VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

NEWS RELEASE

BETTER HIGHWAYS: SAVE LIVES, SAVE TIME, SAVE MONEY

Lawrence, Michigan 2011 #02

DATE: January 12, 2011

RELEASE: Immediately

CONTACT: Lawrence B. Hummel, P.E.
Engineer-Manager
Van Buren County Road Commission
Post Office Box 156
Lawrence, Michigan 49064
PHONE: (269) 674-8011

Trail Fee No Longer Required to Access the Kal-Haven and Van Buren Trails

THE ROAD COMMISSION WANTS YOU TO KNOW . . .

Effective December 1, 2010 the State of Michigan will be partially funding maintenance of the Kal-Haven and Van Buren Trails and, therefore, Van Buren County will no longer be requiring users to pay a user fee to access the trail systems. Approximately six years ago the County entered into a Lease Agreement with the State for the purpose of maintaining, operating, improving and developing the trailway facility. The current lease does not expire for approximately 20 years. Van Buren County will continue to operate and maintain the trails together with the Van Buren County Road Commission.

"We would like to thank everyone for their support of both the Kal-Haven and Van Buren Trails with their purchases of trail passes through the years. However, the trail systems still need your support because the amount of State funding to be made available to operate and maintain the Kal-Haven and Van Buren Trails is still uncertain," said Jeff Mitchell, Special Operations Officer at the Van Buren County Road Commission.

If trail users would like to make a tax-exempt donation to support the Kal-Haven Trail, Mitchell strongly urges that you consider the "Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail". The Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1984. The Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail have provided assistance in financing projects such as the picnic pavilion at the South Haven trailhead, replacement of water wells along the trail, paving the parking lot at 10th Street at the Kalamazoo trailhead, sponsoring events such as "Boo on Your Bike" and the "Trail Blazer" bike ride, as well as other construction, maintenance and repair operations.

Donations can be brought or mailed to the Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail in care of the Van Buren County Road Commission, 325 West James Street, Post Office Box 156, Lawrence, Michigan 49064. For other questions and requests for information call 269-674-8011, or via email at vbcrcmitchell@comcast.net

VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION