 5pm-9pm, Saturdays 1pm-6pm, Sunday 1pm-6pm Phone: (269) 906-1415 E-mail: speakeasyinbangor@gmail.com Website: www.greatmeadhall.net

At Great Mead Hall & Brewing Company, we combine over 30 years of meadmaking experience with fresh, locally-grown Michigan fruit and honey to create some of the best meads you'll ever taste! Visit our Bangor tasting room in downtown Bangor and experience mead the way it's meant to be. Relax- drink mead!

BRING THIS AD IN FOR 10% OFF

Hartford Public Library

12 Church St. Hartford, MI 49057 (269)588-5103 Email: hartfordlib@yahoo.com www.hartfordpl.michlibrary.org

Hartford Public Library has many services to offer the community.

- Free book lending—including interlibrary loan
- DVD Club—\$10 annual membership
- Free public access computers
- Free Wi-Fi
- Free for check out: hot-spots, laptops & tablets
- Free children and adult programs
- Many free services on our website: Hartford Day Spring Newspaper, Hoopla, Family Search, Overdrive, Learning Express, Project Gutenberg & Tutor.com
- Community room rental
- The library houses the Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society



From sand dunes to wetlands, and from forests to prairies, we have the plants to fulfill your native landscaping needs.TM

We specialize in wildflowers, grasses, sedges, shrubs and trees native to our region. Nearly all of the plants we propagate will be Michigan genotype with most of our seed being sourced from southwestern Michigan. Please visit our website for more information including cultural information on the over 300 native species we plan on offering this year.

Hours: Please vísít our websíte for our 2023 retaíl sales schedule Locatíon: 100 N Van Kal, conveníently located 1/2 ,míle south of M-43



web: hiddensavanna.com email: info@hiddensavanna.com phone: (269) 352-3876



Family owned & operated



MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE Environmental Assurance Program





JERZ ANGUS FARMS

Type: Grain Fed Angus Freezer Beef, Split-Half (1/4), Half or Whole Location: 50800 Maxon Rd, Decatur, MI 49045 Directions: 5.5 miles south of Decatur Hours: please call Phone: (269) 423-2170 (cell) or (269) 423-8634 E-mail: cijerz@hotmail.com

Grain Fed Angus Freezer Beef, Split-Half (1/4), Half or Whole/Pork, Half or Whole/Wild Caught Great Lakes Fish. We are a fourth generation farm producing quality Angus beef since 1961. Our livestock are raised on the alfalfa/grass hay and grain produced on our farm. Our beef and pork are produced in a natural, humane and environmentally responsible manner without the use of steroids, maintenance antibiotics, or synthetic hormones. Our fish are wild caught in the Great Lakes by a fisherman out of St. Ignace, MI.







SATURDAYS 10AM-2PM JULY-NOVEMBER, LEWIS PARK

1/2 Mile South of downtown on M-40

470 S Main St Lawton, MI 49065

Local Fruit, Veggies, Baked Goods, Homemade Jams, Cut Flowers and more!

(269) 624-1831 / oliverj6@juno.com



The childhood home of Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey, father of modern horticulture.

Open May – October and by advance call (630) 842-9458

A National Historic Site & A Michigan Landmark



Please check our website and facebook for hours and events including:

- StoryWalk[™] Exhibits in the woods, a series of children's books all spring and summer.
- Bailey Budding Naturalists summer camps.
- And Many More!

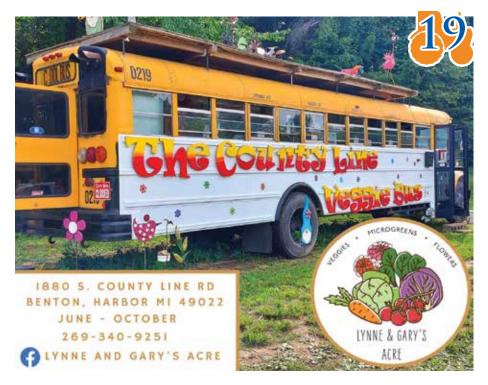
Includes two acres of wooded paths, art features, and a Victorian stumpery garden. Current schedule on website and facebook.

> 903 S. Bailey Ave. • South Haven (269) 637-3251 • LibertyHydeBailey.org

2023 Van Buren County Food & Farm Guide



LUCKY GIRL CROSS ROADS TAPROOM & WINERY



MANDIGO FARMS, INC.

Type: U-Pick & Already Picked Strawberries Location: 61077 41st Sreet, Paw Paw, MI 49079 Directions: 3 miles west of Paw Paw on Red Arrow Hwy, south on 41st Street—follow the signs! Hours: Early-mid June, Open daily 8am–6pm (weather permitting) Phone: (269) 674-1033 Website: Visit us on Facebook









MICHIGAN STATE

- 4-H Youth Development
- Community
- Food, Nutrition & Health
- Lawn & Garden
- Agriculture
- Business Development
- Family
- Natural Resources

Extension

MSU Extension 801 Hazen St. Paw Paw, MI 49079

Tel: 269-657-8213 Email: msue.vanburen@county.msu.edu

Ask an Expert!

https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert

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Overhiser Orchards



Overhiser Orchards



6405 109th Ave., South Haven, MI 49090 Open 10-5 P.M. DAILY OR BY APPT. (269) 236-6312 Harvest Update (616) 836-3341 Farm

> "Like" and share us on Facebook Over 150 Years in the Fruit Business



SPECIAL EVENT

"In Search of the Great Pumpkin" 3rd Saturday in October at 3 P.M. Great Fun! U-Pick Pumpkins! Prizes!

U-Pick • We Pick • Animal Barn • Educational Tours • Hay Rides Children's Corn Maze • Fresh Cider • Local Produce • Picnic/Playground Area Weekend Special: Fresh Donuts & Cider Tasting

> POTTING SHED

FLOWERS • VEGGIES HERBS • SUCCULENTS CUSTOM PLANTING GARDEN DECOR

54435 Territorial Rd West Decatur, MI | t 269.436.3013 paulettespottingshed.com Greenhouse Season APR-JUN

Lawrence & Paw Paw Markets JUL-OCT

Fall Mums

24 | vanburencd.org/food-farm-fun

PAW PAW DISTRICT LIBRARY

REA

HOURS

Mon, Tue, Thu: 9am-8pm Wed: noon-8pm Fri and Sat: 9am-5pm Sunday: Closed

609 W. Michigan Ave. Paw Paw, MI 49079 (269) 657-3800 pawpaw.lib.mi.us

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July — Sept Corner of N Gremps and W Michigan Ave Contact: Nadine

pawpawfarmersmarket@frontier.com



Patrick Gordon Produce Safety Technician Phone: 517-331-0093 Email: Patrick.Gordon@MACD.org

Michigan is the only state with a Produce Safety Technician program to provide free, voluntary, confidential, non-regulatory onfarm technical assistance.

- Produce Safety Risk Assessments
- Michigan On-Farm Produce Safety certification with logo use for marketing
- On-Farm Readiness Reviews
- Cost-share funds available
- Free water testing
- Call to schedule a visit today!

BerrienCD.org/produce-safety-fsma



76301 M51 Highway, Decatur, MI 49045 (269) 423-4941 RajzersFarmMarket.com

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South Haven Garden Club's 25th Annual Garden Walk

On Saturday, July 8, 2023, from 10am to 4pm, the South Haven Garden Club will host its 25th Garden Walk. Tickets will be available to purchase online and in-person by mid-May, 2023.

For further information, please contact us at SoHaGardenWalk@gmail.com or check out our website at www.SouthHavenGardenClub.org

www.SouthHavenGardenClub.org

@SouthHavenGardenClub

@sohagardenclub

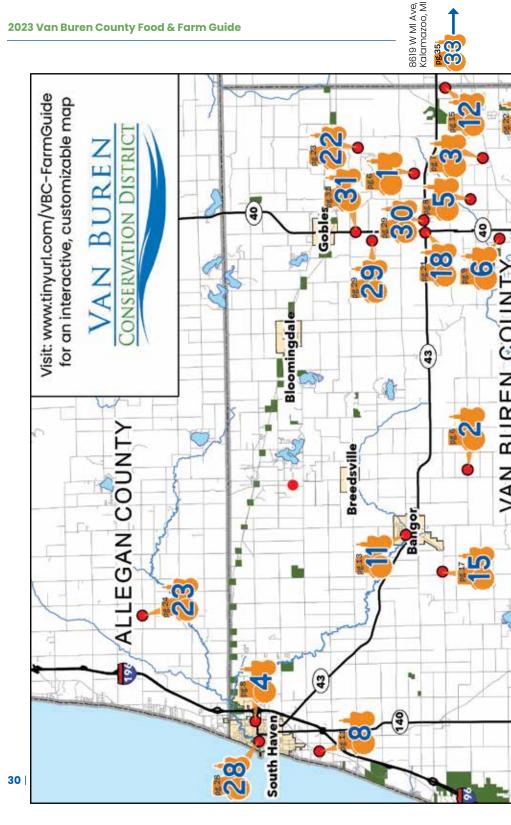


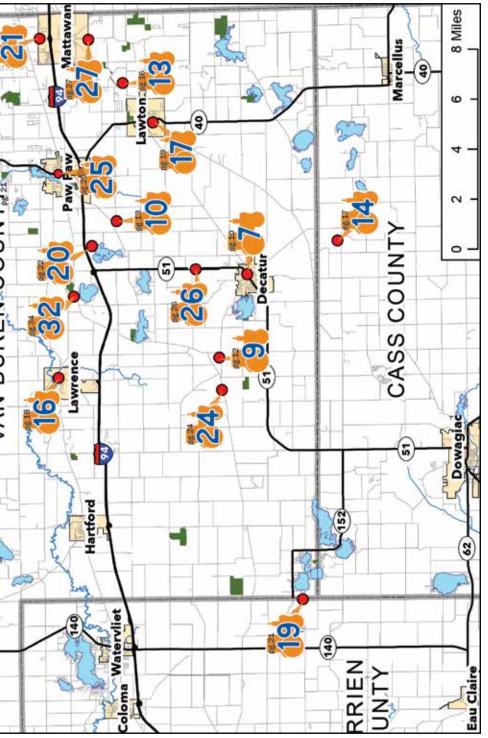
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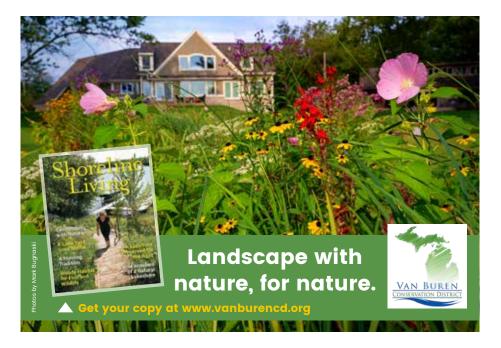
Protecting the health of the Black and Paw Paw River Watersheds through conservation, education, and advocacy



TwoRiversCoalition.org



@TwoRiversCoalition









Ver Hage Fruit Farm Bakery & Cider Mill



Open in May with asparagus and rhubarb, hanging baskets, fancy plants and herbs. Also a full line of bakery items (bread, cookies, coffee cakes, donuts, pies, muffins and danishes). On the self jams, jellies, honeys, pickles. Cheese, eggs, butters in the coolers and market baskets. Also, candy shop, cider mill, apple picking and pumpkin picking and lots of things for the children to do!

Live music every weekend in the fall months (Sept and Oct). Late Nov–Dec we have Santa Saturdays and live pony rides for FREE! Come have cookies with Santa!

Directions to Farm

Coming from Paw Paw on Red Arrow Hwy go East to 4th Street then North on 4th to ML Ave go East for 1/2 mile on the North side of the road.



Keep our lakes & streams clean

Pump your septic every 3 years!



VANBURENCD.ORG

VAN BUREN Consideration Distinct

269.657.4030, ext. 5 | 35

SWXSW CORNER CISMA

WHAT DO WE DO? **INVASIVE SPECIES** Invasive species EVALUATION identification and mapping Abbie Bristol Grant-funded invasivesmgmt@vanburencd.org treatment of 269-633-9058 high priority invasive species Workshops and presentations SW x SW CORNERCISMA HOW YOU CAN HELP! Plant native plants Clean boots, boats, bikes, and ATVs after a day out COMMUNITY Buy firewood where you burn it OUTREACH Never compost or dump invasive Alex Florian

invasivesed@vanburencd.org 269-633-9044

 Throw unused bait in the trash

species

ASSISTING SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN WITH INVASIVE SPECIES

Learn more at vanburencd.org/invasive-species



VAN BUREN **CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

VAN BUREN 1035 E MICHIGAN AVE **PAW PAW, MI 49079**

269-633-9054



MAEAP



Water Quality Projects



Beautification Programs



Workshops and Events



Recycling Program



Invasive Species Guidance



Tree Seedling Sale



Stream Monitoring



Ag & Conservation Practices

YOUR LAND. YOUR WATER. YOUR MICHIGAN.

@VanBurenCD 👩 @VBCDMI 🌐 VanBurenCD.org

269.657.4030, ext. 5 | 37





NEW BATTERY Recycling Drop- off Program



REDUCE HAZARDOUS WASTE IN LANDFILLS

The Van Buren Conservation District & local partners are starting lithium-ion battery recycling near you!

Stop in to our drop-off locations to safely and properly dispose of your batteries.

Questions? Call 269-633-9314 or email resourcerecovery@VanBurenCD.org

* For fire safety, tape the battery ends before transporting them.

Geneva Township Columbia Tow

- Antwerp Sunshine Library
- Bangor Branch Library
- Covert Branch Library
- Hartford Public Library
- Lawrence Branch Library
- Paw Paw Public Library
- South Haven Senior Services Center
- Van Buren Conservation District Office
- Webster Memorial Library (Decatur)



Recycling events are funded in part through Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy grants and in partnership with Van Buren County and local municipalities.



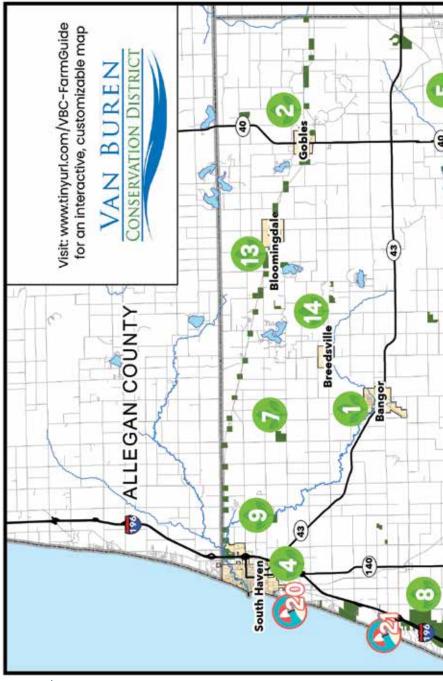
Village of loomingdale

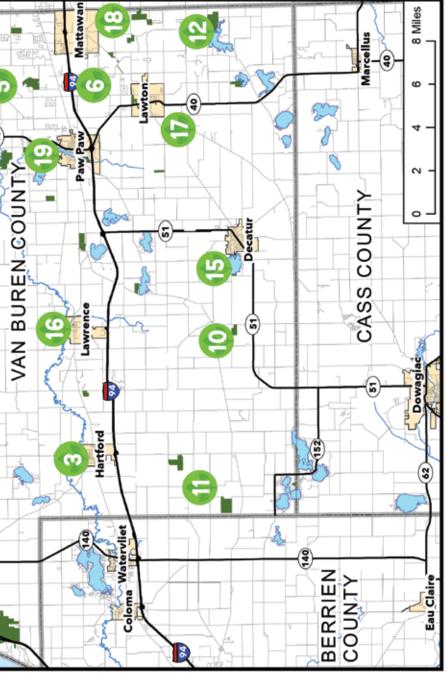
Pine Grow

Township



PUBLIC GREEN SPACES MAP





PUBLIC GREEN SPACES

*Always check for hours of operation and other potential restrictions

Cities

1. Bangor:

Charles Park, Don Mora Ball Park, Kids' Place Park, Kiwanis Park, Lincoln Street Overlook, Lions Park, Monroe Park, North Street Playground, Veteran's Memorial Park, Roadside Park & Boat Launch

2. Gobles:

City of Gobles Park, Gobles Recreational Park

3. Hartford:

Ely Park

Townships

5. Almena:

Almena Township Park, Almena Woods, Portman Nature Preserve (Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy- SWMLC), Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery

6. Antwerp:

Antwerp Township Primitive Park, Paw Paw Prairie Fen Preserve (The Nature Conservancy)

7. Columbia:

Jeptha Lake Fen (SWMLC)

8. Covert:

Barvick's Sand Dune Preserve (Michigan Nature Association - MNA), Covert Township Park, Van Buren State Park, North Point Conservation Area, Ross Coastal Plain Marsh Preserve (Nature Conservancy)

4. South Haven:

Apache Court Outlook, Baer Park, Black River Park, Cable Avenue Tot Lot, Delaware Court Outlook, Dyckman Park, Elkenburg Park, Ellen Avery Park, Hartman Park, Kids' Corner, Lake Court Outlook, Monroe Park, Optimist Tot Lot Park, Packard Park, SHOUT Park, Riverfront Park, South Haven Skate Park, Stanley Johnston Park, Van Buren Street Outlook

9. Geneva:

Black River Preserve (SWMLC)

10. Hamilton:

Phillips Family Memorial Nature Sanctuary (MNA)

11. Keeler:

Keeler State Game Area

12. Porter:

Kinney Waterfowl Production Area, Victory Park

4. South Haven:

Deerlick Creek Park, Pilgrim Haven (SWMLC), South Haven Area Recreation Authority (SHARA) Disc Golf Park

Villages

13. Bloomingdale:

Augustus Haven Park, Bloomingdale Historical Park, Shady Brook Park

14. Breedsville:

Breedsville Park, Breedsville North Park

15. Decatur:

Decatur Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Park, Fire Station Park, Red Woolfe Park, Raider Romp, Southside Skate Park

16. Lawrence:

Lawrence Village Park, North River Park

Trails

Kal-Haven State Trail (Maintenance expected in fall, expect closures) Van Buren State Trail

Water Trails

- No maintenance between sites
- * Parking & publicly owned land
- ^ Road access

Black River Heritage Water Trail

- Roadside Park & Boat Launch (Bangor) *
- Lion's Park (Bangor) *
- CR 687 `^
- CR 384`^
- CR 684 ^
- 71 1/2 St ^
- Blue Star Hwy ^
- Black River Park (South Haven) *

17. Lawton:

Cannon Park, Chancy Lewis Park, Village Conservation Area, Stephayn Sport Complex, Rocket Football Fields

18. Mattawan:

Mattawan Historical Park, Mattawan Skatepark, McGuiness Fountains

19. Paw Paw:

Briggs Dam, Courtyard Park, Harris/Miller Street Park, Hazen Street Park, Kids Paradise/Tyler Field Park, Lake Front Park (Maple Lake Amphitheatre), Maple Island, Sunset Park

Paw Paw River Water Trail

- North Briggs Pond *
- Sunset Park Boat Launch*
- Village of Paw Paw Canoe Launch *
- CR 665 ^
- 40th St`^
- 44th Ave ` ^
- 46th St ` ^
- 48th Ave ` ^
- River Access Point (North
- River Park, Lawrence) *
- 54th St ^
- CR 681 ^
- 59 1/2 St ^
- Hartford River Access *
- 67 1/2 St ^
- County Line Road (70th St) ^

Public Beaches

20. City of South Haven:

Dyckman Street Access, Newcome Beach, North Beach, Oak Street Access, Packard Park & Beach, South Beach, Woodman Beach Access

21. Covert Township:

Covert Township Park, North Point Conservation Area, Van Buren State Park

20. South Haven Charter Township: Deerlick Creek Park

Lake Public Access

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Public Launch map https://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/MRBIS/

Public Hunting Areas

Cornish State Game Area, Keeler State Game Area, Van Buren County Public Hunting Area





Formed in 2022, the Van Buren County Parks & Recreation Commission is working to bring money into the county to expand outdoor enjoyment opportunities. The mission of the Parks & Recreation Commission is to enhance the quality of life in Van Buren County by providing recreational, parks and leisure facilities for its residents and to protect, preserve, and enhance the county's natural resources. Keep an eye out for more from the Commission this year!

LOCAL FESTIVALS

Be mindful that events may be canceled, rescheduled, or have restrictions. Be sure to contact event organizers or check websites or social media for event updates.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Location: Ely Park Hartford, MI 49057 | Date: May 6, 2023

Join us as we celebrate Hispanic cultural and traditional activities like music, crafts, and food vendors as well as on-the-spot services and educational information by local agencies. This event is made possible by the Hartford Hispanic Heritage Committee and the Hartford Lions Club.

Farm History Day

Location: Michigan Flywheelers Museum 06285 68th Street South Haven, MI 49090 | Date: May 12, 2023 | Website: michiganflywheelers.org/links/ | Facebook: @MichiganFlyWheerlersMuseum | Phone: 269-639-2010

Open to area schools, homeschoolers, and the public, Farm History Day is a hands-on educational event where kids (and adults) can learn about the lives of our early settlers who lived on farms. During the day, students can learn how to dip candles, churn butter, and make rope while watching the blacksmith pound iron and see logs cut into lumber. Participants take a selfguided tour which includes a visit to Olde Town which features Old Tyme Jail, Over The Hill Forge and Peaceful Knoll Church. Free admission. Pet-free event.

Hartford Strawberry Festival

Location: Ely Park, Hartford, MI 49057 | Date: June 9-11, 2023 | Website: www.hartfordmichamber.org/strawberryfestival.htm | Facebook: Hartford Strawberry Festival | Phone: 269-621-5303

The Hartford Strawberry Festival takes place the second weekend in June each year in Hartford, Michigan, providing a fun, family-oriented time for all ages. The festival features rides, food vendors, a parade, contests, and more. This is a family friendly event sponsored by local businesses and the Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce.

HarborFest

Location: South Haven, MI 49090 | Dates: June 17-18, 2023 | Website: www.southhavenharborfest.com | Facebook: @SoHaHarborFest | Email: info@southhavenharborfest.com | Phone: 269-767-8402

HarborFest is a celebration of Southwest Michigan's unique maritime history. Enjoy water events including dragon boat races, a craft fair, kid activities and rides, and great music.

South Haven Art Fair

Location: Stanley Johnston Park, 202 Dyckman Avenue, South Haven, MI 49090 | Dates: July 1-2, 2023 | Website: www.southhaven.org | Facebook: South Haven Center for the Arts | Email: info@southhavenarts.org | Phone: 269-637-1041

The South Haven Art Fair, produced by the South Haven Center for the Arts, is a two-day juried festival held one block from the Lake Michigan shore on the first weekend of July. This fine art fair features painting, pastel, drawing, sculpture, photography, glass, wood, clay, jewelry, and wearable art. We look forward to seeing you there.

Lawton Summerfest

Location: Lawton, MI 49065 | Date: July 8, 2023 | Facebook: 2023 Lawton Summerfest | Email: heathershannon@gmail.com | Phone: 269-655-4262

The Lawton Summerfest is an all day event that is fun for all ages! The car and craft shows are held from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The parade begins at 5:00 PM and is followed by the street dance with the Bronk Brothers at 7:00 PM to dusk with fireworks after.

Van Buren County Youth Fair

Location: Van Buren You Fairgrounds, 55670 CR 681 Hartford, MI 49057 | Date: July 17–22, 2023 | Website: www.vanburenyouthfair.com | Facebook: Van Buren Youth Fair | Phone: 269–621–2038

Started more than 150 years ago, the Van Buren County Youth Fair promotes the best the county has to offer through livestock and exhibits of all kinds, whether it be floral, garden, woodworking, or baking. This weeklong event is full of activities for the kids, rides, music, food vendors, and so much more.

National Blueberry Festival

Location: South Haven, MI 49090 | Dates: August 10–13, 2023 | Website: www.blueberryfestival.com | Facebook: The National Blueberry Festival | Email: info@blueberryfestival.com | Phone: 269–767–7159

The National Blueberry Festival is held on the second weekend of August each year, and is one of the country's oldest continuously-running fruit festivals! We're proud of South Haven's tremendous blueberry crop, and the important industry it represents in our area. Van Buren County is the nation's most prolific producer of highbush blueberries, and Michigan as a whole produces upward of 100 million pounds each year. Growers, packers, u-picks, specialty equipment, agritourism, cottage industry and more convene right here in Southwest Michigan, and it's all thanks to the delicious and healthy king of fruits- the almighty blueberry!

Lawrence Ox Roast & Homecoming

Location: Lawrence Village Park, 101–299 N Elizabeth Street, Lawrence, MI 49064 | Dates: September 1–3, 2023 | Website: lawrenceoxroast.com | Facebook: Lawrence Ox Roast | Email: lawrenceoxroast@gmail.com | Phone: 269–569–1405

Held in our picturesque Village Park, Lawrence's signature annual event is fun for the whole family. All weekend there will be various booths to explore, food vendors, Lawrence Lions Club beer tent, the carnival, free kids train ride, petting zoo, and live music performances at the Pavilion. There is a 5K/10K/15K Walk & Run, a local farmers and artisan market, a car show, a basketball tournament, book sale, parades, live bands, and a fireworks display.

All Crafts Fair

Location: Stanley Johnston Park, 202 Dyckman Avenue, South Haven, Ml 49090 | Dates: September 2-3, 2023 | Website: www.southhavenmi.com/ pages/CraftFairs | Facebook: South Haven Chamber of Commerce | Email: cofc@southhavenmi.com | Phone: 269-637-5171

Each Labor Day Weekend the Chamber of Commerce coordinates this two day craft fair that brings over 130 exhibitors to Stanley Johnston Park and more than 15,000 people to the South Haven area. Come to shop the beautiful art, crafts, jewelry, and delicious food!

Antique Engine & Tractor Day

Location: Michigan Flywheelers Museum 06285 68th Street South Haven, MI 49090 | Dates: September 7-10, 2023 | Website: michiganflywheelers.org/ links/ | Facebook: @MichiganFlyWheerlersMuseum | Phone: 269-639-2010

One of the largest shows of its kind in the state, the Antique Engine and Tractor Show features hundreds of old farm machinery, demonstrations, parades, live entertainment, plenty of kids activities and more. All four days are filled with things to see and do for the entire family. You can munch on an ear of buttery sweet corn cooked in an old steam engine, watch tractor pulls, try your hand at the Flywheel Toss or sit down in the Stephenson Barn and listen to musicians play during the Moore's Jam Session. Admission is \$10 with kids 12 and under free with paid admission.

Paw Paw Wine And Harvest Festival

Location: Paw Paw, MI 49079 | Dates: September 8-10, 2023 | Website: www.wineandharvestfestival.com | Facebook: @PawPawWineAndHarvest | Phone: 269-655-1111

The Paw Paw Wine & Harvest Festival has celebrated the grape growing and wine making industry for over 100 years and will be held the weekend after Labor Day. Enjoy three days of activities including the festival parade, the grape stomp. the Grape Lake 5k Run/Walk, many stages of live entertainment, fireworks sponsored by the Paw Paw Downtown Development Authority, the Grape Escape Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show sponsored by Tapper Automotive, and the kayak race around Maple Lake sponsored by Lounsbury Excavating.

Lakeshore Harvest Ride

Location: South Haven to Saugatuck, MI | Date: September 16, 2022 | Website: Ihride.com | Facebook: Friends of the Blue Star Trail | Email: FOTBST@gmail.com

Welcome to the one Michigan bike tour that lets you see, touch, smell and taste the riches of this breathtaking region. The Lakeshore Harvest Ride guides you through the rolling countryside of Southwest Michigan. You can visit wineries, cider mills, family farms, orchards and art studios along the way. And there are individual bike routes for every rider, ranging from 15 to 62 miles in length. Best of all, the Lakeshore Harvest Ride supports the construction of the Blue Star Trail.

Bloomingdale Oktoberfest

Location: Bloomingdale, MI 49026 | Dates: September 22-24, 2023 | Facebook: Bloomingdale Oktoberfest | Email: kimo@bcistaff.com | Phone: 269-521-7301

The Bloomingdale Oktoberfest is a small town festival held annually in Bloomingdale with lots of activities before a fireworks display. A live band plays in the park from noon - 4:00 PM. There are craft booths, a beer tent, food vendors, inflatables for kids, cornhole tournaments, open museums, and more! The fireworks are a must-see and begin at 9:00 PM. On Sunday there is a pancake breakfast hosted by the Bloomingdale Fire Department from 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM with a free will donation.

Bangor Apple Festival

Location: Bangor, MI 49013 | Dates: October 8, 2023 | Facebook: Bangor Apple Festival | Email: holcomb_91@yahoo.com

The Bangor Apple Festival offers a lot for the whole family! This one-day event is filled with kids activities, live bands, the Lions Club car show, arts and crafts (perfect for finding local goods), and the festival committee is adding more activities every year. Be sure to mark your calendars!

Cranberry Harvest Day

Location: DeGrandchamp Farms, 76241 14th Avenue, South Haven, MI 49090 | Dates: TBD October, 2023 | Website: degrandchamps.com | Facebook: @DeGrandchampFarms | Email: info@degrandchampfarms.com | Phone: 269-637-3915

Once a year, DeGrandchamp Farms opens their cranberry fields so that the public can share the beauty of the harvest. Enjoy tractor rides, the sorting line, activities for the kids, and more. Check out the retail market for cranberry products and other DeGrandchamp products!

Ice Breaker Festival

Location: South Haven, MI 49090 | Dates: February 2-4, 2024 | Website: www.southhavenmi.com | Facebook: South Haven Chamber of Commerce | Email: cofc@southhavenmi.com | Phone: 269-637-5171

Held annually on the first weekend of February, it's a time when the quiet winter streets of South Haven HEAT UP with activity and people! West Michigan's predominant and growing winter festival is showcasing dazzling ice sculptures, chili cook-off, cardboard sled races, pub slide, outdoor ice skating, horse drawn wagon rides, s'mores roasting and many more exciting activities throughout downtown South Haven.



MUSEUMS

Lawton Heritage Museum

646 N Nursery St, Lawton, MI 49065 | lawtonheritagemuseum.org

The Lawton Heritage Museum is dedicated to early grape and fruit growing and processing and the home and village life that supports it. Major exhibits include vineyard farm equipment, very early wine and grape processing machinery, local related history displays, home life depictions, interior barn decor, one-room school house setting, village general store, soda shop, barber shop, train station, and memorabilia from various wineries and fruit processors.

Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum

903 S Bailey Ave, South Haven, MI 49090 | libertyhydebailey.org

The Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum & Gardens is located in the birthplace and childhood home of Liberty Hyde Bailey, Jr., America's "Father of Modern Horticulture," and a founder of the "New Agrarian" philosophy. Located in South Haven, Michigan, it is a National Historic Site, garden, park, museum, and educational outreach center.

Michigan Flywheelers Museum

06285 68th St, South Haven, MI 49090 | michiganflywheelers.org

The Michigan Flywheelers Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization of volunteers dedicated to the restoration and preservation of antique gas/steam engines and tractors. Located on close to 80 acres, the museum features displays of old farm machinery, a sawmill and shingle mill along with "Olde Town" – a 1920s era community filled with businesses like Over the Hill blacksmith shop, Abbert & Sons Farm Machinery Repair and Old Tyme Jail.

Michigan Maritime Museum

260 Dyckman Ave, South Haven, MI 49090 | michiganmaritimemuseum.org

From hands-on exhibits on an authentic waterfront campus to historically immersive experiences aboard their on-water fleet, the Michigan Maritime Museum has something for every Great Lakes enthusiast. Five separate buildings offer a variety of engaging opportunities for visitors, including permanent and changing exhibits on Michigan maritime history, a workshop for teaching boat-building and related maritime skills, and a fleet of period and replica vessels available to visitors for on-water experiences. The museum opened their new Maritime Heritage Center building featuring the latest exhibit Full Steam Ahead: The Golden Age of Great Lakes Passenger Steamships. The Museum is now open year-round for education programs, events, activities, and family fun! The Michigan Maritime Museum, connecting freshwater and people-past, present and future.

The Mitten Children's Museum

The Mitten Children's Museum | 246 Broadway Street, South Haven, MI, United States, Michigan | www.forevercuriousmuseum.org

The Mitten Children's Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to sparking a love of learning in kids of all ages. The Mitten Children's Museum inspires curiosity, promotes play-based learning and provides the backdrop for lessons that last a lifetime. We strive to empower the children of all ages, interests and abilities through our wide range of educational, engaging exhibits and activities. Our Michigan-themed exhibits and activities offer hands-on fun and learning opportunities for the whole family. Stop by to explore!

South Haven Center for the Arts

600 Phoenix St, South Haven, MI 49090 | southhavenarts.org

The South Haven Center for the Arts (SHCA) hosts rotating art exhibitions, holds special events, and provides classes to adults and children. Located in South Haven, the SHCA's mission is to enrich our community through the arts. Check out their website to stay updated on current events, exhibits, and classes.

Van Buren Historical Society Museum

58471 Red Arrow Hwy, Hartford, MI 49057 | vanburencountymuseum.org

The Van Buren County Historical Society maintains the historic 1884 County Poor House in Hartford Township and is located near the county fairgrounds on Red Arrow Highway. The Museum consists of three floors and a basement, all filled with historical items. Some of the exhibits include a general store, dentist office, one-room school, housing products, jail cell with local police history, old-fashioned kitchen, and a military room. Located outside is a replica log cabin and a blacksmith shop.

SpringMid-March – Mid – JuneFoodPoop-house Greens, Maple Syrup, Asparagus, Garlic Scapes, Greens, Morels, Peas, Radishes, Ramps, Rhubarb, Scallions, Strawberries, Hydroponic TomatoesJepick Asparagus, StrawberriesImage: Comparison of the strain o

Food

Beans, Beets, Broccoli, Carrots, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic, Greens, Herbs, Lettuce, Kale, Onions, Peppers, New Potatoes, Sweet Corn, Swiss Chard, Summer Squash, Tomatoes, Zucchini, Apricots, Blueberries, Cherries, Peaches, Plums, Raspberries, Watermelon, Cantaloupe, Early Applies, Saskatoons, Paw Paws

U-Pick Asparagus, Blueberries, Cherries, Peaches, Raspberries, Tomatoes, Peppers, Herbs





Fun

Cherry Festivals, Sunflower Festivals, County & Regional Fairs

Autumn

September – November

Food

Beans, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Celery, Kale, Leeks, Onions, Parsnips, Rutabaga, Sweet Potatoes, Potatoes, Turnips, Winter Squash, Pumpkins Apples, Pears, fall Raspberries, Blackberries, Grapes, Plums, Chestnuts, Apple Cider, Donuts, Kettle Corn, Caramel Apples

U-Pick Apples, Pumpkins, Gourds, Fall Raspberries, Pears



Fun

Apple Picking. Fall Harvest Festivals, Grape Harvest, Corn Mazes, Cider Mills, Hayrides, Pumpkin Carving

Winter



December – Mid-March

Food

Hoop-house Greens, Beets, Carrots, Potatoes, Winter Squash, Apples, Holiday Pies & Baked Goods, Jarred Goods





Fun

Choose & Cut Christmas Trees, Christmas Wreaths, Garland, Holiday Events with Santa & Reindeer, Horse-drawn Sleigh Rides, Holiday Wine Dinners, Cooking Classes, Live Nativity Events

QUICK PRODUCT SEARCH

Products are subject to availability and favorable weather conditions. New products and crops frequently come available so check with business to see if they are doing anything new.

U-Pick/U-Cuts

29th Street Farm Stand (pg 6) Apple-A-Day Farms, LLC (pg 6) Berry Brothers (pg 8) Brookside Farms (pg 9) DeGrandchamp Farms (pg 11) Hunts Hillside, LLC (pg 16) Joe's Blues (pg 17) Mandigo Farms, Inc (pg 22) Overhiser Orchards (pg 24) Schultz Fruitridge Farms (pg 27) VerHage Fruit Farm Bakery & Cider Mill (pg 35)

Wahmhoff Farms Nursery (pg 33)

Fruit

Apples

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VerHage Fruit Farm Bakery & Cider Mill (pg 35)

Apricot

Barden's Farm Market (pg 8) Lawrence Farmers Market (pg 18) South Haven Farmers Market (pg 28)

Blackberries

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Blueberries

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Rajzer Farm Market (pg 26) Schultz Fruitridge Farms (pg 27) South Haven Farmers Market (pg 28) VerHage Fruit Farm Bakery & Cider Mill (pg 35)

Cantaloupes

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Cherries

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Cranberries

Barden's Farm Market (pg 8) DeGrandchamp Farms (pg 11) South Haven Farmers Market (pg 28)

Currants

Thunderfoot Farms (pg 29)

Elderberries

Thunderfoot Farms (pg 29)

Grapes

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Melons

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Nectarines

Barden's Farm Market (pg 8) Lawrence Farmers Market (pg 18) Mattawan Farmers Market (pg 22) Overhiser Orchards (pg 24)

Peaches

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Pears

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Plums

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Raspberries

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Strawberries

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Watermelons

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Vegetables

Asparagus

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Beans

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Beets

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Broccoli

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Cabbage

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Carrots

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Cauliflower

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Celery

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Collard Greens

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Cucumbers

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Eggplants

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Flint/Calico Corn

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Garlic

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Gourds

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Kale

29th Street Farm Stand (pg 6)

Mushrooms

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Okra

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Onions

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Thunderfoot Farms (pg 29)

Peppers

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Potatoes

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Pumpkins

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Radishes

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Rhubarb

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Spinach

Barden's Farm Market (pg 8) Oak Ridge Farm (pg 23)

Squash

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Sweet Corn

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Swiss Chard

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Tomatoes

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Herbs

Dried Herbs

Thunderfoot Farms (pg 29)

Fresh Herbs

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Teas

Thunderfoot Farms (pg 29)

Dairy/Eggs

Cheese Barden's Farm Market (pg 8) South Haven Farmers Market (pg 28) VerHage Fruit Farm Bakery & Cider Mill (pg 35)

Eggs

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Ice Cream

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Milk

Barden's Farm Market (pg 8)

Yogurt

Barden's Farm Market (pg 8)

Meat

Beef (Grain Fed)

Barden's Farm Market (pg 8) Jerz Angus Farms (pg 17) South Haven Farmers Market (pg 28) Stanton Farms (pg 29)

Beef (Grass-Fed)

Barden's Farm Market (pg 8) Egly Grass-fed Beef (pg 13) South Haven Farmers Market (pg 28) Stanton Farms (pg 29)

Fish

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Goat

Thunderfoot Farms (pg 29)

Lamb

Thunderfoot Farms (pg 29)

Pork

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Poultry

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Rabbit

Thunderfoot Farms (pg 29)

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