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press release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ADDS TWO DIRECTORS TO BOARD**

**Van Buren Township, MI (February 17, 2015)** – The Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is pleased to announce that two new members have been added to its volunteer board. Chris Brown and Helen Foster were recently sworn in by Township Clerk Leon Wright.



**CHRIS BROWN  
DIRECTOR**

Mr. Brown is the president and CEO of Verdeterre Contracting, which is headquartered in Van Buren Township. Verdeterre is a full service site development company that also offers site utility installation and trenchless pipe installation. Mr. Brown's experience in infrastructure development will be a valuable asset to the DDA's realization of its master planned district.



**HELEN FOSTER  
DIRECTOR**

Ms. Helen Foster brings extensive public service experience to the DDA board. As a 30-year veteran of public service at both the local and regional level, Ms. Foster will add a wealth of knowledge regarding social well-being to the board.

The two new board members will be working to develop continued improvements to the DDA's district. Last year, the board initiated upgrades to Belleville Road, Van Buren Township's "Main Street," that were done in an effort to make the area more pedestrian-friendly. Major road improvements, such as modern, single-arm traffic signals, benches, custom light posts with seasonal banners, sidewalks and additional enhancements, have helped to create a vibrant and welcoming shopping, dining and entertainment district for the area.

One of the goals of the DDA is to attract global business to Van Buren Township in order to further develop the growing district. That initiative is possible due to the Township's location at the epicenter of VantagePort – the Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corporation.

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VantagePort can grant real and personal property abatements to any “eligible next Michigan business.” Select Tax Free Zones, labor assistance, tax increment financing and relocation assistance services are also available to companies who establish operations in Van Buren Township.

“We’re extremely excited to be taking these next steps toward even greater economic expansion,” said Lisa Lothringer, Assistant Executive Director of the Van Buren Township DDA, “We have a lot of projects planned to bring businesses in contact with Van Buren Township and everything it has to offer.”

The initiative to attract more business not only anticipates the continued economic growth of the area, but also the achievement of the DDA’s master-planned district community. Its vision for expanded green space, public community amenities and improved local infrastructure is possible with the help of this new initiative and VantagePort combined. “We want Van Buren Township to continue being a family and business friendly community. Our goal is to bring jobs to the area while continuing to keep this a wonderful place to live,” said Susan Ireland, the DDA’s Executive Director.

To learn more about the Van Buren Township DDA, the board welcomes you to connect with them on Facebook or to visit their website at [vanburendda.com](http://vanburendda.com).

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