



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

VBt planners OK final site plan for Ashley Capital

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Ashley Capital received final site plan approval for construction of Crossroads Distribution Center North 11, LLC at the Jan. 10 meeting of the Van Buren Township Planning Commission.

The distribution center consists of one building with a ground area of about 630,417 square feet of space and site improvements, along with grading and earthwork on property surrounding the building site.

The total affected area is about 175 acres and it is zoned M-T – Industrial Transportation District.

The site is on the south side of Van Born Road, west of Haggerty Road, at 6110 Haggerty Road.

Dan Power, director of planning and economic development, said the public hearing on the project was held in September 2023 and the township board gave land use approval on Oct. 17.

The end of the Bell Creek Drain is on the property and the township board recently authorized abandonment of that drain.

He noted the Haggerty Road project, next to this project, has begun.

Vidya Krihnan, township planning consultant from McKenna Associates, said the parcels have been combined, as required, and the setback variance approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals in November.

She said the sidewalks will not be placed along the roadway where no one will be walking, but there will be full sidewalk connections so employees can go for walks.

She said the tenant needs only 75 parking spaces and the builder will install EV as required by the employees. She said the EV spaces will be set up for future installation and can be easily installed.

Krishnan said a state conservation
(continued on page 13)



Independent photo by James Otzman

Haggerty Road reconstruction in Van Buren Township has begun. Last week, this view looking south on Haggerty shows southbound travel closed. Also, at far left, the party store at that corner is being demolished. The first part of the Haggerty construction is the new 16" township water main along the west side of the road to replace the 12" line.

District Library Board gives Director Suchy 3.5% salary hike

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The director of the Belleville Area District Library got praise all around at the board's regular meeting on Jan. 9 -- as well as a 3.5% salary hike.

Linda Priest, chairperson of the personnel committee, reported on the high marks on the annual director evaluation forms filled out by board members. Priest said the comments were anonymous and Director Mary Jo Suchy got outstanding comments in all categories.



Suchy

Director Suchy had submitted her goals for the coming year to the committee and Priest reported Suchy planned to upgrade the website, policy revisions, increasing outreach of services, enhanced communications with the teens, and online

presence.

The committee proposed a 3.5% salary increase.

Treasurer Tanya Stoudemire, a member of the committee, explained that 3.1% is the current rate of inflation and with Suchy's raise, it is still under the budget for the last fiscal year.

Her salary went from the present \$95,804 to the new \$99,158.

Board member John Juriga commented that the salary is less than the principal of a school gets.

It was pointed out that studies of libraries show \$100,000 was the average salary for a director's position. The range for this position in the Belleville Area District Library current budget was from \$80,600 to \$99,600.

The board unanimously approved the director's new wage and expressed their enthusiastic support for her work.

Suchy said a committee has been working on a personnel policy, that last

had been changed in 2013. They are consulting with an attorney. Dan Fleming has been appointed chairman of the policy committee.

In other business at the Jan. 9 meeting, the board:

- Unanimously approved the same officers for the 2024 board: Sharon Peters, chairperson; Linda Priest, vice chairman; Tonya Stoudemire, treasurer; and Alma Hughes-Grubbs, secretary;

- Reviewed the annual financial audit prepared by Alan C. Young and Associates for the \$19 million budget as of June 30, 2023. Fund balance was \$5.5 million at the end of that fiscal year. Treasurer Stoudemire noted it is a clean audit. Suchy said it has an unmodified opinion, the highest opinion an auditor can provide. Chairperson Peters pointed out the district will be able to reduce the taxpayer payment on bonds, "to make the load a little lighter for the taxpayers." She added the new library has

(continued on page 11)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Belleville planners recommend ordinance change on boat storage

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After a public hearing on Jan. 11, the Belleville Planning Commission voted unanimously to send a recommendation to the city council for approval of an ordinance change on summer boat storage. The ordinance amendment's first reading was put on the city council's Jan. 16 agenda, with the second reading and vote on adoption on the Feb. 5 agenda.

A proposed request for a variance from the Board of Zoning Appeals for driveway storage of his boat during the summer was broached by Adam Beyer several months ago. Because of the shape of his lot in Victoria Commons he couldn't store the boat behind his house, as required by ordinance.

The proposal of a change to the ordinance to promote the idea of the city as a boating community instead of a variance was considered and the ordinance amendment put together by City Manager Jason Smith, based on ordinances from other lakeside communities in the state.

The public hearing on the ordinance amendment was first to be set in Dec. 14 meeting, but the announcement wasn't properly posted by the administration, so the commission heard comments from several residents on Dec. 14, but were cautioned by chairman Michael Hawkins that the public hearing wasn't until Jan. 11 and their comments weren't on the record until that meeting.

The public hearing on Jan. 11 had a rocky start, since the public hearing was posted by the administration for 7:30 p.m. and the meeting started at 7 p.m., leaving the commission a half hour to use up before it got to the item the people in the audience had come to address.

At 7:30 p.m., chairman Hawkins said, "Do you think we've stalled long enough?" and opened the public hearing.

The city manager introduced the proposed changes and commissioners discussed the proposal before members of the audience were invited to comment.

City Manager Smith said that the ordinance involved seasonal parking in a residential area for trailers and motorized watercraft between April 1 and Oct. 31, 12' from the street and 5' from the sidewalk edge as long as it doesn't block any street signs. He said the city attorney preferred the measurements be left out and so they could do that and say it couldn't encroach.

Chairman Hawkins said he has talked with Victoria Commons residents and they said it would be difficult to meet the 5' measurement.

Smith said they could amend the amendment to say "it does not encroach on street or sidewalk and not block street

signs and traffic."

Commissioner Mike Renaud said he was not sure they could take out the measurements. He said in his neighborhood in Harbour Pointe the city doesn't do anything about cars parking. He said an abandoned car without plates sat for six months without enforcement.

He said he didn't complain because he didn't want to be the bad guy.

Hawkins asked where the 5' came from and Smith said it was Tawas. He had looked at that ordinance. He said they do have longer driveways in that area.

Renaud said at Harbour Pointe there is a boat parked at the end of the driveway at the street.

The public at the public hearing were then invited to speak.

Mary Emerson of Madelon Street asked those present not to take anything she said personally. She said two generations of her family have lived in the city.

"When we moved into Madelon, we were the youngest" and now they are senior citizens.

He said April to the end of October is way too long for the boat parking and the traditional dates are Memorial Day to Labor Day.

She said there was a boat parked across the street from them for two years. She had complained to the city many times without results.

Emerson said her husband Bill moved to Belleville when he was four years old. His sister came to visit and she is a walker. After walking around the city, the sister announced, "The town really looks trashy."

Emerson said, "When nobody enforces the ordinance ... everything goes to hell." She said two cars are on the lawn on Liberty Street and they are not supposed to be parking on the lawn.

She said Belleville is so transient these days and people move in and out and have no connection to the city. She said other people care for their homes, plant flowers, mow the grass.

Emerson said luxuries such as boats cost money, space, insurance, and time. "I don't want to see them parked on driveways," she said. She said this will place more onus on the police department. She said kids already are breaking into cars.

"I still like the city, but I don't like what I see," she said.

Kent Emerson, no relation to Mary Emerson who just spoke, lives in Victoria Commons and at the last meeting had presented packets of pictures he had taken.

Chairman Hawkins said all of the vehicles in the pictures are against ordinances.

"It's been a month, and they are still there... We still have a camper between two homes," Kent Emerson said, noting

now others are asking the homeowners' association if they can park their campers, too.

"What's the plan as far as enforcement?" he asked, adding the camper in the picture had weeds around it.

"Enforcement is not our area," Hawkins said.

"I know. It's the city council," Kent Emerson said.

City Manager Smith said they are shifting things around to make enforcement a city council priority. "It's 1,000% on the radar," he said.

The third person to speak at the public hearing was Adam Beyer of Victoria Commons who started the whole boat parking issue.

He said he agreed with some of the stuff said and he promised Mary Emerson that he will never take offense to her words. He said his boat has a swing tongue, so he will have to swing it around but he can deal with that.

Beyer agreed that recreational vehicles are luxuries and they will be free for all the kids to break into. "Maybe," he said. "It is what it is."

"We live in a boating community, but maybe the time suggested is a little long from April through October," he said.

"How many residents own a boat?" asked Mary Emerson and that information was not available.

Beyer said it's on the city sign.

"If you live on the lake, you should have it in the lake," she said of the boat.

Hawkins closed the public hearing after 25 minutes of discussion.

Mary Emerson asked if she calls in a complaint will anything be done? Smith said it would. She said in the past she had come in and talked to the city manager and police chief and nothing was done.

Smith said a lady called the city on Monday about a couch and mattress in a front yard and on Tuesday it was gone. "It gets addressed since I've been here," he said.

Hawkins said they are getting off the subject. After more discussion the time for the summer boat parking was changed to May 1 to Sept. 15 and the distance from the sidewalk set for at least 1' and 12' from the street. The boat, pontoon or personal watercraft must be trailered and operable.

When they were discussing the dates, City Councilwoman Julie Kissel, who now serves as the council liaison to the commission, said, "I did not want this at all" and thought variances would be the way to go.

But, she said, it could be a big mess, if the variance were granted because a variance stays with the property after the present owner sells the property the new owner

could use the variance in other ways.

Referring to the shorter time limit set, Commissioner Renaud pointed out that Beyer has his boat in storage and he can get it out any time to use it.

In other business at the one-hour-and-20-minute meeting, the commission:

- Reelected Michael Hawkins as chairman and elected Julie Kissel as vice chairman. Former vice chairman Matthew Wagner had resigned;

- Heard Smith report he will be meeting with Elizabeth Renaud and Tammy Dohring of Van Buren Township about ways the city can help with the Iron Belle Trail. He also said they had just finished the parks master plan and will look into the city master plan, which was redone in 2011 and refreshed in 2017;

- Heard Commissioner Becky Hasen ask about the upgrades to Victory Station that were coming and heard Smith say he thinks the city missed a deadline and that is not coming;

- Heard Smith announce that if any residents of the city want to be on the charter committee to let the clerk know. The city needs nine members, he said;

- Discussed the part of the B-2 ordinance that had been removed, but still is part of the ordinance. It was the part about the percentage of service businesses allowed per block. That will be researched. Hawkins said if it's not out, they will have to start the process from the beginning to remove it; and

- Heard Hawkins say he hopes the city manager and police chief will work on ordinance enforcement.

Court Watching

Vivaldy Morel Nganongo-Mbosso, 35, of Ypsilanti, is charged with two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct (weapon used), one count of third-degree CSC (force or coercion), one assault with intent to inflict great bodily harm less than murder/strangulation, one assault with a dangerous weapon, three felony firearms, and one domestic violence. This was on March 1, 2022 in Van Buren Township. Personal bond is \$10,000.

The defendant was present at 34th District Court for his Oct. 25, 2023 probable cause conference. His attorney said he needed the security camera from inside the apartment for evidence. This was a married couple, he said. The prosecutor said that involves phone extraction and the security camera and they may not have all of that soon.

The preliminary exam was set for Dec. 8, 2023 and the victim was to need a French interpreter to testify. The defendant was directed to surrender his passport to Van Buren police. On Nov. 28 the court was advised the post office could not deliver the court papers to the defendant. On Dec. 8, the French interpreter was cancelled. The exam was rescheduled for Jan. 16 and the interpreter rescheduled.

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Local Polar Plunge to help Special Olympics is Feb. 17

This icy weather with below-zero temperatures is a good time to plan for the Wayne County Polar Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics Michigan.

Van Buren Township divers will cut holes in the ice of Belleville Lake and then help the plungers out of the water after their dives.

The Belleville Yacht Club, 831 E. Huron River Dr., is again hosting the event. This year it will be on Saturday, Feb. 17, starting at 10 a.m. with pre-plunge preliminaries and a pre-plunge party. At noon the plunging is scheduled to begin and then the plungers will go back inside and have a post-plunge party until around 2 p.m.

There are complimentary lunches for plungers who raise at least \$100 and tickets for spectators so they can eat lunch, too. The local goal is \$45,000.

More than two dozen Polar Plunges have been scheduled throughout the state in January, February, and March.

The jumpers are helping to raise funds for thousands of special athletes who participate in Special Olympics Michigan, a year-round program offering sports for those with intellectual disabilities. The goal is to help them receive respect as members of their communities.

The Polar Plunge is a Law Enforcement Torch Run event with a goal of raising \$1.5 million statewide this year. Getting the urge to jump in the lake?

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

Snow and ice and below-zero temperatures came to this area last Friday and the cold temperatures will stay for a while. According to the Van Buren Township police dispatch logs for last week there were 13 vehicle accidents on Friday and one on Saturday.

Restrictions on students' electronic devices and clothing went into effect last week in a school district in Genesee County, according to ABC-12 News.

Students enrolled at Flint Community Schools will no longer be able to use a cellphone or wear a hooded shirt on school property, including district buses.

The changes, administrators say, will reduce distractions and enhance safety. The district's board of education approved the policies in December 2023.

Express Tire on Belleville Road closed its doors on Jan. 2 and now the business is an Autolab. Jim Chudzinski and Shelly Brown Chudzinski closed on the sale that day. They had bought the business from Bob Memering in July of 2015.

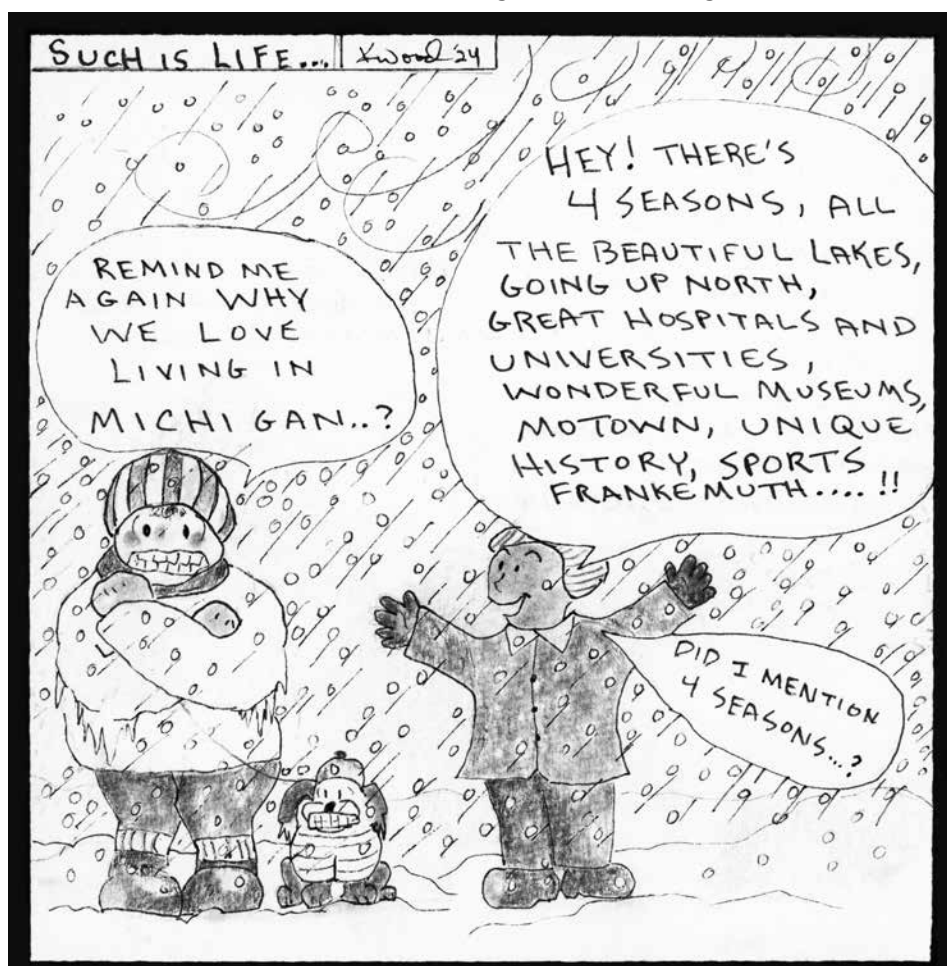
A man was cited by the Michigan State Police in the 34th District Court area on Dec. 7 for holding a mobile phone while operating a commercial motor vehicle/bus.

On Jan. 10, the charge was reduced to distracted driving and he admitted responsibility for that. He was fined \$240.

This report is just to alert our readers that some police are enforcing the law about talking on the phone while driving.

Library Director Mary Jo Suchy told the

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



library board at the Jan. 9 meeting that all the small jars of honey from the bees on the library roof sold out before the holidays.

She also noted that Feb. 29, 2020 was a Leap Year Day and that was the day the library officially moved from the old building to the new building. There was passing of books through the hands of volunteers from the old Fred C. Fischer Library building to the new Belleville Area District Library. The library will celebrate its fourth anniversary of the move on Feb. 29, 2024, another Leap Year Day.

Belleville Area District Library board member John Juriga was 16 minutes late to the library board's Jan. 9 meeting. He explained he had been at a meeting at the Methodist Church, across the street.

He said early on, one of the owners of Blue Sky cannabis shop had said he would like to donate money to the community. Juriga said three weeks earlier Sam visited the food closet at the church and was shown how it really needs money because of the increase of hungry local families it is serving.

Juriga said the food closet director went to the cannabis company and then Juriga did and it turned out she got a check for \$10,000 for the food closet.

But there was some concern that the church leadership might object to them accepting the check because cannabis is still an illegal drug under federal laws.

Jurgia said he explained to the church group that the voters in the city of Belleville approved, on a two-to-one vote, that cannabis can be sold in the city.

After discussion, the church board agreed the food closet could accept the check and buy food for the families in need. Food closet coordinator Marilyn Wood thanks the business in a letter in this week's paper.

Belleville Mayor Ken Voigt said the veterans' banners on light posts in the city are getting beat up by the winter winds, so he expects volunteers will be taking them down this week. They were put up in November. He said those with questions on the veterans' banners may write to: bellevillebanners@gmail.com.

World War II Air Force veteran George Leland was scheduled to celebrate his 99th birthday at noon on Jan. 17 at the Rusty Crow on the Lake restaurant in Belleville, along with members of the Rosie the Riveter group. We couldn't cover that story for this week's paper because of the timing, so we are hoping to have it next week.

Leland, a part of WWII's Greatest Generation, flew 28 combat missions as a B-24 bomber nose gunner, based in Italy during the war.



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Letters

Blue Sky Co. donates \$10,000 to food closet

To the editor:

On Tuesday, Jan. 2, the Emergency Food Closet housed at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., received a \$10,000 donation from Blue Sky Cannabis Company located at 510 Savage Rd. This generous donation will provide food for many Van Buren, Sumpter, and Belleville families.

In 2023, the Emergency Food Closet served 274 families, distributed 3,015 bags of food, and had 196 new clients. 871 more bags were distributed in 2023 than in 2022 which is a 41% increase. The need in our community continues to grow!

Marilyn Wood, Coordinator
Emergency Food Closet

Rotary seeks hygiene kit items for BHS students

To the editor:

High School students and families facing housing insecurity need your support! Join us in providing essential hygiene kits, distributed by caring school counselors. Your donation of new, travel-sized items can make a significant difference:

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Don't miss the chance to give back! Drop off your donations by April 30 at the Belleville Area District Library. Together, we can make a positive impact on our community. Let's lend a helping hand and spread kindness. Thank you for your generosity!

Belleville Rotary Club

Believe in miracles: Thank you, St. Jude

To the editor:

St. Jude Thaddeus was a nephew of Mary and Joseph and a cousin of Jesus. He suffered martyrdom in Persia. After his death, pilgrims visited his grave to

pray, and many experienced his powerful intercession. He is the saint of desperate cases and lost causes. When all else fails, when we are in the most difficult of situations, we turn to St. Jude, helper of the helpless and saint of the impossible with the following prayer seven days in a row.

Oh, Holy St. Jude, apostle and martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition.

(At this point, ask St. Jude for your needed miracle. Be precise.)

In return, I promise to make your name known (publish this prayer or post in a prominent place) and cause you to be invoked. St. Jude, pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen.

P.J., Van Buren Township

Thank you for story on VBT Senior Gift Shop

To the editor:

Thank you for the lovely story that you wrote and published in the *Independent* newspaper. It was very effective in getting the word out about the gift shop. We had many new visitors come to the shop. We all appreciate your efforts.

Thank you,
Debra Hamrick
Van Buren Township Senior Citizen Center
Gift Shop

Help celebrate 110 yrs. of Romulus VFW Post

To the editor:

Help celebrate the Pvt. James D. Donovan/Romulus Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 78's 110th anniversary. You can make a \$10 donation at the post and get an anniversary coin.

If you have any questions, please call the post at (734) 941-3030.

Virginia Silvey, auxiliary secretary
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BHS at-home games

• **Thursday, Jan. 18** – Boys Swim & Dive vs. Fordson HS, 6:30 p.m.

• **Friday, Jan. 19** – Boys Swim & Dive Tiger Invitational – diving only, 5 p.m.; Girls JV Basketball vs. Dearborn HS, 5:30 p.m.; Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Dearborn HS, 7 p.m.

• **Saturday, Jan. 20** – Boys Swim & Dive Tiger Invitational, 10 a.m.

• **Tuesday, Jan. 23** – Boys Freshman Basketball vs. Churchill HS, 4 p.m.; Boys JV Basketball vs. Churchill HS, 5:30 p.m.; Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Churchill, 7 p.m.

• **Wednesday, Jan. 24** – JV & Varsity Wrestling vs. Churchill HS, 5 p.m.

Go Tigers!

Diane Kiessel, BHS Athletics Secretary

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We've endured power outages, equipment failures, printer catastrophes, economic downturns, the COVID pandemic and the changing media environment. Through it all, we have adapted and endured.

The past two weeks have presented some of the most unique and monumental challenges we have faced in many years. Our publisher, and single editorial staff member, suffered a serious injury and is unable to produce even the slightest amount of news copy to fill the local pages.

In addition, a serious weather event shut down electrical power to our production facilities and several crucial pieces of equipment simply died.

Those circumstances, we hope, explain the few pages online this week as we attempt to make decisions and plans for the future. Our publisher will be incapacitated for several weeks which can be a lifetime in the newspaper business.

It is and has been for many, many years, an honor and a privilege of our publications to be entrusted with the publication of legal notices from several communities in the area. Above all else, we plan to honor that trust and publish the vital legal notices this week, although our news coverage is severely lacking in both our usual quality and quantity.

These serious circumstances will impact our plans for the future, but those plans will include, as they have for more than 150 years, our constant commitment to best serve our readership and our communities.

The above text was published on page one of the *Eagle* newspaper's three-page online weekly publication of Jan. 11. The *Eagle* is Sumpter Township's announced "newspaper of record" although it publishes only online.

The "vital legal notices" published on the two inner pages on Jan. 11 had seven from Sumpter Township. The legal notices included notice of a Jan. 25 public hearing for the Zoning Board of Appeals, plus the approved township board meeting minutes for June 13 and 27, 2023; July 11 and 25, 2023; and Aug. 8 and 22, 2023.

Also printed was one auto auction from Brownstown, one Romulus invitation to bid on road repairs, and one Canton request for proposals for paving of golf course paths.

Associated Newspapers includes the *Belleville Enterprise* among the eight publications in its group. Associated Newspapers stopped printing paper editions in May 2020.

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Obituaries



Kenneth Alan Guenther

KENNETH ALAN GUENTHER

(October 24, 1956 – January 7, 2024)

Kenneth Alan Guenther, age 67, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away Sunday, January 7, 2024, at Rose's Tender Home Care, surrounded by family. He was born October 24, 1956, in Ypsilanti, MI, the son of Clyde William and Carol Sue (Waggoner) Guenther.

Ken graduated from Belleville High School, class of 1974. He worked for General Motors Powertrain, at the Willow Run plant for over 34 years before retiring. He was a member of the U.A.W. Local #735. He enjoyed yard work, taking special care of his lawn and flowers. Ken was one of the founding members (#49) of the Yankee Air Museum. He loved to fly and enjoyed volunteering at the Yankee Air Museum often.

Ken is survived by his loving wife of 15 years, Vonda Guenther; 4 grandchildren Kyla, Kayson, Tylor, and Harry; 1 great-grandchild, Liam; a brother Steven Guenther and friend Terri Thornton of Belleville, MI; aunts Margaret Waggoner of Belleville, MI, and Sally Dickens of Alpena, MI; also, numerous cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family hosted a gathering on Saturday, January 13, 2024, followed by a Memorial Service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Pastor Gordon Moore officiated.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Yankee Air Museum and would be appreciated. www.davidcbrownfh.com



Phyllis "Chip" Sanders

PHYLLIS 'CHIP' SANDERS

(May 30, 1944 – January 4, 2024)

Born May 30, 1944 in Punxsutawney, PA, Phyllis "Chip" Sanders, 79, of Belleville, MI, passed away, surrounded by her family, on January 4, 2024. Phyllis was predeceased by her parents Ellen and Orwell Scott Blose, her sister Carol, brother Bill, and her husband Roger. She is survived by her children Debra (Peter) Kendra, Diane (Harry) Doone, Tom (Jill) Test, Brian (Donna) Test; stepsons Todd and Bobby Sanders; 8 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandchild; as well as many nieces, nephews, and siblings!

Phyllis, like her mom, loved to make quilts. She also loved Elvis, butterflies, making special photo albums and baking. She stands in our hearts as a reminder of strength, perseverance, love, and compassion. Though we will mourn her loss, we know we will be reunited in time.



Larry H. Moore

LARRY H. MOORE

(March 14, 1949 – January 8, 2024)

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Larry Moore, a visionary corporate executive and dynamic entrepreneur who left an indelible mark on the media and technology landscape. Mr. Moore, aged 74, passed away on January 8, 2024 surrounded by his loved ones.

Larry was born to Sarah and Louis Larry Moore and then moved to Belleville, Michigan, where he attended high school and met his fabulous wife of 54 years, Nancy (Merecki) Moore. They began their travels together with their two children, Tim Moore and Nikki Raymor, giving the wonderful opportunity to live in Hershey, Pennsylvania; Indialantic, Florida; Fairfield, Ohio; and then eventually returned to Plymouth, Michigan, where they would continue their adventure with friends and family.

During his time as a world traveler, he not only touched the four corners of the globe, but also the hearts and minds of numerous colleagues and students. He was known internationally as a friend and mentor who gave without asking and was always quick with a smile.

With a career spanning over 45 years, Larry Moore was a trailblazer in the media industry, renowned for his entrepreneurial spirit and leadership. In addition to multiple other ventures, he founded, he was most well-known for his passionate development of CText, Inc., a company that would become a pioneer in developing cutting-edge software solutions for the media sector. Larry Moore was not only a seasoned businessman, but also a dedicated community member. He leaves behind a legacy of innovation and leadership that will be remembered for years to come.

In addition to his professional achievements, Mr. Moore was an enthusiastic husband and is survived by his wife Nancy; two children, Tim (Janice) and Nikki Raymor (Bud); his five grandchildren, Brandon, Steven, Ryan, Ellie, and Alex; and his two sisters, Dianne Marsh and Ruth Hook (Robin). Larry's contributions to the media and technology sectors have left an enduring legacy, and he will be fondly remembered by colleagues, friends, and the communities around the world that he touched. May he rest in eternal peace.

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Sumpter holds closed-door session, then votes to move on water main

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After a brief closed-door session during its Jan. 9 regular meeting, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to move to put the Rawsonville Road water line project into full motion.

Trustee Donald LaPorte was absent from the meeting. He had recently announced he would be absent from meetings in January due to medical reasons.

The Rawsonville water line in question was put in the wrong place some 50 years ago and was discovered when Washtenaw County replaced lines along the road last summer. It was left lightly covered in soil and board members worried about winter temperatures freezing the line that brought Sumpter water to Washtenaw County clients.

The Sumpter board had directed its attorney to research the situation in preparation for a potential law suit to find out what went wrong and to get whoever is responsible to pay for the new line, including Wayne County.

At its Nov. 28 meeting, the board approved the \$339,375 bid of Diversified Excavating and Site Utilities for relocation of the Rawsonville water line.

When asked about the water line at the first part of the meeting, before the closed-door session, township attorney Rob Young said there was nothing he could say publicly about the Rawsonville water line, yet.

In other business at the 42-minute workshop/regular meetings, the board:

- Approved the revised cemetery ordinance with two edits. Treasurer Bart Patterson said on Dec. 23 the first burial since 2015 was held in Martinsville Cemetery;
- Approved the reappointment of Joe Jackson to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term to expire Jan. 13, 2027;
- Approved adding a finance report by Finance Director Scott Holtz to the second board meeting each month starting this month;
- Approved a six-month medical leave for fire fighter Don LaPorte, effective Jan. 3;
- Heard Mary Ban thank the police, fire,

and emergency medical technicians who responded to a 911 call when she was visiting a friend and the chair went out from under her and she couldn't get up. She said they called for a lift assist and Richard Sliwa "got me off the floor. There was quick response and I appreciate their work," she said. She also spoke about road work, the decorations at the community center, and the museum that is open after four years absence;

• Heard attorney Young say that the township appreciates Ban and her comments are "good for this community." Young said she and he agree on matters 98.5% of the time;

• Heard Fire Chief Ron Brown report that there were 1,318 runs for last calendar year, which is 200 more than the year before that and the number keeps climbing;

• Heard Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke report his department is looking into attrition and leadership because some staff members are getting older and they will retire. They are looking into IT as a force-multiplier and they want to make sure the technology is there. There are more mobile homes now. He said the fire department's on-call positions are hard to fill, but there is a slight increase in the day shift and he hopes the new fire contract wording will help;

• Heard Water & Sewer Director John Danci report they are trying to reduce

outstanding balances for the township. He said some people haven't been paying, but the township still has to pay its utility bills. "Some balances go on for a long time ... and we don't have staff to shut off service," he said. Danci said for the upcoming budget they are checking services they use for efficiency, checking the meters and upgrading software, and keeping track of what hours are spent where by employees. The department is working at 75% employees and needs to get the fourth person hired. Also, the part-time person needs to be trained. He said the formal public posting of positions needs to be done;

• Heard Township Manager Anthony Burdick said Carleton Farms wants to put in two additional retention ponds on its site and the township is working with its planning consultant Enos on the project. Manager Burdick said Republic needs the township to sign on this. Young said it

would be discussed at the next township meeting. Burdick said Carleton Farms said it will bring back community days, that it used to have, where they had tours, fire department and rescue vehicles on site, and free pumpkins, according to the season; and

• Was informed that Burdick is telemeeting with Wayne County Roads every two weeks to discuss roads significantly in need of attention. Burdick also said they got some bids through Chief Luke for two cameras for \$2,800 for the recycling area where it is.

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Keystone hears *U.S. News & World Report* praising NHA schools

elementary charter schools, nine of the top ten were NHA schools.

Before the meeting started the Keystone Choir filed into the meeting room and sang two songs under the direction of Jessica Gibson – “I Lost My Homework” and “Anthem to Snow.” The students were celebrating the board because January is School Board Appreciation Month.

Keystone Principal Jorvonna Drain presented a package of sweets – three small bundt cakes – and notes of appreciation to

(continued on page 10)

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Keystone

(continued from page 9)

all board members.

In other business at the hour-long, Jan. 11 meeting, the board:

- Heard Principal Drain praise the school's partnership with the Sumpter Township Police Department. Chief Eric Luke requires every Sumpter police officer to walk through our building during their shift, even during the evenings. Their constant presence not only brings comfort and peace of mind, but puts smiles on the students' faces, she said, noting this started at the end of last school year;

- Learned the school was able to raise \$866.66 for Harper Mathis' Toy Drive. The cancer patient used the money to buy toys for children spending the holidays at Mott's Children Hospital. Drain said Harper's mother is an Ann Arbor police officer and Harper is in school;

- Learned Keystone collected 3,607 items for the City of Belleville/Van Buren Township Goodfellows Holiday Assistance Program;

- Was told open enrollment for the 2024-25 school year has started and there are 54 more applications in comparison to last year at this time;

- Heard Principal Drain say with the overall score of 90 out of 100 on a recent survey, the Keystone staff members showed their high evaluations of their jobs. She said the rating gets higher every year, which is a big surprise, and this latest ranking is extremely high. Andrew Roth of NHA said Keystone is a leader in this area and Drain has spoken at two NHA workshops on the subject;

- Was reminded the holiday party for staff is Jan. 12 and food is coming from Qdoba. Gifts, with school promotions on them, have already been distributed;

- Approved school board funds not to exceed \$6,500 to help with the eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. This is the class that as sixth graders missed out on their sixth-grade trip because of COVID. Twenty three students have registered and six parents. This is just half of the 51 students in the eighth grade, but parents declined for various reasons besides money. Teachers will be going, too, and the number has to be at least 40, with a reduced price for empty seats if that is a problem;

- Approved hiring Alan C. Young and Associates as auditor for the upcoming 2023-24 annual fiscal audit;

- Approved reappointment of Charlene Derrick to serve an additional board term. This will now go to the granter of the school's charter, Bay Mills Community College, for consideration;

- Decided not to attend the 2024 National Charter Schools Conference in Boston June 30-July 3; and

- Agreed to schedule a special meeting in late January or early February to interview two candidates in anticipation of retirement of a board member. The replacement has to be an educator and both candidates are educators.

Court Watching

Waste Management

On Jan. 10, Waste Management landfill attorney Sean Powers was at 34th District Court. He arranged a plea deal for fees owed by WM for overweight vehicles, with some charges dismissed as part of the deal.

WM's total for six fines was \$23,409 and Powers asked for two weeks to pay. The charges were filed by the Wayne County Sheriff's department for dates over the past two months.

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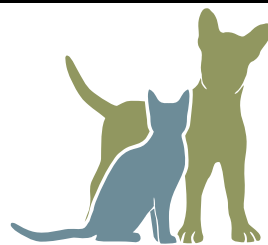
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District Library

(continued from page 1)

been open four years. Suchy said that Leap Year Day on Feb. 29, 2024, is the library's four-year anniversary;

- Learned new art was put on exhibit on Jan. 8. For January through March, the gallery space is featuring photography by Gary Washington. Photography from Cheryl Martin will be featured in the library's display case. The Walker System for hanging art on the walls is working out well, Peters said;

- Heard Suchy report they are tweaking things in the library entryway now that they see how people are using that area. They are getting quotes on a display table and lower chairs and a table for those, including the elderly, who wish to sit down there. The present taller chairs there are not suitable for them, she said. She reported library use on Sundays has risen;

- Discussed how to attract more people to use the Sumpter Media Center. Board member Joy Cichewicz, a Sumpter resident, said she had been talking with a Sumpter man who suggested ways to promote the media center use, including additional signage;

- Reviewed charts prepared by Suchy to show 12 months of use of the Sumpter Media Center for the past three calendar years, including circulation, visits, reference questions, and computer use. Use is slowly rising;

- Learned that at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 7, Maurice Imhoff, historian and president of the Jackson Civil War Muster, will present the history of the 102nd United States Colored Troops, Michigan's Colored Regiment during the Civil War at this library event;

- Was told the library has hired two, part-time monitors, Esther Walker and April Reed, to be on hand when high school classes begin. The library also hired two part-time library assistants, Lisa Sievert and Maria Barbato. Jennifer Richardson is offering workshops on online resources that the library provides to the public and gave a session on how to Tame Your Email;

- Learned the Friends of the Library is holding their annual meeting at 11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 20. Their theme this year is "Thank You for BEEing a Friend," referring to the bee hives on the library roof. Suchy said all the honey from those bees sold out before the holidays;

- Was advised the Classic Movie Series

is starting up this year with an Alfred Hitchcock psychological thriller. "Shadow of a Doubt" (1943), will be shown at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 8, at the library. It is presented by Friends of the Library and the Belleville Area Council for the Arts;

- Heard Priest report she went to the library after school the day before this meeting and she said, "The kids have a lot of energy." She said they are nice, but they have a lot of energy. She said there is a lot for them to do at the library. Peters added that she always see some kids studying; and

- Heard Peters say she has completed a full year as board chairperson with these board members and it has been a pleasure. She said she appreciates the whole body and this library director.

Upcoming Meetings

- Tuesday, Jan. 23 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 3 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop/regular meeting, 6 p.m.

- Wednesday, Jan. 24 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

- Thursday, Jan. 25 – Sumpter Township Zoning Board of Appeals, 6 p.m.

CAV corridor update: Westbound I-94 outside lane closes again in VBT

Starting Jan. 15, Michigan Department of Transportation crews expect to close the outside lane of westbound I-94 from Belleville to Rawsonville roads in Van Buren Township.

Work to equip the left lane of westbound I-94 with digital infrastructure to support the connected and automated vehicles (CAV) corridor pilot started in August and is expected to be completed in May once crews install a high-friction surface treatment along the outside lane.

When this work is complete, the CAV corridor pilot will be fully operational, and Cavnu, the private company developing this project in partnership with MDOT, will begin testing CAVs along the corridor.

During testing, advanced signs will notify drivers that the left lane of westbound I-94 from Belleville to Rawsonville roads is closed to traffic. Testing will only be conducted during off-peak hours.

Outside the testing phases, the left lane will be available to all road users. Drivers who choose to use this lane will not be able to access the Belleville Rest Area or exit at Belleville Road due to the placement of the delineator posts that separate the technology-enabled express lane from the general-purpose lanes on I-94.

More information about the I-94 CAV Corridor pilot is available on MDOT's website.

Court Watching

Amy Christine Chapman of Ann Arbor had a retail fraud-second degree charge against her and a warrant from 34th District Court. She appeared in court Jan. 10 via zoom from the Lenawee County Jail where she is awaiting a federal case. Her attorney Hannah Roberts said her client's plea bargain arrangement arrived in the mail when she was in jail in 2018 and she's been in jail ever since. The defendant pled guilty to stealing something in value from \$200 to \$1,000 on Sept. 28, 2018 in Meijer's. Judge Lisa Martin sentenced her to 60 days time-served and the case was closed.



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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Saturday, Jan. 20** – Join the Friends of the Belleville Area District Library for their annual meeting at 11 a.m. at the library. Their theme this year is “Thank You for Beeing a Friend.”

• **Saturday, Jan. 20** – Chili Cook Off at the Romulus VFW Post 9568, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus, (734) 941-3030. \$5 gets you in the door and buys you a tasting spoon. Any chili purchased after that is \$3 per bowl. The public is welcome to compete and/or come in for the tasting. If you wish to participate, your pot of chili needs to be at the post no later than 4 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. for the trials and voting. All proceeds to the building fund.

• **Friday, Jan. 26** – Taco & Margarita Night, 5-7 p.m., at the Romulus VFW Post 9568, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus, (734) 941-3030. Proceeds support the building fund.

• **Saturday, Feb. 3** – Chicken Dinner from 4-6 p.m. at the Pvt. James D. Donovan/Romulus VFW Post, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus, (734) 941-3030. \$15 for three pieces broasted chicken, potatoes, green beans, cole slaw and rolls. 50/50 raffle. All proceeds to the building fund.

• **Saturday, Feb. 3** – Musical Bingo, 7-9 p.m., at the Romulus VFW Post 78, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus, (734) 941-3030. \$5 for entry includes three games of Bingo and Bingo cards for the games. Additional cards are \$1 each. All proceeds to the building fund.

• **Wednesday, Feb. 7** – “Born Free and Equal: Michigan’s Colored Regiment” at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Maurice Imhoff, president of the Jackson Civil War Muster, presents the history of the 102nd U.S. Colored Troops, formed in Michigan.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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They're reading the Independent everywhere

Dee Crowe of Van Buren Township reads her *Independent* in Montevideo, Uruguay on Jan. 7 near the end of an 18-day Viking ocean cruise. The cruise began in Santiago, Chili, and went south around Cape Horn to Buenos Aeries, Argentina.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

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VBT Plan

(continued from page 1)

easement has been set up on the west side of the property and the setback variance was based on the conservation easement.

There will be 441 trees planted, with 330 going in at the beginning and more than 100 later.

Engineer Paul Kammer gave a lengthy report on the engineering part of the project. He said this is the second engineering review and he had 14 comments. He said after Building 11, there are Buildings 10, 9, and 8 to come.

It will take 30-60 days to get the EGLE water main permit. They will tap into the new sewer on Haggerty Road, now being constructed. They also will need an EGLE permit for its sewer pump/lift station.

OHM, an engineering firm working for Wayne County, said the project meets the standards on drainage. Kammer said this is the county's consultant giving its opinion to the county and the township will need written approval from the county.

The subject of traffic studies was discussed, with everyone agreeing plans for the future should be incorporated into the latest studies showing how the traffic flows will effect Haggerty, Ecorse, and Van Born. But this is not the time for a traffic study, with Haggerty closed down and I-275 under construction they agreed.

Kyle Morton, representing Ashley Capital, said Bell Creek Drain sits in the middle of future Building 10 and the drain will be diverted to another drainage district. He said they will retain more water longer on their site and keep only two pumps going to keep the water going offsite at the same pace as before.

Morton said the tenant has signed for 400,000 square feet of Building 11. The tenant is a global, Danish Logistics Center, with some light assembly with multiple users in it.

Speaking from the audience, James Schuneman of Samantha Ave. wanted to know whether there would be more flooding behind his condo like there was on Aug. 25, which some called a 500-year storm. He wanted to know if Wayne County has done anything in the last 20 years to clean the drain?

Kammer said the township doesn't build infrastructure to handle the big storms and it's the county's responsibility to clean the drains. He said the county looks at the regional impact of drains and looked at the sizes of the drains and was comfortable with

what it saw.

Power said he's tried to make contact with the petitioner for the McClaughrey Drain cleaning. He said the county is aware of improvements needed.

Morton said his group filed the petition for cleaning of the drain in VBT and Romulus and the county is acutely aware of the problems.

After more than an hour of discussion the commission unanimously granted final site plan approval.

Busy Bees Home Day Care

Also, at the Jan. 10 meeting, the commission held a public hearing on Kimberly Younglas' special land use review. She is requesting the change of her existing Day Care, Family Home to a Day Care, Group Home. The special land use requires a public hearing. No one spoke at the one-minute public hearing.

The commission voted to recommend approval to the township board, which will make the final decision.

The commission also approved the preliminary and final site plans for the business at 13657 County Walk Blvd. in a residential area.

Younglas currently operates a family home daycare in her basement with seven children. Dan Power, director of building and economic development, said state law now allows her to convert to a group home daycare with 12 children. After 29 months of operation, the limit rises to 14 children under state policy.

Younglas has a corner, ¼ acre lot, with a large front home. There are 536 detached homes in her neighborhood.

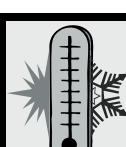
Power said the Country Walk II Homeowners' Association needs to give written approval for use of the property and temporary fencing.

Power said last October the township passed a new ordinance that allows the township to grant special approval to have like homes closer than 1,500 feet apart. Her business at the corner of Country Walk and Salem Court is 960' from another like daycare, according to the way distances are measured for this, Power said.

The township ordinance does not require fencing, but Younglas has planned temporary fencing to keep the children in the yard safely as requested by commission members.

Commissioner Jahr said Power's distance count is wrong because he had measured across the footpath instead of the street so the distance is not an issue.

Jahr said there is no state or VBT requirement for fencing, but if the owner wants it and the homeowners' association agrees, she can have fencing.



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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 246 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, Jan. 7:

0337 – property damage accident, Water’s Edge
0458 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
0744 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1052 – intrusion alarm, Harmony Ln.
1102 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Huron River Dr.
1216 – property damage accident, Martz Rd. / Elwell Rd.
1458 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1533 – harassment call, Landmark
1505 – larceny from auto, Belleville Rd.
1600 – assist other dept., Bemis Rd.
1552 – larceny from auto, Belleville Rd.
1555 – larceny from auto, Belleville Rd.
1722 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1808 – assist other dept., Robson Rd.
1854 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1824 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
2009 – malicious destruction of property, Denton
2158 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.

Monday, Jan. 8:

0100 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
0130 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0721 – warrant arrest, Sumpter Rd./Bemis Rd.
0814 – mental subject, Denton Rd.
1009 – welfare check, N. Woodbury Dr.
1057 – assist other dept., Ecorse Rd.
1142 – abandoned auto, Bak Rd.
1158 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1309 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Beckley Rd.
1406 – animal complaint, Morton Taylor/Ecorse
1414 – trespassing, Van Born
1542 – road hazard, Van Buren St.
1647 – property damage accident, Morton Taylor Rd. / Tyler Rd.
1716 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./Van Born Rd.
1724 – private property/property damage accident, E. Adams
1730 – malicious destruction of property, Parkwood Dr.
1823 – welfare check, Oak Ln.
1830 – fraud, Assembly St.
1837 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Alva Dr.

1851 – larceny, Denton Rd.
1920 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2116 – fight, Wheeler St.
2159 – civil matter, Stonebridge Dr.
2213 – assist other dept., Maple Dr.
2314 – vehicle lockout, Amanda Dr.
xxxx – repossession, W. Archwood Dr.
xxxx – repossession, W. Archwood Dr.

Tuesday, Jan. 9:

0232 – assist other dept., Rawsonville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
0303 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Morton Taylor Rd./Ecorse Rd.
0849 – assist citizen, Ecorse Rd.
0942 – fraud, Parkwood Dr.
1012 – warrant arrest, Parkwood Dr.
1102 – vehicle lockout, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1226 – unattended death, N. Timberview Dr.
1305 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd.
1402 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1323 – fraud, N. Woodbury Green Dr.
1353 – assist other dept., N. Liberty St.
1453 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1647 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1816 – domestic, Lighthouse Dr.
1842 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. I-94 Service Dr./Beck Rd.
1928 – assist other dept., W. I-94/Belleville Rd.
2249 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Victoria

Wednesday, Jan. 10:

0614 – mental subject, Hoeft Rd.
0748 – domestic, Lake Villa Dr.
1141 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Brookside Dr.
1217 – larceny, Lighthouse Dr.
1219 – abandoned auto, Belle Pointe Dr.
1243 – welfare check, Lighthouse Dr.
1331 – animal complaint, Westlake Cir.
xxxx – disorderly, Robson Rd.

1345 – assist fire dept., Kahla Dr.
1403 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Oak Ln.
1427 – civil matter, Holly Ln.
xxxx – issue gun permit, Tyler Rd.
1540 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Lighthouse Dr.
1655 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1753 – domestic, Park Estates Dr.
1853 – family trouble, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1911 – property damage accident, Van Born Rd. / Morton Taylor Rd.
1925 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.
2120 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.
2150 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd.
2302 – domestic, Alden Ave.

Thursday, Jan. 11:

0455 – assist other dept., Tyler Rd.
0514 – mental subject, S. Bellridge Dr.
0746 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1056 – civil matter, Lighthouse Dr.
1148 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1241 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1347 – malicious destruction of property, Van Buren St.
1632 – road hazard, Rawsonville Rd./S. Grove Rd.
xxxx – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1823 – assist fire dept., Bog Rd.
1903 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2300 – warrant arrest, E. I-94/N. Telegraph Rd.

Friday, Jan. 12:

0246 – intrusion alarm, Venetian Ave.
0457 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Adams
xxxx – repossession, Meadows Cir.
0754 – property damage accident, Savage Rd.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Pond Bluff Dr.
0838 – property check, Edison Lake Rd.
0943 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Birch Dr.
1103 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Old Michigan Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.
1151 – property damage accident, W. Huron River Dr./Elwell Rd.
1319 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1357 – civil matter, Lighthouse Dr.
1502 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1544 – property damage accident, Denton Rd. / Michigan Ave.
1550 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1557 – property damage accident, Van Born Rd. / Belleville Rd.
1612 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1616 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1631 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr./Haggerty Rd.
1646 – property damage accident, Morton Taylor
1719 – neighbor trouble, Greenbriar Dr.
1731 – property damage accident, Visteon Way/Ecorse Rd.

1806 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Lake Point Pass\
1827 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Haggerty/I-94
1907 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1920 – assist citizen, Quirk Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
1927 – 911 welfare check, Shelley Dr.
1943 – civil matter, Lighthouse Dr.
2011 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.
2024 – property damage accident, Morton Taylor Rd. / Robson Rd.
2032 – assist fire dept., Haggerty Rd.
2141 – neighbor trouble, Tyler Rd.
2212 – malicious destruction of property, Savage
2138 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Tyler
2154 – property damage accident, Savage Rd. / Martinsville Rd.
xxxx – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2214 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd.
2259 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
Saturday, Jan. 13:
0020 – family trouble, Estate Dr.
0042 – threat, Belleville Rd.
0053 – intrusion alarm, Christina Ln.
0348 – motorist assist, E. Huron River Dr. / Haggerty
0408 – domestic, Belleville Rd.

0610 – domestic, Denton Rd.
0918 – abandoned auto, Lancaster Dr.
0907 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0916 – sexual assault, Lighthouse Dr.
1010 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Arthur St.
1038 – assist fire dept., WB I-94/Belleville Rd.
1115 – intrusion alarm, Harmony Ln.
1135 – civil matter, Ironwood Dr.
1135 – harassment call, Rogers Ave.
1227 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Haggerty Rd.
1416 – warrant arrest, Michigan Ave./Lilley Rd.
1427 – vehicle lockout, Parkwood Dr.
1540 – malicious destruction of property, Andover
1541 – intrusion alarm, Van Born Rd.
1605 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1626 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1639 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1805 – domestic, Arthur St.
1808 – welfare check, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1838 – welfare check, Locust Dr.
1903 – PPO violation, Lighthouse Dr.
1858 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.
2319 – family trouble, Pond Bluff Dr.
2342 – intrusion alarm, Alba Ct.

Also on this week’s log are 80 traffic stops, 27 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 7:

Monday, Jan. 8:

1643 -- harassment call, Belle Villa Blvd.
1920 – warrant arrest, Detroit Detention

Tuesday, Jan. 9:

1353 – disorderly, N. Liberty St.
1607 – property damage accident, E. Wabash
1741 – 911 welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.
1915 – intrusion alarm, Henry St.
2013 – assist citizen, Sumpter/Industrial Pk. Dr.
2049 – abandoned auto, Sumpter Rd./Owen St.

Wednesday, Jan. 10:

1025 – domestic, Belle Villa Blvd.
1401 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1837 – assist fire dept., E. Huron River Dr.

Thursday, Jan. 11:

0251 – assist fire dept., Oxford Ct.
0613 – vehicle lockout, N. Liberty St.
1043 – disorderly, W. Columbia Ave.
1819 – private property/property damage accident, S. Biggs Ave.

Friday, Jan. 12:

1059 – civil matter, Anaheim St.
1135 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr. / Main St.
2248 – family trouble, S. Biggs Ave.

Saturday, Jan. 13:

1104 – harassment call, W. Columbia Ave.
1206 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
1947 – animal complaint, W. Wabash Ave.

There were no traffic stops on this week’s log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 7:

0834 – 911 hang up, 50000 bl. Wear Rd.
1126 – 911 hang up, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1304 – suspicious circumstance, Virginia St.
1552 – assist other agency, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
2056 – 911 hang up, Greenmeadow Dr.
2149 – family trouble, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
2243 – civil matter, Colorado St.

Monday, Jan. 8:

0211 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Sherwood
0238 – suspicious circumstance, Kansas St.
0527 – suspicious circumstance, Washington St.
0658 – misdemeanor warrant arrest, Willis Rd. / Sumpter Rd.
0742 – traffic complaint/hazard, Willow/Haggerty
0926 – civil matter, Wayside Dr.
0943 – death investigation, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0954 – suspicious circumstance, 22000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1013 – juvenile matter, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
1202 – citizen assist, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1322 – welfare check, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.

1404 – suspicious circumstance, 46000 bl. Claxton
1505 – suspicious circumstance, 47000 bl. Bemis
1714 – welfare check, 43000 bl. Wear Rd.
1735 – suspicious vehicle, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
1935 – fire dept. assist, Edgewood Dr.
2052 – 911 hang up, 29000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

Tuesday, Jan. 9:

0051 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
0635 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
0923 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1049 – suspicious person, Texas St.
1117 – juvenile matter, New Mexico St.
1539 – harassment complaint, Colorado St.
1803 – misdemeanor warrant arrest, Edgewood Dr.
1856 – animal complaint, Sumpter Rd./Judd Rd.
1918 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2029 – civil matter, Indiana St.
2147 – alarm, 50000 bl. Wear Rd.
2247 – traffic complaint/hazard, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Clark Rd.
2253 – 911 hang up, Birch Dr.

Wednesday, Jan. 10:

0259 – suspicious circumstance, Texas St.
0656 – suspicious person, 46000 bl. Reed Ave.
0950 – suspicious circumstance, 48000 bl. Sully
1036 – citizen assist, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
1633 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Paris Dr.
1719 – suspicious circumstance, Mulberry Dr. / Martinsville Rd.
1851 – 911 hang up, W. Arizona St./California St.
2056 – disorderly person, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.

Thursday, Jan. 11:

0144 – family trouble, Oregon St.
0430 – animal complaint, 39000 bl. Judd Rd.
0532 – assist other agency, Timberlane Dr.
0635 – fire dept. assist, Hampshire Dr.
0735 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1037 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1102 – alarm, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
1307 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.
1316 – 911 hang up, Willow Rd./Elwell Rd.
1405 – welfare check, Birch Dr.
1411 – suspicious person, Willow Rd./Karr Rd.
1451 – operating while intoxicated, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1654 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Judd Rd.

1714 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Wear Rd.
1736 – property damage accident, Carleton West Rd. / Willow Rd.
1817 – alarm, Arizona St.
2250 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Willis Ct./Martinsville Rd.
2328 – alarm, Utah Ct.

Friday, Jan. 12:

0316 – fire dept. assist, Wear Rd./Sumpter Rd.
0811 – 911 hang up, Wayside Dr.
0901 – alarm, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1033 – citizen assist, Arizona St.
1100 – fraud complaint, 20000 bl. Clark Rd.
1109 – suspicious person, Arizona St.
1134 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Wear Rd.
1210 – assist other agency, 21000 bl. Karr Rd.
1448 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1633 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Arkona Rd.
1657 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1704 – larceny complaint, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
1755 – traffic complaint/hazard, Willow Rd./Elwell Rd.

1843 – traffic complaint/hazard, Rawsonville Rd. / Willis Rd.

1850 – alarm, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2108 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Lohr Rd.
2137 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Carleton West
2156 – 911 hang up, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.
2200 – traffic complaint/hazard, Willow/Sumpter

Saturday, Jan. 13:

0420 – traffic complaint/hazard, 41000 bl. Judd
0801 – alarm, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
0805 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
0913 – traffic complaint/hazard, Carriage Ln.
0953 – alarm, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1022 – fire dept. assist, Judd Rd./Martinsville Rd.
1027 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1149 – death investigation, Rustic Ln.
1216 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1523 – shot fired, Martinsville Rd./Willis Rd.
1703 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1815 – animal complaint, Willow Rd./Sherwood
1821 – suspicious circumstance, Colorado St.
2155 – fire dept. assist, Knollwood Dr.

Also on this week’s log are 215 patrol checks, 57 traffic stops, and seven misc. details.

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Blood drive set Feb. 7 at Savage Elem. School to honor Cody Sykes

Cody Sykes, a former Savage Elementary School student who graduated from Belleville High School in 2023, will be honored with a blood drive from 2 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 7 at Savage school's gymnasium.

Cody knows first-hand how important blood donations can be.

After graduation, the former BHS athlete was suddenly diagnosed with an extreme case of ulcerative colitis that put him in the hospital for 40 days. He had four surgeries and needed two blood transfusions, according to his mother Lenore Sykes, who works at Savage school.

She said there are two surgeries in his future with the potential of more blood transfusions.

"Our family is grateful for all those who want to help," Lenore said. "This is a life-saving gift that most can donate, whether it helps Cody or another family in the future."

Savage school is located at 42975 Savage Rd., Van Buren Township. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.



Cody Sykes

Call 866-MIBLOOD or visit www.versiti.org/MI to schedule an appointment.

Court Watching

On Dec. 13 a virtual probable cause conference was held at 34th District Court for Matthew Ryan Durkin of Brighton, who is charged with home invasion-first degree on Nov. 19 in Sumpter Township. His preliminary exam was set with his co-defendant for Jan. 10 adjourned to Jan. 24 for another probable cause conference. Personal bond is \$25,000.

His co-defendant is his brother Paul Nathaniel Durkin, 23, of Pinckney, who is charged with home invasion first degree, assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault), and felony firearm-pneumatic gun in the incident. He was in the Wayne County Jail on \$25,000/10% bond, and

\$6,250 surety bond was posted by Wayne County Bail Bonds.

Paul's preliminary exam had been set for Jan. 10, 2024 previously and the brothers' cases are to be run together. Paul's preliminary exams also were changed to probable cause conferences for Jan. 24.

Paul's court-appointed attorney Luther Glenn asked the judge to reduce the bond to personal bond with a tether. The prosecutor objected saying Paul used a weapon on a break-in and has an extensive criminal history. Judge Lisa Martin denied the request to modify the bond because of his extensive history. Then bond was posted. On Jan. 10, attorney Glenn asked to withdraw from the case and his request was granted.

You are invited to attend:

Thank You for Bee-ing A Friend

(Friends of the Library Annual Meeting)

Saturday, January 20, 2024

11:00 am

Belleville Area District Library

Election of 2024 Officers
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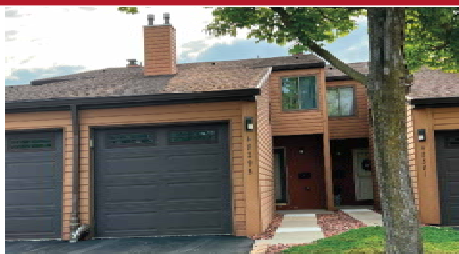
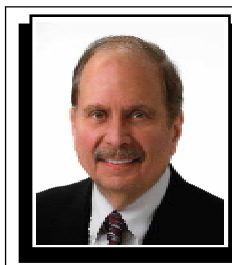
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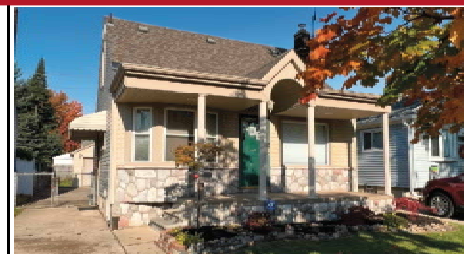
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IMMACULATE First floor condo with 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Some Newer Carpet & Wood flooring, newer refrigerator. Living area, doorwall leading to deck \$159,900



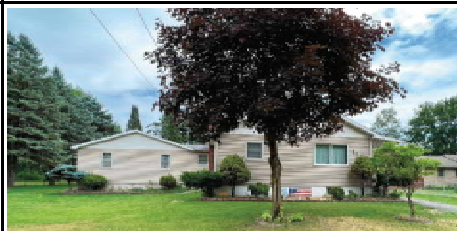
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HAGGERTY 1.5 AC VAN BUREN \$70,000

WILLIS RD 1 AC SEWER & WATER \$60,000

HURON TWP VAC CLARK .74 AC \$40,000

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