

Van Buren home town to host burgemeester of Buren

By EMILIA TEASDALE

KINDERHOOK—The Village of Kinderhook will be hosting a visit from the mayor of a Town of Buren in the Netherlands next month. Buren is now a "sister city" of the village. The Village Board talked a little about the visit at their regular meeting on June 13.

"It should be interesting," said Mayor Jim Dunham. He said the village is planning several dinners while Buren Mayor Jan de Boer is in area. There will also be a dedication of a "friendship" tree at the grave site of President Martin Van Buren in the Dutch Reformed Church Cemetery on Albany Avenue. At the meeting the board approved planting the oak tree at the site.

The board has been discussing this sister city relationship for several months with village Economic Development Director Renee Shur. According to press release from Ms. Shur, the Village of Kinderhook con-

tacted the town of Buren in the Netherlands about the possibility of establishing the relationship. "Buren is the ancestral home of native son and eighth president of the U.S., Martin Van Buren," the release reads. President Van Buren was born

'It should be interesting.'

Mayor Jim Dunham
Village of
Kinderhook

in Kinderhook and lived at Lindenwald, now a National Park Service Historic site.

That municipalities' relationship was formalized with a memorandum of understanding that was signed by Mayor Dunham and Mayor de Boer.

The mayor, or burgemeester, of Buren, and Buren's event planner, Mark Hofman, will be

visiting the village from July 30 to August 4. According to the press release, Burgemeester de Boer currently is writing a biography of Cornelis Maessen (born c. 1648), the 3rd great grandfather of Martin Van Buren and native of Buren, who settled in New Netherland. While visiting, Burgemeester de Boer will be assisted with his research by village historian Ruth Piwonka.

Ms. Shur is also inviting local organizations and particularly youth organizations that may have an interest in reaching out to establish cultural, social, or educational exchanges with the town of Buren to contact her at rsur@villageofkinderhook.org.

Also at the meeting:

- Mayor Dunham mentioned the issue with speeding on Rothermel Lane, especially during the Little League season. Trustee Rich Phillips said, "I'd like to see us put up some portable speed bumps." Mr. Phillips said the speed bumps could be removed once the sports season is over and maybe moved to another street in the village where speeding is an issue. Other board members agreed that the speed bumps might help. The board plans to look at costs

- The village received a NYSEDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) grant to put in an electric car charging



SISTER CITY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the

VILLAGE OF KINDERHOOK, USA


And the

TOWN OF BUREN, THE NETHERLANDS


In accordance with the authorization and approval expressed by the Village of Kinderhook, USA, and the Town of Buren, the Netherlands, it is declared that a Sister City Memorandum of Understanding between the two towns is hereby established for the following purposes:

- Encourage friendship, cooperation, and mutual understanding among the citizens of Kinderhook and the citizens of Buren.
- Explore and learn about each other's cultures and foster exchanges between the Village of Kinderhook and the Town of Buren concerning the communities' shared history.
- Promote international goodwill through the exchange of people, ideas, and information in a variety of social, cultural, and educational endeavors, focusing in particular on our youth.

This Sister City Memorandum of Understanding shall be officially established and shall become effective once the document has been duly executed by the Mayor of the Village of Kinderhook, USA, and the Mayor of the Town of Buren, the Netherlands.


James Dunham, Mayor
Village of Kinderhook, USA

February 24, 2018
Date


Jan de Boer, Mayor
Town of Buren, the Netherlands

20 maart 2018
Date

Image contributed

The memorandum of understanding that was signed by the Village of Kinderhook Mayor Dunham and Mayor of Buren in the Netherlands.

village Climate Smart Communities Task Force told the board at the meeting the committee is looking at estimates and screening designs

• Trustee Dale Leiser said that water shut-off letters will be going out to property own-

ers who have not paid overdue water bills.

The next Village Board meeting will be Wednesday, July 11 at 7:30 p.m.

To contact reporter Emilia Teasdale email eteasdale@columbiatribune.com

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