

# THE CITY OF BUCHANAN



## CITY MANAGER

"The City of Buchanan, Michigan is seeking a quality leader who will serve our community with distinction. We offer our next City Manager an excellent opportunity to move our community forward. Located in picturesque Southwest Michigan, Buchanan is an easy drive to Chicago and the University of Notre Dame. If you prefer the waterfront, Lake Michigan is so close you can hear the waves."

Mark Weedon, Mayor of the City of Buchanan



# CITY OF BUCHANAN, MICHIGAN



**FULL-TIME STAFF**

**31**



**POPULATION**

**4,300**



**TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET**

**\$8,026,198**



**SALARY**

**\$110,000 - \$125,000**

Buchanan is a community of neighbors continuing the diligence and cooperation that helped pioneer the area in the mid-1800's to build rich recreational, educational and religious opportunities while promoting the growth of businesses and community services.

Find out more at [cityofbuchanan.com](http://cityofbuchanan.com)





# WELCOME TO BUCHANAN

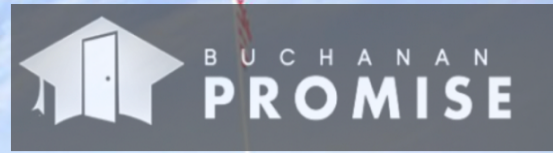
The City of Buchanan, Michigan (population 4,300) is seeking a talented, proven leader to serve as their next City Manager. The city employs a unified and impressive team of 31 staff members. The five-member City Commission has an excellent professional relationship and fully supports and recognizes the council-manager form of government.

Buchanan is best known as a small bustling community located in scenic Southwestern Michigan. Perfectly located just 13 miles north of the University of Notre Dame, about an hour from downtown Chicago and 12 miles southeast of the highly touted Warren Dunes. The Dunes are located on Lake Michigan and serve as a significant tourism magnet for over 1,000,000 visitors per year.

The City of Buchanan is most proud of their stunning park system. Whether you want to play basketball at Victory Park, walk along the waterfront at McCoy Creek Trail or enjoy the Butterfly Garden at Old City Hall Park, our residents and visitors appreciate our vast green space.

Eat Fresh. Eat Healthy. Eat Local. The Buchanan Farmers' Market is a regional draw. With a May 6, 2023 reopening date, the Market features all the greatness of the Southwest Michigan farm produce. The area is a leader in grape and cherry production. The summer aroma of the Buchanan region is well worth the drive.

If you enjoy culture and the arts, Buchanan is the proud home of the Roti Roti Art Center. Located along West Front Street, the Art Center offers a pottery studio, an art gallery, gift shop and plenty of shows to entertain the entire community.



# HELPING GRADUATES ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS

Together, the Schirmer family's unparalleled generosity will benefit Buchanan high school graduates for decades to come.

**How much is the Promise?**  
**\$3750/year**  
for 4 years.  
A Maximum of  
**\$15,000**

(if enrolled k-12, sliding scale for those enrolled for fewer years)

## How do students qualify?



**ALL students who live in the BCS district...**

**...AND attend and graduate from Buchanan Community Schools**

(at least grades 9-12)



# THE BUCHANAN PROMISE

*"HELPING GRADUATES ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS"*

Generosity is easy to find in Buchanan. Back in 2016, the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation was named the beneficiary of a very generous multi-million-dollar bequest to support a new scholarship program for Buchanan Community Schools.

The Buchanan Promise provides for a \$15,000 college or trades scholarship to those students who attend a minimum of 9th-12th grade at Buchanan Public Schools. The goals of the Buchanan Promise are to promote post-secondary education, cultivate economic development and create a more vibrant Buchanan community.

The origin of the Buchanan Promise can be traced back to Walter E. Schirmer, Sr. who was President of Clark Equipment, headquartered in Buchanan, starting in 1963. He was one of the four founders of the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation in 1978, where he established two permanent funds, the Walter E. Schirmer Memorial Scholarship, and the Walter E. Schirmer Fund for the Buchanan Library. He had a deep love for the community, rooted in traditional values.

His legacy carried on with his son Walt, Jr. (Wally) as he was known. He started his own fund in 1994 with the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation. In October 2015, he began to formulate the plans for today's Buchanan Promise.

# THE OLYMPICS OF MOTORCROSS

## ALL EYES ON BUCHANAN

The City of Buchanan was the proud host of the annual Motorcross Des Nations, also known as the Olympics of Motorcross. This marks the fifth time that the United States has hosted the event and the second time it has been contested in Buchanan. The event is hosted at RedBud MX and in 2022 welcomed over 300 racers from 34 nations around the world. Over 100,000 visitors flocked to Buchanan to enjoy the sights and sounds of action-packed racing.

The RedBud MX has been a staple in Buchanan since 1972. The track offers outstanding motocross and is home to LaRocco's Leap. LaRocco's Leap, constructed in 1991, is the longest jump in the MX circuit stretching 120 feet.

Buchanan is proud to be the home of the RedBud MX and plays an important role in the success of the roar of the crowd!



# THE RIGHT FIT FOR BUCHANAN

The Buchanan City Commission recognizes the importance of education and municipal experience. In addition to both, the City is focused on finding "the right fit" for our welcoming community.

The ideal candidate will bring the following personal characteristics:

- Bring an easy-going personality that will remain calm while facing challenges.
- Listen first, answer second. Be a proven listener who will make Buchanan their "home."
- The City Commission is willing to consider candidates who have yet to serve as a City Manager.
- Bring ethical leadership to the community with an open mind. Don't be afraid to admit your mistakes. Build trust at all times.
- The City Commission seeks a proven community builder. Be involved in the community, get to know our city and build relationships with the community through collaboration among all stakeholders, not just those in Buchanan.
- Be visionary. Be able to consider long-term, big picture needs without losing sight of the details.
- Bring a strong record of financial management. City Managers must understand the "wants" from the "needs."
- Bring innovative ideas to the City Commission that will continue to move our city forward.
- Be a compassionate leader. As the saying goes, show them that you care, before you show them what you know.
- Bring inclusive, strong communication skills with a mindset to unite rather than divide.

# APPLICATION PROCESS



**DEADLINE TO APPLY: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024**

To join the City of Buchanan team, please submit a cover letter, resume and five professional references to Frank L. Walsh, Walsh Municipal Services, LLC. Applications will be received at [walshmuni@gmail.com](mailto:walshmuni@gmail.com). Please indicate in your cover letter whether you are requesting confidentiality as allowed under the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

**The City of Buchanan is a proud Equal Opportunity Employer.**

