



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

County officials explain Denton Road bridge

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Wayne County Director of Public Services Andrew Kandreas, Wayne County Director of Engineering Sami Khaldi, and DPS Deputy Scott Cabauatan were present to address a large audience at Monday's regular Belleville City Council meeting.

The subject was the closed Denton Road Bridge and to make sure people had the correct information on what is going on. At the last city council meeting a resident said he saw a report that said the bridge did not need to be replaced.

Director Kandreas said in October an inspection of the bridge was done. He explained the county hires firms to do the inspections and the firm said that the public cannot be allowed to use the bridge.

He said the inspection showed that underground pilings of wood had eroded and the east abutment was not resting on the support. The west abutment was OK, he said.

Kandreas said they had to close the bridge immediately and come up with a plan.

"I assure you there is a problem and there's nothing we can do right now to open it now," he said, adding engineering is a process and funding is a process and they have to come up with a RFP (request for proposals) for a new bridge.

He said when they saw the bridge, it was like the Grosse Ile bridge that had similar problems. It was an old bridge with wood pilings. He said there is a process to firm up the gap but the other side could still fail because of its age.

He said it would take in excess of \$3 million to repair the gap, but that is expensive to still end up with an old bridge.

(continued on page 3)



Photo courtesy of Van Buren Township

Stopping for a group picture after Bryon Kelley was sworn in as a new trustee on the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees on Jan. 17 are, from left, Jerry Kelley, Diana Kelley, Delphine Klaput, Jennifer Kelley, Grace Kelley, Trustee Kelley, and Clerk Leon Wright who did the swearing-in. In front is Luke Kelley. In back, from left, are Treasurer Sharry Budd, Supervisor Kevin McNamara, and Trustees Don Boynton and Kevin Martin. Absent was Sherry Frazier.

VBT approves \$7 million in capital improvement bonds

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on Jan. 17, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees approved going out for competitive bids for up to \$7 million in a series of tax-exempt, capital improvement bonds on Feb. 2.

The successful low-interest-cost bidder will be approved by the supervisor and treasurer and closing will be Feb. 23 when the funds will be available to help build the new Community Center expansion.

The bonds pledge the full faith and credit of the township for repayment.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara said the bond specifications are written so the township can call the bonds in 2028 and pay them off or refinance them for a better rate. Otherwise, the bonds are scheduled to be paid off on Oct. 1, 2037.

The \$14 million Community Center

project is also using county, DDA, and Civic Fund money for the project.

In other business at the Jan. 17 meeting, the board:

- Approved Supervisor McNamara's recommendation of Bryon Kelley as the new trustee to fill the vacancy left when Reggie Miller was elected state representative. Clerk Leon Wright swore Kelley in and he was seated at the board table;

- Approved McNamara's recommendation to hire Daniel Consulting as a lobbying firm for one year on behalf of the township at a cost of \$4,000 a month -- \$48,000 a year. David Katz said he is in the district of the new speaker of the House, which will help. McNamara said he interviewed four firms and three were Republicans. He said he has no problem with Republicans but there has been a flip in government and the three firms had too many other governments they already represent. He said Katz doesn't have any other governments yet. The cost will be paid 50% by the general fund, and 25% each by the DDA and Water/Sewer fund;
- Approved the request of the Downtown

Development Authority to approve hiring Romulus DDA Director Merrie Coburn as executive director of the Van Buren Township DDA to replace retiring executive director Susan Ireland, who has worked for the township for 39 years.

(continued on page 3)



**The Belleville Area Museum
has been closed by
Van Buren Township for
1,060 days as of today.
No date set for reopening.**



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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Denton Rd. Bridge

(continued from page 1)

“What is the cost of a new bridge?” he asked. “I don’t want to speculate. Any fix is very expensive compared to a new bridge.” He said an underwater fix could be made to the old bridge, but then the western abutment could fail. “That’s a risk nobody wants to take.”

He said the county does a lot of designs, but not bridges. He said the county is very aware of this bridge’s limitations. He said it is not very wide and the city’s “neighbor” [Van Buren Township Supervisor] Kevin McNamara said they need a bike path on there.

Also, the county knows how low the bridge is.

How unsafe is it? He said they have decided it is not safe now for a car to go over.

Kandrevas said a design company will come in, they’ll get an estimated cost of construction, it will be bid out, then they will get the funds to build.

“I hesitated to talk to you,” he said to the council and audience, that included about a dozen Belleville Yacht Club members. “We don’t have firm dates. And to rebuild the bridge is not cheap.”

He said there are concerns about traffic patterns on Belleville Road since the bridge is closed and county engineers are looking at it. He said the police chief wants the county to look at putting in a turn signal.

Mayor Pro Tem Ken Voigt asked when the RFPs are due back and Kandrevas said they haven’t started yet. He said EGLE (the state department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy) has jurisdiction. He said they will give the county concepts for design and they are working with Van Buren Township on what is needed. He said they are also working with the state to see if there’s any grant money for the project.

He said EGLE and MDOT have recommendations on details and there has been a recommendation to raise the bridge.

“We need to know how much to raise it and when you raise it you have to go further out and disturb the water,” he said, noting it is tedious work and it raises the cost.

Kandrevas said the bridge was built in 1924 and in 1948 was constructed the way it is today. The abutment is on top of wooden piles. He said it is inspected every two years and there is an underwater inspection every five to six years. In 2018 they weren’t able to get into the water in November and did it by sonar and there was no problem.

He said last September was the last underwater study and it found the piling was separated from the abutment. He said it was three inches and now it’s gone.

“This is critical,” he said. “We cannot keep it open for traffic.” He said the initial estimate to fix it was \$3 million, then it was \$4.5 million and next year that will rise to \$5 million. He said it will be a potential of \$6 with the walks and with the light necessary, adding everything together, it could be \$8 million.

Councilwoman Kelly Bates asked if people could walk or ride bikes over the closed bridge and engineer Sami Khaldi said when they close a bridge they don’t want the responsibility of having people on the bridge.

Mayor Kerreen Conley asked about a left-turn signal for those coming south over the bridge, where the right turn now is a “right lane to nowhere.” She said the detour doesn’t really work. She also addressed the traffic cones that don’t get the drivers out of the right lane fast enough.

Kandrevas said they are talking to City Manager/Police Chief Robinson about this.

Mayor Conley said as far as the RFPs go, the city would like to have a conversation with the committee on the design and, “We don’t want any surprises.”

“For sure, you’ll be in on that,” Kandrevas said.

When Councilman Tom Fielder asked about comments and suggestions from the public on the design, Kandrevas asked them to be given to the city administration, which can compile them and send them to the county. This would be better than one-by-one suggestions to the county, he said.

Khaldi said the new bridge should last 70 years.

Kandrevas said the county will talk with the city’s police chief and set up a temporary left-turn signal in a way that has an impact.

“It’s an easy ask for you guys,” he said to the council. Councilwoman Bates asked if it will be up in the next couple of weeks and Kandrevas replied, “You’ll have it soon.”

Councilman Jeremiah Beebe said other closed bridges in the community lingered forever and he asked when the city could have some dates on this.

Kandrevas said they can’t give dates yet.

“When should we expect something concrete?” Councilman Beebe persisted.

“We’ll definitely keep you in the loop when we have MDOP or EGLE clearance,” Kandrevas replied.

Engineer Khaldi said it will take one year to design, working with EGLE, and it might take a year and a half, or two seasons, to construct, putting it at 2025 or 2026. He said they are looking at options for grants. There were bridge funding grants, but they ran out because there are so many bridges to repair, he said.

Mayor Conley asked where the Denton Road bridge stands in the county’s priority and Khaldi said, “This is a priority for us. When we close a bridge, it’s a priority.” He

said now they need to find the money.

In discussing a temporary turn signal, Fielder warned that will not make traffic move faster, but actually slow down movement since a left-turn signal will take time to operate.

“You’ll be waiting longer during rush hour,” he said.

Khaldi said ordering will take time. Kandrevas said they have made their point and the county will move fast on a temporary turn signal. The engineer is already talking about it, he said.

There was more discussion on the poor conditions of Beckley and Denton roads for the bridge detour, with Kandrevas promising to look into it.

Also, officials said the bridge was safe to go under now, but contractors may close it to traffic during demolition of the old bridge and construction of the new bridge. It was noted that if contractors have to keep some of the water under the bridge open during construction, that will cost more money.

After more comments from the audience and council, Kandrevas thanked the city for providing the forum.

“When a bridge is not there, it’s a big deal,” he stated.

Later in the meeting, City Manager/Police Chief Robinson said it was not easy getting Kandrevas to the council meeting, but he came and brought two others.

“We have to battle incorrect information,” he said. “We just want to know what’s going on.”

Councilman Beebe said he gave the officials credit for “coming to stand in front of a firing squad.”

Also at Monday’s regular meeting, the council:

- Approved the drug/alcohol policy for the SMART Senior Transportation driver, as required by law, although the senior transportation program has not been in operation for more than six months. Robinson said SMART has not responded to more than 10 email requests for the cost of repairing the city’s SMART bus. He said he got a new contract with SMART but he’s not going to sign it and they’ll have to call the city;

- Approved a Special Event Application for Egan Pub’s annual St. Patrick Day celebration from noon to midnight March 17 in a tent on the Fourth Street Square. He said the guests will be gated in and the DORA drinks from other locations not allowed in because of the special permit;

- Approved a Special Event Application for Egan’s Pub free car show from 6 to 8 p.m. on Main Street every Monday from June 5 to Sept. 25. Main Street will close from 5 to 9 p.m.;

- Approved the mayor’s appointments / reappointment to boards and commissions. Alicia McGovern was reappointed to the Downtown Development Authority with

a term to expire Dec. 31, 2026; James O’Keefe has a new appointment to the planning commission with a term to expire Dec. 31, 2024; and Sara Frey has a new appointment to the Board of Review with a term to expire Dec. 31, 2026;

- Approved accounts payable in the amount of \$154,529.05 and the following departmental purchases in excess of \$500: to Abbey Door, \$2,629.50 for replacement of bay door sections at the fire department after the door was hit; to Blue Ribbon Contracting, \$11,089.50 for water main break repair at 300 W. Columbia Ave.; to Detroit Salt Company, \$2,942.13 for road salt; and to Railroad Management Company, \$610.61 for sewer easement; and

- Heard Robinson say that he expects a presentation from a bus company at the Feb. 20 council meeting. The bus now temporarily stops at the library. He said he told the bus company they need to bring in information, such as insurance and bonding. He said they use grant funding and he has a lot of questions.

VBT Board

(continued from page 1)

Ireland will assist Coburn with DDA details for a smooth transition at a cost of \$100 an hour for a year. McNamara said the DDA subcommittee interviewed four candidates for the position and McNamara said he called Coburn’s bosses and was told she is a very excellent person;

- Approved first reading of Ordinance 01-17-23(1) to increase planning commission flexibility in decisions regarding garage door orientation and minimum building separation in residential projects;

- Approved the special-land-use request for Integrity Component and Design fabricating and warehouse building and outdoor storage at 5925 Beck Rd., south of the Mans Lumber store in Canton Township. The business, which is part of Mans, will manufacture trusses and wall panels and store materials outside in a fenced area. Truck traffic will be directed north on Beck Road to Michigan Avenue;

- Approved the special-land-use request for Brookwood Senior Housing on the north side of Tyler Road east of Morton Taylor Road. Planned are 132 units, which will be in 35 buildings of attached 2, 4, and 6-plex units. Tenants will have long-term leases and be age 55 and older. Maintenance will be provided inside and outside. Services will be provided as needed, such as memory care, housekeeping, and food delivery, on an ala carte basis. McNamara asked if there will be transportation to the senior center and Chris Garner said yes, it would be part of the transportation services;

(continued on page 7)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Supt. praises work of football coach suspended by state

At the end of the Jan. 17 meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, School Supt. Pete Kudlak praised the work of the BHS football coach who was suspended for two years of coaching in Michigan for "undue influence." That charge involved promising football players from Detroit and other districts to come to BHS as schools of choice students.

Supt. Kudlak said Coach Jermain Crowell resigned from the head position of Belleville High School varsity football coach in December. He has been replaced by DeJuan Rogers, who Crowell said he had groomed for the job in a Twitter post.

Kudlak said usually the Michigan High School Athletic Association suspends a coach for four years for undue influence and Crowell only got two years. He said a student from Detroit said Crowell gave him rides to Belleville football practices, but then recanted his story.

Kudlak said Crowell had a target on his back because he was winning. BHS had won two state football titles the last two years he was here. Kudlak said Crowell impacted hundreds of kids and some wouldn't be in college if not for him. And it wasn't big colleges that sought out his football players, but smaller schools, too.

"He's going to be missed," Kudlak said.

Kudlak did not say that the school district's MHSSA probation, levied from a different "undue influence" penalty last spring, was extended to two years. He also did not mention other evidence, the 2018 video the MHSSA found where two students told of living with Crowell.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

We've just received word that Van Buren Township will present its master plan for the Belleville Area Museum at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the Belleville Area District Library. Good Design Group will present the proposed master plan, followed by a public-comment period.

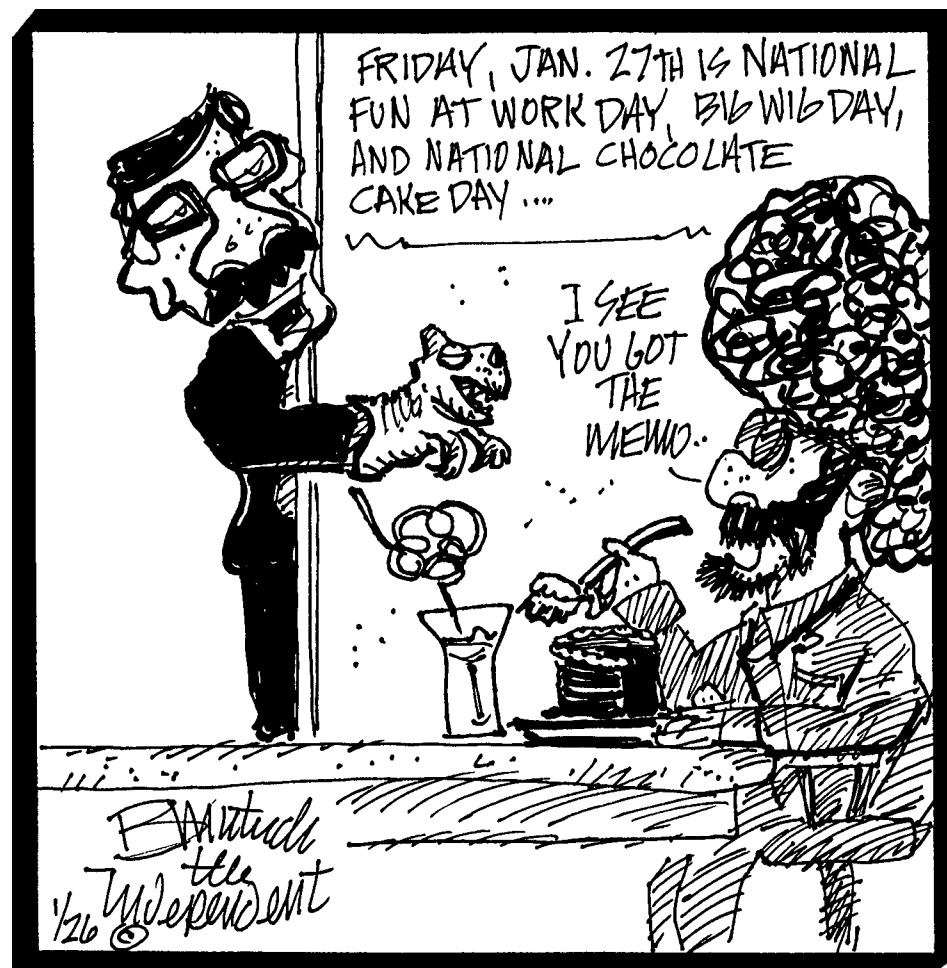
The last public meeting on the museum that featured asking people to write their comments on sticky notes with no Van Buren Township elected officials present was not well received by the public. Hopefully, elected officials will be present at this meeting to respond to questions.

As of today, the museum which serves the communities of Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township, and the city of Belleville, has been closed for 1,060 days by Van Buren Township, which owns it.

Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara said that he had received 25 "petitions" on the Denton Road bridge construction plans, as of Jan. 17. He said this is Wayne County's project and, "We're working as fast as we can." He said he would update everyone when they get more information.

"We can't do it ourselves," he said. "We don't have that kind of money and we would have to go to the people for a bond."

That made me smile when Supervisor McNamara said that at the beginning of the Jan. 17 township meeting. I've heard McNamara say many times, "I can always get more money." If it's something he wants, he gets more money. He already has money set aside for the project he has yet to describe on the former DNR property just north of the Belleville Bridge. That will



probably get built before the Denton Road bridge.

A fire alarm went off at Belleville High School at 1:45 p.m. last Wednesday, Jan. 18. The Belleville Fire Department was called at once and the Van Buren Township Fire Department was called shortly thereafter as an automatic back up. The school was evacuated after smoke was reported in room 113.

A fire alarm at the beginning of the school year was due to a gummy bear that was part of an experiment catching fire.

I asked Belleville Fire Chief Brian Loranger if it was another gummy bear this time and he said it wasn't. He said a class was determining the melting temperature of crayons and the crayons spilled onto the hot plate and smoke erupted.

The personal injury accident listed on the Sumpter Dispatch log at Sumpter and Judd roads at 1430 Jan. 19 reportedly was a vehicle vs. pedestrian accident, with the pedestrian bleeding from the mouth.

At 9:53 a.m. Monday, Sumpter Township Police asked the public for assistance via a Nixle alert in locating a missing "at risk," 76-year-old male who reportedly suffers from dementia. He was last seen when he left home on Sunday, Jan. 22, at about 5:30 p.m. in a gray 2019 Ford Ranger enroute to the Meijer store in Van Buren Township. At

9:18 p.m. on Monday, another Nixle alert called off the search and said the man had been found near Bay City and is safe.

Near the end of Monday's Belleville City Council meeting, there were several comments on the new businesses that had opened in Scott Jones' evolving shopping center near the Belleville bridge.

Mayor Pro Tem Ken Voigt announced he had eaten at the Bait Shop and also went to the Butcher Shop, which he called "spectacular." He said he was able to get yogurt there, instead of having to go over the bridge.

Earlier, Councilwoman Kelly Bates said the Butcher Shop is open and her husband told her customers can get bread, milk, and bananas there, as well as meat.

Mayor Pro Tem Voigt said in the last few years the number of retail shops in the city of Belleville have "quintupled or sextupled" which are good signs of a healthy downtown.

One of the officials from Wayne County at Monday's city council meeting looked very familiar. I later learned Scott Cabautan was the one I saw at meetings representing Republic Services for trash collection in the city of Belleville and Sumpter Township. He now is Deputy Director of Public Services.



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baindependent@ameritech.net

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Editor: Rosemary K. Otzman
Home phone (NO ADS, PLEASE!): 697-1294

Advertising Manager: Bob Mytych

Sports Editor: Bob Mytych

Bookkeeper: James Otzman

Production Manager: James Otzman

Office Manager: Janet Millard

Editorial Cartoonist: Bob Mytych

**152 Main St., Suite 9,
Belleville, MI 48111**

734-699-9020

FAX 734-699-8962

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Letters

Voice your concerns on Denton Road bridge

To the editor:

On Nov. 8, 2022, voters in Van Buren Township turned out in droves to support a local resident's bid for State Representative of our 31st House District.

Due to our mobilization, on Jan. 12, 2023, local resident Reggie Miller was sworn in as State Representative. We are excited to have a strong voice in the halls of the State Capital that, as promised, will be a strong advocate for issues that are important locally and we wish Reggie great success in this endeavor!

The recent news that the Denton Road bridge repair project would be pushed aside and delayed until perhaps 2025 and beyond has struck a chord locally. Residents are not pleased and are looking for action from our local and State leaders.

The bridge is an important traffic artery in our community and not having it available causes delays in emergency response and a huge inconvenience for many who wish to patronize the businesses in our growing downtown Belleville.

This seems like a perfect opportunity for Reggie Miller to step up and show the voters that our hopes were not in vain. To begin, it would be ideal for Reggie to release a statement showing that she is completely aware of the important issue and express her stance on the project. To know that she is knocking on doors and rallying support in Lansing to expedite the bridge repairs would show great leadership and appreciation to the voters that got her the job. Seeing timely updates from her office on this topic would let us all rest assured that she is working hard for her hometown and its residents.

We realize that, as a freshman Representative, it takes time to cultivate relationships in Lansing and deliver results to the District but this opportunity seems ripe for her to flex her new-found influence and deliver fast and substantial results for her hometown. We are all watching closely.

On Monday Jan. 30, Reggie Miller and 3rd-term State Senator Darrin Camilleri will be holding a town hall discussion to address issues that are important to the District. This will be a great opportunity to bring this topic to the attention of our leaders and express our dissatisfaction with the proposed Denton Road bridge project timing.

Please plan to attend the discussion at the **Belleville Library on 1/30 at 5:30 p.m.** If we all speak with one voice, we can hopefully bring this to the top of their agendas and get some reassurance that they are on the job for us and will keep us updated on their efforts in getting this project done in a reasonable timeframe.

If you cannot attend, please take a moment to write, email or call State Rep. Reggie Miller and Senator Darrin Camilleri to tell

them that we would like to know that they are working on our behalf on this issue and they have a plan to get this important project prioritized for funding.

Email Reggie: ReggieMiller@house.mi.gov

Phone Reggie: (517) 373-0159

Email Senator Camilleri: SenDCamilleri@senate.michigan.gov

Phone Senator Camilleri: 517-373-7918 (office); 734-818-5516 (cell)

Chris Donley

Van Buren Township resident

I called Wayne County about Denton Rd. bridge

To the editor:

Van Buren Township (Belleville, as I like to call it) has a dilemma on its hands. The Denton Road bridge was closed to traffic for being unsafe. I wondered if this was going to be a repeat of the New Boston bridge debacle.

I just knew they had answers to the question of why it closed. Therefore, I called the County Road Commission and talked to one of their engineers. He informed me that the guide line for bridges was inspecting the size of cracks in the structure, after which our bridge was deemed unsafe for us.

However, he said boat traffic would be able to go under the bridge. Personally, I will wait for the new bridge. If the present bridge is not safe to drive on, I sure as hell won't be going under it.

The timing of the closure came at winter when the lake isn't very active. Spring and summer will be at hand before we know it. So, don't forget your fishing licenses and bait from our new Bait Shop.

Come to beautiful Belleville Lake for summer recreation and fun. Be sure and find the right bridge to a water wonderland.

Rodger King

Van Buren Township

Thank you, St. Jude

To the editor:

Please print the following:

Say this prayer nine times a day and by the ninth day your prayers will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.

St. Jude Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, honored, and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, keeper of the hopeless, pray for us.

Thank you, St. Jude, for answering my prayer. I will continue to pray to you for another special need.

Pat, Allen Park

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Library to host classic film series, 'Double Indemnity' is Feb. 9

The Belleville Area District Library has agreed to host a series of classic films, starting with "Double Indemnity" at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 9.

The 1944 crime noir film was directed by Billy Wilder and stars Barbara Stanwyck, Fred MacMurray, and Edward G. Robinson.

The films, which will be shown free to the public, are being sponsored by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts and the Friends of the Library.

Following each film, there will be a discussion led by former *Free Press* film critic John Monaghan.

BHS at-home games

- **Thursday, Jan. 26** – Boys Swim & Dive vs. Franklin, 6:30 p.m.
- **Friday, Jan. 27** – Boys & Girls Bowling vs. Stevenson, 3 p.m. at Lodge Lanes; Boys Freshman Basketball vs. John Glenn, 4 p.m.; Boys JV Basketball vs. John Glenn, 5:30 p.m.; Boys Varsity Basketball vs. John Glenn, 7 p.m.
- **Monday, Jan. 30** – Girls JV Basketball vs. Wayne Memorial, 5:30 p.m.; Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Wayne Memorial, 7 p.m.

Go, Tigers!
Diane Kiessel
Belleville High School Athletic Secretary

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VBT

(continued from page 3)

- Approved the special-land-use request for Zippy Auto Wash automatic car wash at 11650 Belleville Rd. with the condition that a traffic study must be made and reviewed by the planning commission before the final site plan is considered;

- Approved adoption of the Planning Commission Annual Report for 2022 as required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act and prepared by Dan Power, director of planning and economic development;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointment of Harlan Davenport to the Construction Code of Appeals Board with a term to expire Feb. 28, 2026;

- Approved the reappointments of Daniel Belander, Charles Coleman, Kimberly Nofz, Todd O'Neil, Denise Willoughby and Tammy Wall to the Recreation Committee with terms to expire Feb. 1, 2024;

- Proclaimed January as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month in Van Buren Township because more awareness is needed. Jennifer Nagy of Van Buren Township said she is a survivor of cervical cancer and an employee of the American Cancer Society. She said regular screening tests for cervical cancer save lives since it can be detected before it starts and vaccines are available for children aged 9 through 12 against HPV (Human Papillomavirus); and

- Heard Trustee Kevin Martin say that the township has complete-care housing for seniors and independent units for seniors, but it needs the "missing middle" housing that is between the \$300,000 homes and subsidized housing. He said the township needs affordable housing and he would like it to come up with a solution.

Closed session

The board met in closed session for an hour before the regular meeting to discuss the strategy and negotiations of the AFSCME collective bargaining agreement.

Obituaries



RICHARD CARL ORGECK

(October 12, 1937 – January 21, 2023)

Age 85, of Van Buren Township. Survived by children Daniel of VBT, Kenneth of Southgate, and Carrie Whitaker of Florida; 3 grandchildren; great-grandson. Cremation rites accorded. David C. Brown Funeral Home.

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Court Watching:

Driver gets plea deal in death of VBT pedestrian, 2 charges dismissed

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Kenneth Ray Barrett, 61, of Willis waived his preliminary exam on Nov. 2 on charges in a hit and run accident and was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on Nov. 16. His disposition conference was set for Dec. 5 and then continued to Jan. 5 and then Jan. 9.

He was charged with driving while license suspended causing death and failure to stop at the scene of an accident causing death on July 27 on the N. I-94 Service Drive in Van Buren Township.

On Jan. 9, he got a plea deal and pled guilty to a new charge of failure to stop at a personal injury accident resulting in serious impairment of body function and the original two charges were dismissed. Sentencing before Judge Prentis Edwards was set for Feb. 7 and could be up to 5 years in prison and/or a \$5,000 fine.

For the original charges he faced up to 15 years in prison for each charge and/or up to a \$10,000 fine on each charge.

VBT Police Chief Jason Wright said police received a report of a body on the roadway at 12:38 a.m. Wednesday, July 27, about halfway between Rawsonville and Beck roads on the I-94 North Service Drive. It appeared the female had been struck by a vehicle while walking, he said. She was pronounced dead at the scene. Chief Wright identified the woman as Natia Hardy, 26, the mother of a five-year-old daughter. Family said she was walking home after visiting a friend.

About six hours later, Barrett was pulled over for a traffic stop and arrested.

Tommy Lee George

Tommy Lee George, 80, of Van Buren Township, had an April 27 probable cause conference on a charge of domestic violence – third offense on April 15 in Van Buren Township. The probable cause conference was adjourned to May 11. A request to remove tether was denied by Judge Martin. He was free on \$20,000 personal bond and must not return to Waverly Apartments. On May 11 it was announced he is in a mental health facility. His probable cause conference was adjourned until May 25.

On May 25, the preliminary exam was set for June 9. His attorney said he has been living with a friend and the friend is going on vacation and doesn't want George to stay in his house alone. Judge Green said it would be OK for him to stay at a hotel or motel because he still has his GPS tether on.

On June 9 he was present for his exam but the defense made a motion to dismiss the charge, which was granted by Judge Green. The tether was ordered removed.

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Photo courtesy of the Belleville Area District Library
34th District Court Judge Lisa Martin swore in newly elected members of the Belleville Area District Library Board at its regular meeting on Jan. 10. From left are Tanya Stoudemire, Sharon Peters, Judge Martin, Dan Fleming, and Linda Priest.

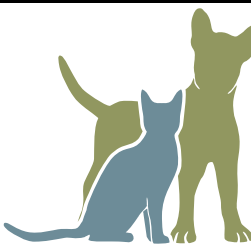
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Independent photo by James Otzman
A new section of the Iron Belle Trail heading west along the south side of E. Huron River Drive stops short at a young tree. Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara said the tree will be removed so the trail can continue. He said he didn't know if they would cut it down or move it.

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

34th District Court Judge Lisa Martin swore in three members of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education on Jan. 17 after they were reelected at the Nov. 8 election. The swearing-in was before their organizational meeting. From left are Calvin Hawkins, Darlene Loyer Gerick, and Amy Pearce.



- Jan. 22 – Consuella Turner
- Jan. 26 – Stephanie Hunt, Alicia McGovern
- Jan. 28 – Cindy King
- Jan. 29 – James Shrove
- Jan. 30 – Cathy Bandy
- Jan. 31 – Adam Byrd, Karen Mida

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Belleville Community Chorus starts spring rehearsals, join in

The Belleville Community Chorus is beginning rehearsals for spring concerts in its 16th season.

Rehearsals started at 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 23 at First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., Belleville.

Chorus members invite all singers to join them, whether new to the group or those who have sung with them in the past. Whether they sing soprano, alto, tenor, bass, or are not really sure, singers are welcome to be part of this group. Altos and men's voices are especially needed. If those interested couldn't make the first rehearsal, join in on the next Monday or so.

Current plans call for the spring concert titled "Life's Musical Sound Stage: Melodies, Meanderings, Memories" under the direction of Mary Butler Loring to be presented at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 7.

The Belleville Community Chorus is a non-profit organization made up of volunteers of all ages who love to sing. Members perform a variety of choral music for the enrichment, education, and enjoyment of their members and audiences in the surrounding communities.

For more information, contact Claudia Roullier at (734) 697-8235 or claudiarou47@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Jan. 30 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
- Monday, Feb. 6 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 7 – Van Buren Township work/study at 5 p.m. and board meeting at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 8 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

- Thursday, Feb. 9 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission quarterly meeting, 6 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 13 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
- Tuesday, Feb. 14 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 15 – Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 21 – Van Buren Township work/study at 5 p.m. and board meeting at 6 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 22 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

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VBT invites public to Community Center ground breaking

Van Buren Township News Release

Van Buren Township invites the public to the official ground-breaking ceremony of the Community Center at 3 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 31. Construction has already begun at the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd.

The event is expected to be attended by Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans, County Commissioner Al Haidous, the township board of trustees and members of the Downtown Development Authority.

The project is a renovation of the current senior/recreation center that adds 21,763 square feet. It is expected to be completed by spring of 2024.

The Community Center is the result of the combined financial efforts of Wayne County, the DDA, Van Buren Township and the Van Buren Civic Fund.

"My team has worked endlessly to identify partnership projects that best align with our vision of creating a healthier, happier, and more sustainable county," said County Executive Evans.

"To say that I am extremely pleased to be a partner in creating such a multifaceted space for county residents to receive much-needed services, would be an understatement. Not only will the renovated senior and community center provide more opportunities for economic mobility, but the inclusiveness of services to be offered will ensure that our communities are healthy physically, financially and mentally," Evans said.

Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara said, "We are proud to be building a space where our community can come together and share in the joys of healthy living, sports, arts and culture.

"The new Community Center will be home to a gym with an elevated walking track, a Black Box Theater, group and individual fitness areas, teen space, multipurpose rooms, spaces dedicated just to our senior center members, an outdoor plaza and more. We will also offer a variety of classes and programs for all ages and abilities. We are committed to provide a safe and welcoming space for our community, and we look forward to seeing how the facility will continue to enrich our lives for many years to come," he said. The space also will include a child-watch area, lounge area, gift shop, and full-sized gymnasium.

Clerk Leon Wright added, "I am ecstatic to finally see the ground breaking of our new Community Center, after 14 years of being the township board liaison for the Parks & Recreation Committee. We took an idea and created something amazing that Van Buren Township residents will be able to enjoy for years to come."

Wayne County Commissioner Haidous said during a recent meeting of the board of trustees, "I'm really very proud of our relationship with Van Buren Township trustees and supervisors. We have been working together for many years, and it has been a very successful relationship to serve the people of Van Buren.

"I think it's not only good for Van Buren Township, it's also good for the region," he added.

To learn more about Van Buren Township, visit www.vanburen-mi.org.

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Publish: Jan. 26, 2023 and Feb. 2, 2023

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– Steven Wright

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Monday, Jan. 30** – The Belleville Area District Library will host State Rep. Reggie Miller and State Sen. Darrin Camilleri from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. so constituents can voice their concerns.

• **Sunday, Feb. 5** – Bugles Across America starts at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial on High Street on the lake in the city of Belleville. The brief ceremony honors all veterans, living and dead, with a pledge to the flag, National Anthem, and Taps. Everyone welcome.

• **Wednesday, Feb. 8** – “Introduction to Internet Searching” is set for 6 p.m. at the Sumpter Media Center at 23465 Sumpter Rd. Learn how to perform basic, effective internet searches using popular search engines. Participants must be proficient using a mouse and keyboard. Registration required.

• **Thursday, Feb. 9** – The Belleville Area District Library is hosting a movie discussion series sponsored by the Belleville Area Council of the Arts and the Friends of the Library. The first free movie is “Double Indemnity,” which starts at 6:30 p.m. John Monaghan, a former film critic for *The Detroit Free Press*, will lead the discussions following the movies.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 17, 2023

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in the Board Room. Zoom Meeting ID for public participation: 894 2765 4392. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Boynton and Trustee Martin. Absent/Excused: Trustee Frazier. Others in attendance: Recording Assistant Beaudry, Director of Community Services Renaud, Deputy Director of Community Services Dohring, Fire Chief McNally, Director of Parks Locke, Director of Public Services Luckett, Director of Recreation Zaenglein, Director of Planning and Economic Development Power, DDA Director Ireland and an audience of twenty-four (24).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

Boynton moved, Budd seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2023, Prepaid List of December 22, 2022, Prepaid List of January 5, 2023, Prepaid List of January 12, 2023, Voucher List of January 17, 2023. Approval of the reappointment of Harlan Davenport to the Construction Code of Appeals Board with a term to expire February 28, 2026 and Approval of the reappointments of Daniel Belanger, Charles Coleman, Kimberly Nofz, Todd O'Neil, Denise Willoughby and Tammy Wall to the Recreation Committee with terms to expire February 1, 2024. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

A proclamation was presented declaring January Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. A resident started a petition for the Township to fix the Denton Road Bridge. The Supervisor stated that the Township is working hard to try to get the State and Wayne County to expedite the process, and the Township alone doesn't have the funds to rebuild the bridge on its own.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the

appointment of Bryon Kelley to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Boynton seconded to approve Daniel Consulting as lobbying firm on behalf of the Township and to authorize the Supervisor to execute the one (1) year agreement at a total cost of \$48,000. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Martin seconded to approve Resolution 2023-01: Authorizing Issuance of 2023 Capital Improvement Bonds. Motion Carried.

Martin moved, Wright seconded to approve the request of the Van Buren Downtown Development Authority to approve the employment of DDA executive Director Merrie Coburn, with the terms set forth in the Personal Services Agreement. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Budd seconded to approve the first reading of Ordinance 01-17-23(1) to increase Planning Commission flexibility in decisions regarding garage door orientation and minimum building separation in residential projects. Motion Carried.

Kelley moved, Wright seconded to approve a special land use request for Planning Case 20-037: Integrity Component and Design fabricating and warehouse building and outdoor storage at 5925 Beck Road.

Martin moved, Wright seconded to approve a special land use request for Planning Case 21-032: Brookwood Senior Housing. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Kelley seconded to approve the amended New Business Item #8: special land use request for Planning Case 22-010: Zippy Auto Wash (automatic car wash at 11650 Belleville Road) to include a traffic study. Motion Carried.

Boynton moved, Budd seconded to approve the adoption of the Planning Commission Annual report for 2022, as required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: The July 2022 Financial Report, August 2022 Financial Report, September 2022 Financial Report and October 2022 Financial Report were accepted as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Trustee Kelley thanked the Board for his appointment and Trustee Martin discussed the need for more middle/affordable housing.

ADJOURNMENT: Budd moved; Boynton seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Published: January 26, 2023



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Bob and Carol Schank of the city of Belleville read their *Independent* on Aruba Island by way of Royal Caribbean Cruise Line. They also visited Bonaire and Curacao. These three islands are known as the A, B, C islands. They were cruising Jan. 6-17.

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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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 325 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, Jan 15:

0051 – trespassing, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0239 – domestic, Country Ln.
0304 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
0515 – larceny, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0701 – threat, Freedom Way
0706 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1130 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1616 – neighbor trouble, Brandi Dr.
2017 – harassment call, Freedom Way
2047 – property damage accident, Brookside Dr.
2126 – larceny, Belleville Rd.

Monday, Jan. 16:

0013 – suicidal person, Haggerty Rd.
0126 – civil matter, Bayshore Dr.
0246 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0735 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1131 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Hull
1233 – vehicle lockout, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1250 – misc. complaint, Jackson St.
1307 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hull Rd.
1350 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.

1432 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
1510 – 911 welfare check, Brookside Dr.
1533 – property damage accident, Ford/I-275
1601 – malicious destruction of property, Bemis
1625 – harassment call, Chatsworth Dr.
1653 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
1837 – larceny from auto, N. Bellridge Dr.
1921 – juvenile complaint, Ventura Dr.
1927 – 911 welfare check, Harbour Pointe Ct.
2039 – welfare check, Lighthouse Dr.
2212 – property check, Belleville Rd.

Tuesday, Jan. 17:

0014 – threat, Landmark
0230 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.
0250 – domestic, Martinsville Rd.
0409 – hospice death, S. Bellridge Dr.
0457 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.

0638 – domestic, Martinsville Rd.
0742 – suspicious person/vehicle, McBride/Pierce
1036 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1124 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd.
1310 – fraud, N. Woodbury Dr.
1326 – suspicious person/vehicle, Beckley Rd.
1330 – welfare check, S. Bellridge Dr.
1355 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1459 – welfare check, Rawsonville Rd.
1540 – property damage accident, Belleville/Quirk
1610 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr. / Martinsville Rd.

1636 – ordinance violation, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1650 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1712 – suspicious person/vehicle, Beckley Rd.
1743 – road hazard, Rawsonville Rd./S. Grove Rd.
1914 – property check, Belleville Rd.
2006 – welfare check, Martinsville Rd.
2152 – runaway, Rose Blvd.
2215 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.

Wednesday, Jan. 18:

0023 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
0032 – assist fire dept., Hull Rd.
0044 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0108 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0314 – property check, Belleville Rd.
0726 – suspicious person/vehicle, Laguna Dr.
0740 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0840 – harassment call, Tyler Rd.
0959 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1041 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.

1135 – intrusion alarm, Beck Rd.
1205 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1212 – holdup alarm, Belleville Rd.
1329 – juvenile complaint, Oak Blvd.
1429 – disorderly, Haggerty Rd.
1440 – suspicious person/vehicle, Gilmore St.
1458 – fraud, Outer Dr.
1500 – fraud, Cambridge Ct.
1600 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1634 – suicidal person, S. Ponderosa Trl.

1823 – private property impound, Van Born
1835 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
1932 – personal injury accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1947 – welfare check, Rose Blvd.
1955 – private property/property damage accident, Lake Villa Dr.
1959 – PPO violation, S. Woodbury Dr.
2020 – suspicious person/vehicle, Christina Ln.
2031 – 911 welfare check, Milton Dr.
2033 – harassment call, E. Archwood Dr.
2202 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./Quirk Rd.
2215 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2354 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.

Thursday, Jan. 19:

0018 – property damage accident, Haggerty/I-94
0155 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse Rd.
0444 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1058 – property damage accident, E. Huron River
1248 – misc. complaint, W. Huron River Dr.
1308 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
1503 – welfare check, Lake Point Pass
1644 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

1645 – suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.
1724 – intrusion alarm, Country Walk Blvd.
1731 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./E. Huron River Dr.

2046 – larceny from auto, Belleville Rd.
2107 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2112 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2115 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2118 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2347 – 911 welfare check, Hamilton St.

Friday, Jan. 20:

0058 – warrant arrest, Michigan/Canton Center
0443 – motorist assist, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.
0756 – juvenile complaint, Quirk Rd.
0915 – welfare check, Bemis Rd.
0953 – animal complaint, Ryznar Dr.
1047 – larceny, Chandler
1137 – suspicious person/vehicle, Colonial Rd.
1341 – welfare check, Lauren Ct.
1422 – welfare check, Ironwood Dr.
1507 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
1507 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1610 – welfare check, Martinsville Rd.
1634 – vehicle lockout, Savage Rd.
1635 – intrusion alarm, Chinkapin Dr.
1715 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

1720 – property damage accident, Belleville/Quirk
1740 – juvenile complaint, Quirk Rd.
1748 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd.
1824 – assist other dept., N. Liberty St./Third St.
1854 – property check, Belleville Rd.
1953 – intrusion alarm, Alba Ct.
2045 – assist fire dept., Old Rawsonville
2324 – suspicious person/vehicle, Chaney Ave.

Saturday, Jan. 21:

0056 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd.
0143 – unauthorized driving away in auto, Denton
0249 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0348 – property check, E. Huron River Dr.
1043 – welfare check, Union St.
1206 – suspicious person/vehicle, Riggs Rd.
1233 – private property/property damage accident, Oak Ln.

1242 – civil matter, Sylvia Dr.
1323 – domestic, Oak Ln.
1337 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1429 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1626 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1725 – civil matter, McBride Ave.
2006 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2101 – intrusion alarm, Bemis Rd.
2105 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2142 – parking complaint, Solitude Ln.
2153 – assist fire dept., Robson Rd.
2304 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2323 – road hazard, Westlake Cir./Belleville Rd.

Also on this week's log are 165 traffic stops, 24 of which were on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 15:

0121 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd.
0225 – ordinance violation, Sumpter Rd.

1045 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1054 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia
1605 – operating while intoxicated, Sumpter/Main
2105 – assault & battery, Carmell St.

Monday, Jan. 16:

0807 – property damage accident, Main St.
1248 – suspicious person/vehicle, South St.
1650 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

Tuesday, Jan. 17:

0101 – traffic stop, E. Columbia/South St.
0440 – noise complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
0513 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
0535 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
0551 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
1023 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
1051 – lost property/child, E. Wabash Ave.
1126 – welfare check, N. Liberty St.
1914 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
2022 – traffic stop, Main St./Denton Rd.
2027 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./First St.
2043 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd.
2055 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd.
2131 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
2148 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.

Wednesday, Jan. 18:

0620 – traffic stop, Second St./Charles St.
1108 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
1318 – lost property/child, E. Columbia Ave.
1347 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1446 – traffic stop, South St./E. Wabash Ave.
1808 – traffic stop, Main St./N. Liberty St.
1818 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
1845 – traffic offense, Lodge Lanes

Thursday, Jan. 19:

0840 – narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
0844 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1000 – juvenile complaint, Fourth St.
1210 – disorderly, W. Columbia Ave.
1213 – disorderly, W. Columbia Ave.
1237 – fraud, N. Liberty St.
1557 – traffic offense, W. Columbia Ave.
1853 – civil matter, S. Biggs St.
2017 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.

Friday, Jan. 20:

0008 – assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave.
0435 – assist other dept., Robbe St.
1713 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
1805 – mental subject, N. Liberty St./Third St.
2013 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
2047 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./Denton Rd.
2126 – traffic stop, Church St./W. Columbia Ave.
2140 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.
2156 – traffic stop, South St.

Saturday, Jan. 21:

0016 – assist other dept., Carmell St.
0037 – parking complaint, Estrada
0308 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
0927 – assist citizen, Carmell St.
2013 – traffic stop, Menlo Park/Belle Villa Blvd.
2017 – traffic stop, South St./W. Wabash Ave.
2048 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Denton Rd.
2103 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
2120 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./Fifth St.

There were 25 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 15:

0038 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
0251 – suspicious person, Green Ln.
0540 – disorderly person, Greenmeadow Dr.
0541 – citizen assist, Birch Dr.
0626 – follow-up investigation, 19000 bl Sumpter
0639 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
0857 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.
1015 – follow-up investigation, Birch Ct.
1206 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
1502 – citizen assist, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1747 – juvenile matter, Rustic Ln.
1844 – suspicious circumstance, Judd/Clark
2010 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
2320 – suspicious circumstance, First St.

Monday, Jan. 16:

0035 – traffic complaint/abandoned, Willow Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.
0625 – alarm, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.
0630 – 911 hang up, Ohio St.
0745 – 911 hang up, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.

0809 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1111 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1259 – assist other agency, Carriage Ln.
1301 – civil matter, Texas St.
1437 – PPO violation, Brookview Dr.
1457 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.
1507 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1804 – family trouble, Texas St.
1901 – welfare check, Vermont St.

Tuesday, Jan. 17:

0040 – fire dept. assist, Montana St.
0659 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Martinsville Rd.
0941 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
0950 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1233 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.
1241 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1537 – citizen assist, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1543 – civil matter, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
1547 – follow-up investigation, Washington St.
2238 – property damage accident, Rustic Ln.
2305 – family trouble, Wayside Dr.

Wednesday, Jan. 18:

0132 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
0243 – fire dept. assist, Wayside Dr.
0449 – citizen assist, Carriage Ln.
0740 – follow-up investigation, Carriage Ln.
0813 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0950 – 911 hang up, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1117 – welfare check, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1315 – 911 hang up, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1329 – subpoena service, 21000 bl. Karr Rd.
1400 – welfare check, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1557 – suspicious vehicle, Rawsonville/Judd
1812 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
2038 – resisting officer, Willis Rd./Rawsonville
2240 – breaking & entering report, Delaware St.

Thursday, Jan. 19:

0249 – suspicious circumstance, Country Club Blvd.
0435 – property damage accident, Willis/Sumpter
0534 – citizen assist, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.
0834 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1254 – 911 hangup, 22000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1430 – personal injury accident, 21000 bl. Sumpter
1537 – suspicious vehicle, Karr Rd./Judd Rd.
1749 – civil matter, First St.
1829 – suspicious vehicle, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1834 – juvenile matter, Birch Dr.
2000 – follow-up investigation, 41000 bl. Harris
2031 – citizen assist, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2204 – shots fired, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2221 – 911 hang up, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2241 – fire dep. Assist, Florida St.

Friday, Jan. 20:

0154 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
0450 – 911 hang up, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1048 – breaking & entering report, Montana St.
1529 – civil matter, First St.
1610 – 911 hang up, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1626 – suspicious circumstance, Brookview Dr.
1703 – fire dept. assist, Hampshire Dr.
1805 – 911 hang up, Indiana St./Oregon St.
1840 – 911 hang up, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
2040 – assist other agency, 40000 bl. Willow Rd.
2223 – suspicious person, Iowa St./California St.
2232 – suspicious person, Willis Rd./California St.
2326 – civil matter, California St.
2338 – larceny, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, Jan. 21:

0116 – suspicious circumstance, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0216 – 911 hang up, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
0853 – suspicious vehicle, Sumpter Rd./Willow
0854 – alarm, Kansas St.
0931 – 911 hang up, 28000 bl. Clark Rd.
1107 – alarm, 19000 bl. Lohr Rd.
1210 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1444 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Clark Rd.
1936 – family trouble, Stonecrest Dr.
2105 – fire dept. assist, 5500 bl. Oakville Waltz
Also on this week's log are 174 patrol checks, 79 traffic stops, and 13 misc. details.

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Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



It's Open-Cockpit Day coming up on Sunday, Feb. 19, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Yankee Air Museum at Willow Run Airport. It's a great opportunity to get up close and sit at the controls in some of the museum's static aircraft such as the F-84F Thunderstreak, AH-1J Cobra Helicopter and O-2 Skymaster. The event is included with the regular admission price to the museum on that day. Advance tickets are available at www.yankeeairmuseum.org. Call (734) 483-4030. I still have to get over there to see the recently added Blue Angel F-18 Hornet that the museum took possession of few years ago, along with many restoration projects the museum is working on, all practically in our backyard.

The Bayou Grill on Main Street has announced its entertainment schedule for February, starting with The Dean & Stewart Band on Feb. 4 at 6 p.m., followed by Friday Karaoke on Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. The Smokey Grey Band is next up on Feb. 11 at 6 p.m., followed by Fool & the Flame on Feb. 18 at 6 p.m., and the Rick Hix Music Mix on Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. See its ad in today's paper for a list of daily specials and hours. Bring in the ad and save 10% of your bill. Call (734) 697-2300 and visit www.thebayougrill.com. The Bayou Grill also does a great job updating its Facebook page with the entertainment schedule, food specials, and more. Give them a like.

Optimum Natural Distributors at 307 Industrial Park Dr. behind Family Dollar in Belleville is offering a free gallon of Alkaline Water or a bag of ice for free with their ad coupon in today's paper during the month of February. The offer is a

good chance to get familiar with the new family-owned business, that also offers bottled water and ice, filtered water and ice delivery, specialty supplements, and notary and fax services. Call 1(800) 680-2429 and Press 1.

Professional Tree Service and owner Tom Korte offers 24-hour emergency service, tree trimming and removal, stump removal, firewood sales, crane services, and more. He offers free estimates and senior discounts. Call (734) 864-2243 or (734) 664-9285. Save 10% off when you mention his ad in today's paper.

Open Arms Lutheran Church and Day Care Center, on Belleville Road next to Van Buren Township Fire Station #2, offers Sunday service beginning at 10 a.m. with Pastor Larry Courson. The church also offers Bible studies, youth groups, catechism programs, elementary ministry, youth/student ministry, and more. See

their ad in today's paper and visit www.openarmscenter.com. Call (734) 699-5000.

All the best to DeJaun Rogers, 27, Belleville High School's recently named new varsity football coach. Rogers took over for Jermain Crowell and went 5-0 midway through last season, leading the Tigers to their second-straight Division 1 State Title last November. Rogers' experience includes playing for the state-title-winning Detroit Cass Tech in 2012 before becoming an All-Mid-American Conference cornerback at Toledo. Welcome, Coach Rogers!

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020.

"Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death."
— Albert Einstein



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 9, 2022 - 7:30 pm

The regular meeting of the City Council was held via a hybrid of in-person and virtual access through ZOOM.

The regular meeting of the Belleville City Council was called to order by Mayor Conley at 7:30 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Bates	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. APPOINTMENTS, PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS

- A. Presentations
 - Swearing-In of New Council Members – Beebe and Fielder
 - Judge Lisa Martin of the 34th District Court was present to swear in Jeremiah Beebe and Tom Fielder, as the two new members of the City Council.
- B. Council Follow Up List
 - Ken Voigt
 - Noted that the light post in front of Hayward's had been struck by a vehicle again, and commended the Department of Public Services for their quick repair of the light.

- Kelly Bates
 - Inquired as to how many of the 17 trees scheduled for removal had been removed by the Department of Public Services.
- Mike Renaud
 - Stated that it is difficult to follow along with the meeting when full copies of the Council packets are provided.

- C. Citizen comments on Non-Agenda Items
 - John Juriga
 - Thanked the Belleville Independent newspaper for publishing a picture of the Belleville Area museum, along with the amount of time that it has been closed.

- Mike Renaud
 - Asked what the City was doing to address non-operational vehicles parked in various spots within the City.
- Sabrina Richardson-Williams
 - Asked if Project Administrator Jones also being a member of the Chamber of Commerce is a conflict of interest.
- Gerald Merritt
 - Stated he found an inspection report saying there are no significant issues with the Denton Rd. bridge that require repair, and asked the Council Members to look in to this.
- Hailey Brown
 - Introduced herself as a field representative for Congressperson Debbie Dingell's office, and let

everyone know to reach out to their office should they need anything.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Voigt, supported by Bates to approve the agenda as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 19, 2022, Regular Meeting of the City Council

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Voigt to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on Monday, December 19, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- None.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

A. Special Event Application – Belleville Farmer's Market

B. Special Event Application – Flop-E-Bunny

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Voigt to approve Special Event Applications for both the Belleville Farmer's Market and Flop-E-Bunny events.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

C. Reminder – Scarecrow Deposits and Veteran Banner Photos

-- City Manager Robinson reminded everyone who made a deposit for a scarecrow frame, or dropped off photos for the Veteran banners, to please pick them up in the City Treasurer's office.

-- Council Member Voigt added that the actual Veteran Banners have not been distributed yet.

D. Resolution # 23-001 – Appointments/Re-Appointments to Boards/Commissions
MOTION: Motion by Voigt, supported by Fielder to approve **Resolution #23-001** Authorizing the appointments of two new City Council Members and two new Planning Commission members.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

E. Swearing-In of New Planning Commission Members – Kissel and Kowalski

-- City Clerk Hootman administered the Oath of Office to Julie Kissel as the new member of the Planning Commission following the approval of Resolution #23-001 by Council. New member Mark Kowalski was unable to be present at the meeting and will therefore be sworn-in at a later date.

-- It was also noted that there is still one vacancy on the Planning Commission.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Voigt to approve **Resolution #23-002** authorizing Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

10. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

• City Manager Robinson welcomed the new Planning Commission Members, Julie Kissel and Mark Kowalski.

• Stated that Project Administrator Jones has been a huge help in cleaning up/streamlining with the Planning Commission. He continued that he is excited for Jones to review the current Zoning Ordinance a well as tackle other projects.

• Informed everyone that former Police Reserve Sergeant Jim Piper passed away unexpectedly. Robinson went on to say that Piper was a member of the Masons, and was always providing volunteer services to the City.

• Reminded everyone that the Planning Commission will have a meeting this Thursday, January 12th, and the DDA will have a meeting next Wednesday, January 18th.

11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

• Council Member Bates
-- Congratulated the two new City Council Members, as well as the two new Planning Commission Members.

-- Stated that she loves seeing young people in attendance at the meetings.

--- Was happy to see Ms. Brown from Congressperson Debbie Dingell's office at the meeting.

-- Asked if DPW could place cones at the intersection of Belleville Rd. and Quirk Rd. to mitigate drivers in the right lane cutting off drivers in the left lane on

Belleville Rd. heading South towards Denton Rd.

• Council Member Beebe
-- Stated that he appreciates the opportunity to be a member of City Council.

-- Stated that he and his wife, Wendy, have been residents of Belleville for approximately 20 years, and they have seen a lot of progress in the City during that time.

• Council Member Fielder
-- Stated he is glad to be back as a City Council Member.

-- Stated he is looking forward to the planning Commission and their meetings getting back on track.

-- Noted that the Parks and Recreation Board has not been active for a while, and continued that he would like to see more young people on the Board.

-- Apologized for his absence for the December 19th City Council Meeting in which he was appointed to the Council.

-- Informed everyone that Michigan is the only state in the U.S. that has not received funding towards drug prevention treatment program.

• Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt
-- Thanked everyone in attendance at the meeting, and noted it was a large audience.

-- Congratulated the to new City Council Members and the two new Planning Commission Members.

12. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

• Thanked the new City Council and Planning Commission Members for their willingness to serve.

• Thanked Judge Martin for swearing-in the two new City Council members.

• Thanked the young people in attendance at the meeting.

• Noted that the DDA has discussed establishing partnerships with other committees and organizations within the City to streamline their processes.

• Stated she will speak to someone from Wayne County at the Conference of Western Wayne Meeting in regards to the repairs of the Denton Rd. bridge.

13. CITIZENS COMMENTS

• Alan Folks
• Appreciates the members of City Council, as well as the turnout of audience members.

14. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

- None

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Fielder to adjourn at 8:42 p.m.

No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Briana Hootman / City Clerk

Approved: 01/23/23

Posted: 01/24/23

Published: 01/26/23



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