



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 30.1 Thursday, January 4, 2024

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

F R E E



Photo courtesy Van Buren Township Communications Dept.

This group of local police, fire, and emergency crew workers took part in the annual Shop With a Hero at Meijer to help young people shop for Christmas. The recent event was hosted by Van Buren Township Police Department.



Local police, fire, and emergency crew personnel recently took part in the annual Shop With a Hero at Walmart to help youngsters shop for their families for Christmas. The event was put together by Van Buren Township School Resource Officer Ryan Bidwell.

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SECOND FRONT PAGE



Independent photo by James Otzman

Clover Communities is constructing 128 independent senior housing apartments in three stories on the west side of Belleville Road just south of Robson Road, called The Willows. The 17.7-acre, Van Buren Township site is nestled in a grove of trees, back from the road. Each apartment unit contains an individual laundry and kitchens along with on-site garage and in-building storage unit. These are for tenants aged 55 and up.

Court Watching:

Taylor doesn't show for 4 exams on catalytic converter thefts

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Matthew Mark Taylor, 30, of Sumpter Township failed to show up for his four, live preliminary exams and one remote pretrial, all set for Dec. 6 in front of 34th District Court Judge Lisa Martin. The alleged thefts involved catalytic converters taken from vehicles.

The exams had been set for Oct. 18 but then were adjourned to Dec. 6 because Taylor said his assigned attorney had not been in contact.

On Dec. 6, defense attorney Rebecca Tieppo said she had no idea her client was not in the court. She pointed out she had not yet received discovery and that the prosecutor had changed a few times over the course of the case and the defence attorney has changed.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Mohamed Mohamed said the discovery had been sent, but digital discovery was

missing on three of the four cases. He said he hoped to get a global resolution but he's been unable to get in contact with the defense attorney.

Defense attorney Tieppo said she would like the exams adjourned to give her time to reach out to contact her client.

"There are four different exams," Prosecutor Mohamed noted.

Judge Martin set bench warrants on all four cases.

"The victims are here for the third time, in this courtroom," Judge Martin said. "Mr. Taylor was here last time. Now he's got a failure to appear on another matter today."

She set bond at \$10,000/10% on all four files. She said the warrants can be canceled "when we find him."

The four cases set for the preliminary examinations all involve charges of larceny from a motor vehicle:

- in Romulus on Jan. 6, 2020, larceny from a motor vehicle;

- in Romulus on Jan. 9, 2020, two larcenies from a motor vehicle and one assault on a police officer;

- in Romulus on Oct. 25, 2019, receiving and concealing stolen property with value between \$1,000 and \$20,000 and larceny from a motor vehicle; and

- in Van Buren Township on Oct. 21, 2019, two counts of larceny between \$1,000 and \$20,000 and two counts of receiving and concealing stolen property with value between \$1,000 and \$20,000.

Judge Martin said the last time the court adjourned his case it was because of a breakdown with his attorney. Judge Martin said the case has been going on since 2020.

Taylor had said it was because of a plea deal that was withdrawn and both the prosecutor and the judge said the prosecutor doesn't need a reason to withdraw an offered plea.

Another charge from Wayne County Sheriff Department for driving while license suspended on April 20 had been set

for its show cause/arraignment on Oct. 18. Taylor wanted it adjourned to the same day as the other charges and Judge Martin set it for Dec. 6.

Judge Martin noted that Taylor had payment arrangements with the court and she said he flippantly told her he owes the court \$7,000 already. She asked him to set up a payment plan.

This case originally was delayed when it was in Judge David Parrott's courtroom and the judge recused himself when he learned the victims were his friends and may be testifying. The other judges also recused themselves and then an outside judge filled in when Judge Parrott stepped down from the bench. When Judge Martin was elected, she took over the case.

Keith Johnston, a witness who has been waiting for years to testify, said catalytic converters were stolen from vehicles at his printing business and the adjoining car lot at 11370 Hunt St. in Romulus.

Belleville DDA approves offer on property after 42-minute closed session

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After 42 minutes in a closed-door session during its regular meeting on Dec. 20, the Belleville Downtown Development Authority voted unanimously to follow through on what they had discussed in private and have city Administrative Assistant Steve Jones write up a contract.

This is the fourth closed-door meeting the DDA has held over the past few months to consider purchase of properties.

The only non-DDA members present in the Dec. 20 closed session were Realtor Glenn Silvenis, City Manager Jason Smith, City Clerk/Treasurer Briana Hootman, and Jones.

At its Nov. 15 meeting, the DDA had a similar closed session and came back into public session to direct the administrative staff to negotiate purchase of the properties discussed in closed session.

Closed-door session is legal under MCL 15.268(d) to consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained.

The DDA had a half-hour closed session on Nov. 15 and voted to move forward with the purchase of property discussed in that closed session.

DDA chairperson Alicia McGovern responded to a question from the *Independent*, saying this was not the

property at Third and Main, but another property. She said the Third and Main purchase has been delayed.

The minutes of the Oct. 18 meeting reported, after a 47-minute closed-door session, a motion passed unanimously to make an offer of \$90,000 for the property located at the corner of Third Street and Main Street, pending appraisal and results of an environmental study on the land, with an allotted 180-day inspection period.

Paul Armstrong, a Realtor from NextHome Evolution of Belleville, was present for most of the Oct. 18 closed session

On Oct. 24, the DDA held another meeting, just for a 12-minute closed-door

session, and adjourned without public action. On Nov. 15, the DDA voted to pay accounts payable that included payments of \$2,300 and \$1,600 on Nov. 3 to Collins Appraisal Group for appraisals of "improved commercial property."

In other business at its Dec. 20 meeting, the DDA:

- Heard Jones give the Annual DDA Report for 2023, as required by law;

- Approved the regular 2024 meeting dates. The meetings are at 6 p.m. on the third Wednesdays of each month;

- Heard chairperson Alicia McGovern welcome new DDA members: Mayor Ken Voigt, John Winter, Mike Gatter, and Chris

(continued on page 9)

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Library needs help with our teenagers

Supporters of the Belleville Area District Library are very happy that their facility is being used as an after-school meeting place and a place to study for high school students, rather than having them walking the streets after school.

There is no after-school hangout besides the library and the staff is trying to make it a comfortable, interesting, and safe place for them to be. Of course, the library is very loud after school because teenagers can be very loud.

Regular patrons who want a quiet background to read and think have complained about the noise. Some have decided not to come to the library in the after-school hours and rather come in the quiet mornings.

The library has hired a new employee to be with the teenagers in their upstairs area and suggest games and other activities.

The library recently had to temporarily ban certain kinds of fast food after large pizzas were brought into the upstairs teen area. Library administration said it was looking more like a food court than a library.

And, then there was the teen fight out in the parking lot between three females that emptied the library teen area so everyone could watch. Two police departments arrived and teens were detained.

These teenagers mostly belong to our community and parents and others need to help the library by helping to keep a lid on things or providing a place for teens to go just to hang out. How about a teen center?

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

Tomorrow, Jan. 5, 1995, is the day to celebrate the first edition of the *Belleville-Area Independent*. Happy Birthday to us!

We received a call from a reader in Westlake Apartments who said loud jets are waking her up at 2 and 3 in the morning. She wanted to know what is going on.

It's seems to be coming from Willow Run Airport.

We saw a squirrel in the straw next to Baby Jesus in the creche in front of Bethany Bible Church as we were out delivering *Independents* recently. It jumped up and ran to the end of the parking lot and just watched us drive by. We must have startled it.

Last Thursday, there were three robins in the Bethany parking lot when we delivered there. A lot of wildlife is at the site.

The word is that construction on Haggerty Road between Ecorse and Van Born is due to begin Jan. 4. On Friday we saw signs concerning the construction on Haggerty, but we're not sure what they said because they were covered up until needed.

The Van Buren Township water lines are supposed to go in first, according to reports.

It will be a real pain for workers to get to their jobs in that area, but the holes in the road are so deep it's been very dangerous for some time. It will take a while to get it all dug up and replaced, but when the road is smoothed out everyone will be so glad.

Someone asked us if the Denton Road Bridge is closed by Wayne County because

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



it is in danger of collapsing, why isn't the roadway at Haggerty and E. Huron River Drive closed for the same reason? Good question.

Got a call over the weekend about the drinking water at Holiday West and Holiday Woods mobile home parks in Sumpter Township. The caller said the water is undrinkable and is milky in appearance and smells bad. People who give it to their dogs report the dogs get diarrhea. Residents said they called Sumpter Township Police and the mobile home park managements but said nothing has been done as of Tuesday noon.

I bought an armload of books to read at the recent Friends of Belleville Area District Library used-book sale. I finally read the last of my armload over the weekend and found an old picture tucked inside that obviously had been used as a bookmark.

We're including the special picture in today's paper so whoever recognizes it can come pick it up. The young man in the picture is sure to be an adult by now. It's from a time when youngsters did the dishes and other chores to earn their allowances.

It seemed strange to have a December without snow, but we managed to get through Christmas without any snow at all. No action so far on the snow hill at Van Buren Park for kids on vacation from

school. Maybe this week.

Our snowblower broke, so we bought a new one and now we are ready. Sure hope we get some snow eventually this winter or our new snowblower will be packed away for the summer, brand new and unused.

Our advertising director Janet Millard is still at home recovering from her bout with pneumonia but hopes to be back next week.

The rest of the staff is filling in for her so we can take care of your needs, whatever they are. January is usually a very quiet month in newspapers, as businesses wrap up the previous year and plan for the new year.

We miss Janet and hope she heals soon and gets back to her desk, which is getting full of messages and greetings.

Each year, Diane Madigan and her husband Carl send us a special amaryllis that blooms at Christmas. This one bloomed right on Christmas Day. It's a beautiful pink/rose color. Diane and Carl used to live in Van Buren Township and took part in township activities. They're in Tennessee now, but they still have helped every January with the list of salaries we publish from local governmental bodies.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Established Dec. 3, 1994 First Edition Jan. 5, 1995

The Belleville-Area Independent is a free, weekly newspaper published each Thursday in Belleville, MI.

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Deadline for news & ads (see below) is Noon of every Monday. Deadline for ads smaller than 1/2 page is Noon Monday, and all advertising 1/2 page or larger is Noon Friday, with the exception of certain holiday weeks. Classified ad deadline is Noon of every Tuesday.

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Wednesday, Jan. 10** – Teen Library Vibes from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. There is a new activity on the second Wednesday of each month. In January it is “Candy Vibes” where they will be making candy sushi. It looks like sushi but is colorful and all candy. Come to the library after school, make sushi, eat candy, hang out.

• **Wednesday, Jan. 10** – Phil Hale Jazz Night at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Bringing the Jazz Club to the community. Enjoy soulful sounds and light refreshments. Presented by the library and the Jazz Foundation of America.

• **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.

• **Thursday, Feb. 8** – Classic Movie Night Series at 6:30 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Watch and discuss classic films presented by former *Detroit Free Press* film critic John Monaghan. Brought to you by the Friends of the Library and the Belleville Area Council for the Arts.

• **Thursday, Feb. 22** – “Detroit’s City Walls Program: Highlighting African American History through Outdoor Murals” at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Detroit journalist and historian Ken Coleman will talk on Detroit’s City Walls program.

• **Tuesday, Feb. 27** – “Midnight: Detroit & The Underground Railroad” at 6:30 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Billy Winkel, assistant curator at the Detroit Historical Society, will present Detroit’s role in the Underground Railway.

• **Saturday, March 2** – Find your next great read with the help of the Belleville Area District Library. Join the 3:30 p.m. hands-on workshop at the Sumpter Media Center and learn how to use Novelist Plus, an online tool made available by the Michigan Library. Search for fiction and non-fiction by genre, topic, mood, and more. You can even search for author, title, and series read-alikes.

• **Tuesday, March 12** – “The Potato Famine and the Coming of the Irish to America” at 6 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Author and storyteller Terence O’Lear will share the

heartbreaking stories of the Irish during the five long years of the potato Famine, when more than one million Irish died and more than one million fled to America and survived.

• **Thursday, March 14** – Classic Movie Night Series at 6:30 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Watch and discuss classic films presented by former *Detroit Free Press* film critic John Monaghan. Brought to you by the Friends of the Library and the Belleville Area Council for the Arts.

• **Thursday, April 11** – Classic Movie Night Series at 6:30 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Watch and discuss classic films presented by former *Detroit Free Press* film critic John Monaghan. Brought to you by the Friends of the Library and the Belleville Area Council for the Arts.



Dec. 29 – Erwin (Jime) Barnowsky

Jan. 2 – Gayle Bernatt

Do you have a birthday soon? Does someone you know have a birthday? Let us know and we will print the name as soon as possible. For more information, call (734) 699-9020.

Court Watching

Andre Lovell Crittendon

Andre Lovell Crittendon, 21, of Sumpter Township, is charged with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault), domestic violence-3rd, and interfering with a crime report on Dec. 11 in Sumpter Township. He was arraigned Dec. 16 out-county and his bond was set at \$300,000 cash.

He was present for his probable cause conference on Dec. 27 before 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green. She set his live preliminary exam for Feb. 7. He is to have no contact with the victim.

Chinel Danyel Griffin

Chinel Danyel Griffin, 42, of Ypsilanti is charged with retail fraud-first degree on Aug. 26 in Van Buren Township. Her arraignment/probable cause conference was set for Dec. 27. She was labeled a habitual offender-4th degree. Judge Green set her probable cause conference for Jan. 17.

Amy Maryjoe Gibbons

Amy Maryjoe Gibbons of Van Buren Township is charged with domestic violence on Aug. 9, 2017 in Van Buren Township. She failed to show up for her arraignment/pretrial and a warrant was signed. She was in custody on Dec. 7 and her remote pretrial was set for Dec. 27. At that time, the charge was dismissed by the victim. Case closed.

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Obituaries



Mary Ruth Bracken

MARY RUTH BRACKEN

(December 11, 1939 – December 28, 2023)
Mary Ruth Bracken, 84, of Vestaburg, Mich., died peacefully on Thursday, December 28, 2023, at her home in hospice care with her son Kevin by her side.

She was born September 11, 1939, in Ypsilanti, Mich., the daughter of Glen Albert and Audrie Elizabeth (Curtis) Burd. On Nov. 19, 1955, she married Ronald A. Bracken. They made their home in Ypsilanti, then Belleville and later, in 1992, moved to Vestaburg. He died Oct. 15, 2006.

Mary enjoyed group trips with the seniors, euchre with friends and visits from her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was passionate about shopping for infant and children's clothes. She would donate to the East Montcalm Baby Pantry at Ferris Church of Christ in Vestaburg.

Mary is survived by her son, Kevin Bracken of Edmore, Mich.; 5 grandchildren, Misty, Amber, Josh, Kyle, Jessica; 9 great-grandchildren, Braylen, Zackery, Alexander, Ella, Cassius, Julian, Mackenzie, Kaylee and Avery; her recently widowed daughter-in-law, Laura and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, parents and her siblings (5 brothers and 2 sisters), she was preceded in death by her sons, Rick and Jeff.

Services will be held at Brigham Funeral Chapel in Edmore, Mich. on January 6, 2024 at 2 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to American Diabetes Association and/or American Kidney Fund.

**For you and your family
throughout the holiday
season and 2024**

May you find peace in the promise of
the solstice night,
That each day forward is blessed with
more light,
That the cycle of nature, unbroken and
true,
Brings faith in your soul and well-being
to you.
Rejoice in the darkness, in the silence
find rest,
And may the days that follow be
abundantly blessed.

-- Author unknown

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BHS at-home games

• **Friday, Jan. 5** – Boys Freshman Basketball vs. Franklin HS; Boys JV Basketball vs. Franklin HS, 5:30 p.m.; Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Franklin HS, 7 p.m.

• **Tuesday, Jan. 9** – Girls JV Basketball vs. Fordson HS, 5:30 p.m.; Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Fordson HS, 7 p.m.

Go Tigers!

Diane Kiessel, BHS Athletics Secretary

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Obituaries



John Ira Miles, Jr.

JOHN IRA MILES, JR.

(May 27, 1949 – December 25, 2023)

John Ira Miles, Jr., age 74, of Harrison, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI, passed away early Christmas morning at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI. He was born May 27, 1949, in Trenton, MI, the son of John Ira Miles, Sr. and Mary Ann (Dunigan) Miles. He graduated from Kennedy High School, Taylor, MI, class of 1967. He married the love of his life, Janice Brenner on August 14, 1970. John worked for General Motors for 32 years, before retiring in 2000. He was a member of the U.A.W. Local #163. He loved to travel and enjoyed camping with his family, making sure his three girls saw all 48 continental states. He was a former member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville, MI. John and Jan started spending winters in Gulf Shores, Alabama about 7 years ago, where they loved walking the beach together. He enjoyed working out, the outdoors, hunting, and fishing, especially with his grandson. He and Jan were on several bowling leagues over the years. John was a member of the Harrison Moose Lodge. He was an avid reader. He probably had over a thousand books on his Kindle. John also enjoyed woodworking and made numerous things for almost every family member over the years, and many friends too. Most of all, John loved making people happy, telling jokes, or just plain having fun. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Mr. Miles is survived by his loving wife of 53 years Jan; three cherished daughters: Cherie (Jon) Creger of Narrows, Virginia, Rebekah Harkai of Lincoln Park, MI, Sabrina (Kyle) Young of Belleville, MI; four grandchildren: Dayton Howard, Bella Young, Sarah Grace Creger, and Brady Young; a sister Yvonne (Alan) Hale of California; a brother Don Miles of Taylor, MI; also numerous extended family and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, John Sr., and Mary Ann Miles; his in-laws Harry and Virginia Brenner; sister Marilyn Perry; brother Bill Miles; and also a grandson Blake Miles Young.

A Celebration of John's Life will be held on May 26, 2024. Details will be provided closer to the date. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association and would be appreciated. www.davidcbrownfh.com

DORIS FLORENCE STOFFLET

(December 13, 1925 – December 29, 2023)

Age 98, of Belleville. Survived by two daughters, four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, a sister. Private celebration set. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home. www.davidcbrownfh.com

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Jerry Curtis

JERRY CURTIS

(October 17, 1979 – December 29, 2023)

Jerry Curtis, age 44, a life-long Belleville area resident, passed away suddenly, Friday, December 29, 2023, at Trinity Health Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI, with his family at his side. Jerry was born October 17, 1979, in Ypsilanti, MI, son of Henry Francis and Marsha Gay (Crum) Curtis. He was a member of the Belleville High School class of 1997. He enjoyed fishing and hunting. Most of all, he loved spending time with family and friends.

Jerry is survived by his mother Marsha (Wayne) Havens of Henderson, Nevada; his long-time partner Rachael Ressler of Van Buren Township, MI; 4 children: Sheldon Obuch, Jonathan and Marissa Curtis, and Kyle Danielson; a sister Melissa Curtis; a brother Michael Kowalski; also numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and many friends. He was preceded in death by his father Henry Curtis, also a son Kenneth Curtis.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI.

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MARTHA ALICE WING

(November 29, 1934 – December 27, 2023)

Age 89, of Belleville. Survived by six children, 17 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, a sister and brother. Gathering set at 11 a.m. Jan. 4 at Brown Funeral Home, followed by funeral at 11:30 a.m. www.davidcbrownfh.com

Upcoming Meetings

• Tuesday, Jan. 9 – Belleville Area District Library board, 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, Jan. 10 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

• Thursday, Jan. 11 – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m., to hold public hearing for proposed self-serve car wash at 17440 Sumpter Rd. and site plan review of project. Also, Belleville Planning Commission at 7 p.m., with a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on an ordinance change for seasonal boat storage.

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This picture of a boy washing dishes was found in one of the books purchased at the most recent used-book sale by the Friends of the Belleville Area District Library. The picture was tucked in the book "Serpentine" by Jonathan Kellerman, probably as a bookmark. If this is your picture, please come pick it up at the *Belleville-Area Independent*, 152 Main St., in Belleville.



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Belleville DDA

(continued from page 3)

Donley. She said she will meet with the new members to see on what committees

they wish to serve;

- Heard Treasurer Sabrina Richardson-Williams suggest having a card with discounts on it to encourage people to shop locally, especially in the restaurants;

- Learned the chairperson's daughter Rachel is a member of the budget and finance committee. Since no more than four DDA members can serve on a committee without posting them as public meetings under the Open Meetings Act, the DDA is inviting others to join the committees;

- Heard Richardson-Williams, the only member of the Events/Culture and Arts committee, say she would like to partner with the library on art projects and she would like to have a party in the alley for teenagers in 2024;

- Was reminded that election of officers will take place at the Jan. 17 meeting. The DDA attorney will also be at that meeting to refresh everyone about the law;

- Was informed that vice-chairperson Kelly McWilliams paid for the bleachers for Winterfest out of her pocket and needs to be reimbursed;

- Heard Mayor Voigt said this is his third go-round with the DDA and he has

served 18 years so far. He said he was at the second meeting after the DDA formed in 1985. He said he would like one or two DDA members to work on the city's Parks Commission which is being revitalized. He said they are working on a parks masterplan to be eligible for grants. Also, the city is close to the end of its IT nightmare and it will have a bullet-proof system and "no more nonsense," he said;

- Was reminded of the DDA strategy session from 9 to 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Belleville Area District Library; and

- Heard Winter say this is first time he's seen the full DDA – all nine members – at a meeting. Donley said due to previous commitments he will miss the next two meetings. Gatteri said he would like to meet with each DDA member personally and get to know their ideas.

Court Watching

Daqwan Daebeon Evans

Daqwan Daebeon Evans of Inkster is charged with receiving and concealing a stolen motor vehicle on Sept. 14 in Van Buren Township. A warrant had been entered into LEIN and on Jan. 2 he appeared in person at 34th District Court and Judge Lisa Martin arraigned him on the bench warrant. The warrant was canceled.

He was scheduled for a probable cause conference on Jan. 10. Personal bond was set at \$5,000.

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MDOT announces left lane on westbound I-94 reopens in VBT area

The Michigan Department of Transportation announced that crews expected to reopen the left lane of westbound I-94 from Belleville to Rawsonville roads in Wayne County on Dec. 22.

Work to install pavement markings and delineators is nearly complete and will allow all lanes to remain open to the motoring public ahead of the busy holiday travel season, the news release said.

Beginning Dec. 22, all westbound I-94 lanes are to remain open until mid-January when additional work along the shoulder will resume. In late spring 2024, a high-friction surface treatment will be applied along the project limits.

When all work is complete, the CAV corridor pilot will be fully operational and Cavue, 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 is closed to traffic from Belleville to Rawsonville roads. Testing will only be conducted during off-peak hours.

Commuter vehicles who choose to use the left lane outside of testing phases will not be able to access the Belleville rest area or exit at Belleville Road due to the placement of the delineator posts.

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

MDOT is currently completing an environmental assessment on the full 39-mile CAV corridor and has provided a virtual open house for the public to learn more about the proposed project. Public input will be collected through Jan. 12.

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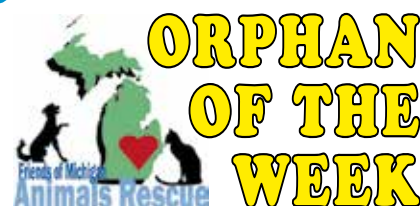
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Friends of the Library set annual meeting for Saturday, Jan. 20

The Friends of the Belleville Area District Library will hold their 2024 annual membership meeting at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, in the Cozadd Room of the library. Members of the Friends of the library and the public are invited to attend.

Minutes from the 2023 annual meeting will be available and presented by the secretary. The treasurer will present the

annual financial report. Committee chairs will give annual reports for membership, book sales/public relations, on-line book sales, and digital communication.

Elections of officers for the 2024 Board of Directors will take place. The following slate of officers has been approved by the current board. The proposed officers are Donna Gilkey-Lavin, president; Katerina

Tyner, vice president; Manny Lavin, secretary; and Rika Regentin, treasurer. Any additional nominations will be taken from the floor. Each attending member of the Friends will have one vote.

The theme for this year is "Thank You for BEE-ing a Friend" to commemorate the second year of the successful beehive colony, located on the library rooftop.

Membership brochures may be picked up at the library or obtained on-line at the library website: www.belleville.lib.mi.us.

As part of the agenda, there will be a scavenger hunt for members and guests to explore the library and discover all the new activities and programs that the library has to offer.

All members are invited to attend the Friend's board meetings at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the conference room on the second floor. The board welcomes new ideas for future planning.

Donations to the Friends of the Library are greatly appreciated. It is a non-profit, 501c(3) organization; donations are tax deductible.

Used book sales are ongoing in the

Friends' Nook in the library lobby. The next public book sale is being planned for May 4 and 5. More information will be forthcoming.

Revenue from the book sales and donations are used for maintaining the bee hives, summer reading programs, participation in Lake Fest, Harvest Fest and Winter Fest, and other library activities.

VBT OKs engineering for Belleville Road water main extension

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

An 8-inch water main installation project on Belleville Road between Jeanette and Sunrise will eliminate four dead ends in that area, Water & Sewer Director Kevin Lawrence told the Van Buren Board of Trustees at its Dec. 19 meeting.

The new line will run along the east side of Belleville Road between Jeanette Avenue and Sunrise Lane to provide redundancy looping for existing water main dead ends on Jeanette, Venetian, and Sunrise.

In conjunction with the new 8-inch water main along the east side of Belleville Road, an 8-inch water main crossing of Belleville Road near Venetian will provide a loop to the plaza on the west side.

The board unanimously approved not to exceed \$147,800 be paid to Fishbeck for engineering services for the project. Supervisor Kevin McNamara and Trustee Sherry Frazier were absent and excused from the meeting.

In other business at the 41-minute meeting on Dec. 19, the board:

- Approved the 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule and the 2024 Township Holiday Schedule;
 - Approved the Washtenaw Area Mutual Aid Council Interlocal Agreement. It has been updated to reflect the change from a charitable organization to a government agency to allow for legal protection;
 - Approved the supervisor's reappointment of Jill Yob to the Environmental Commission with a term to expire on Oct. 1, 2026;
 - Heard Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Merrie Coburn give the
- (continued on page 15)



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I-275 project: All lanes between 5 Mile, Sibley Rd. reopens Dec. 22

All lanes of I-275 in each direction between 5 Mile Road and Sibley Road were scheduled to be reopened by Friday, Dec. 22, according to a news release from the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Crews have been removing all barrels and barrier walls, as well as installing temporary pavement markings in that area, including all ramps and at the I-94 and I-96/M-14 interchanges.

While the majority of the work is completed, there will be winter work in the median and the shoulders. Crews will return in the spring for punch-list work, including installing intelligent transportation system (ITS) infrastructure, emergency pull-off removals, epoxy overlays on bridges, restoration work, and permanent pavement markings. The entire project is expected to be completed by summer 2024.

The Revive275 project is a \$281 million investment that has directly and indirectly supported 3,267 jobs, according to the news release. Project information can be found at Revive275.org.

Funding for this project was through Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Rebuilding Michigan program to rebuild the state highways and bridges that are critical to the state's economy and carry the most traffic.

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Belleville Planning Commission sets public hearing one more time

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Belleville Planning Commission agreed at its Nov. 9 meeting to have a public hearing on a proposed ordinance change to the city's boat parking rules.

But, the public hearing wasn't posted in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act, so it wasn't held on Dec. 14 as expected.

At the Dec. 14 meeting the public hearing was again set, this time for the 7 p.m., Jan. 11

meeting.

Several members of the community were present Dec. 14 and at the end of the meeting were allowed to comment briefly on the proposed ordinance change. Commission chairman Michael Hawkins urged residents to hold their comments for the Jan. 11 meeting, when they would be "on the record."

At the beginning of the meeting, Commissioner Michael Renaud apologized for missing the last meeting and suggested the proposed ordinance

wording be changed to "boats, pontoon boats, and personal watercraft" with no mention of motors.

City Manager Jason Smith said he had researched what other communities had done on summer parking of watercraft in residents' yards. He said he could use the definition already in place in the ordinance and that would achieve what Commissioner Renaud suggested.

City Manager Smith said at the last meeting his proposed wording was tweaked to change it to "motorized watercraft." This was at the suggestion of Commissioner Julie Kissel, who now is the city council liaison to the commission.

Renaud said people with boats in storage could take them out of storage for seven months and put them in their driveways to save the storage fees.

City Manager Smith said the boats have to be licensed and operable.

"I'm for it as long as it can be back behind the sidewalk," Renaud said of boat storage in yards in between use in the summer.

"This is a boating community," said Commissioner John Juriga, noting the commission chairman at the time 25 years ago said the cover on a boat in a yard can't be blue and that's when Juriga said to himself, "I've got to get on that board." And, he did and he's been on it ever since.

Smith said the intent is to not block the sidewalk and so they worked out wording that would keep the sidewalk free.

Project Administrator Steve Jones said in New Baltimore's ordinance the boat has to be stored on a hard surface and not on grass.

Smith said it has to be a residential driveway.

At the end of the meeting when chairman Michael Hawkins let the public speak, Adam Beyer said that after the the last meeting people told him that the newspaper article said he was representing Victoria Commons – and he wasn't. He said he hasn't read the story.

He said he was before the commission at that meeting speaking on behalf of parking his boat on his driveway. He also said he noted that the Victoria Commons Board would change its rules to coincide with the city rules.

Independent Editor Rosemary Otzman responded that he identified himself as president of the Victoria Commons Homeowners Association and she quoted his identification in the report of the meeting. She said she didn't report he was representing the board.

Bill Emerson asked who enforces the city ordinances and Smith said there are several who have the authority to enforce the ordinances.

Kent Emerson, who identified himself as part of the Victoria Commons board, presented

packets of information with pictures to commissioners and the administration and said he has no problem with Beyer's boat, but the 225 homes in the subdivision are close together and enforcement is a problem.

He said in the past the police chiefs and others ignored the problems. But lately he was able to sit down with the police chief, the city manager, and project administrator face to face, and Jones said a couple of warnings have been issued.

Councilwoman Kissel said the boats in the pictures presented by Emerson would not meet the requirements of the amended ordinance.

Renaud said, for example, a big pontoon boat wouldn't fit in a driveway and people might just have to rent storage space for them.

"We can't cover everything. There are limitations," Renaud said.

Bob O'Donnell said his wife Maria is on the Homeowners Association and they have no objection to Beyer's boat. O'Donnell said he grew up in Northern Oakland County with lots of lakes and people didn't park boats in their drives.

O'Donnell said there were a lot of questions, such as what does Van Buren Township do. He said there is a lot of push-back in Victoria Commons on this boat parking ordinance.

Mary Emerson said every week in the paper there are reports of teenagers rifling cars in people's garages. She said boats will be an attractive nuisance for people to get into.

She said she and her husband Bill have lived in the city for 36 years and there was a boat across the street that never left the driveway for two years. She said she complained, but nothing happened.

"There's no way to secure it in a driveway," she said.

Councilman Randy Priest, who was a member of the planning commission before he was elected to the city council, said there is another topic that could be discussed at the upcoming public hearing, or maybe it should be a separate matter. He said it is not seasonal and concerns utility trailers.

Hawkins asked everyone to hold the rest of their comments until the Jan. 11 meeting.

In other business on Dec. 14, the commission:

- Was informed that commission vice-chairman Matthew Wagner resigned from the commission by e-mail that afternoon. Juriga said that is a great loss to the commission;

- Learned the election of officers for 2023 would take place at the Jan. 11 meeting;

- Discussed what took place at the Dec. 6 joint meeting of the planning commissions from Belleville, Van Buren Township and Sumpter Township.

City of Belleville Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024 at 10AM**, at J&T Towing, 287 Industrial Park Drive, Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicle(s) will be held:

2010 HYUNDAI ELANTRA VIN: KMHDU4AD6AU885406

**BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
6 MAIN STREET
BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111**

PUBLISH: JANUARY 4, 2024

**BY KRISTY DOE
BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
RECORDS CLERK**



They're reading the Independent everywhere

Gary and Pam Pietrowski of Van Buren Township took a trip to Italy to visit their daughter Amanda in November. Gary's photo was taken with his *Independent* in front of the Colosseum in Rome. It is the largest ancient amphitheatre ever built, and is still the largest standing amphitheatre in the world. They report having a great time.

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 it goes into the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us \$55 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$60 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 151 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, Dec. 24:

0132 – mental subject, America
0205 – assist fire dept., S. Bellridge Dr.
0917 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Oak Ln.
0924 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd.
1023 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1147 – malicious destruction of property, Bog Rd.
1151 – mental subject, Sumpter Rd.
1500 – property check, Country Walk Ct.
1425 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
1500 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
1507 – welfare check, Martz Rd./Lohr Rd.
1536 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1536 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1613 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1738 – suicidal person, Riggs Rd.
1818 – property damage accident, Savage Rd.
2001 – larceny, McKinley St.
2040 – malicious destruction of property, Denton
2107 – 911 welfare check, S. Woodbury Green
2115 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.

Monday, Dec. 25:

0408 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
0824 – assist other dept., N. Liberty St.
1055 – civil matter, Maple Dr.
1403 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
1413 – assist other dept., Van Born/Hannan Rd.
1557 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Ecorse
2018 – fight, Village Green Ln.
2024 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.

2040 – family trouble, Rose Blvd.

Tuesday, Dec. 26:

0157 – family trouble, E. Sadie Ln.
0756 – noise complaint, Rose Blvd.
xxxx – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0839 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0915 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0949 – malicious destruction of property, Oak Apt
0955 – private property/property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1157 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1235 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Independence Ln.

1238 – welfare check, Savage Rd.
1431 – overdose, Riggs Rd.
1520 – retail fraud, Huron River Dr.
1536 – fraud, Amanda Dr.
1513 – family trouble, Outer Dr.
1633 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Wheeler St.
1656 – parking complaint, Rawsonville Rd.
1936 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
2233 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
2335 – mental subject, Bemis Rd

Wednesday, Dec. 27:

0023 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Mission Pointe
0034 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
0233 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0403 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0640 – harassment call, Parkwood Dr.
0826 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0913 – malicious destruction of property, Oak Ln.
0948 – welfare check, Greenwood Ct.
1008 – motorist assist, Van Born/Morton Taylor
1123 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1148 – larceny from auto, S. Bellridge Dr.
1127 – 911 welfare check, Morton Taylor Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.

1135 – civil matter, Kirkridge St.
xxxx – fraud, N. Timberview Dr.
1407 – domestic, Denton Rd.
1438 – sexual assault, Belleville Rd.
1513 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1533 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1551 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
1637 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1830 – threat, Rose Blvd.

xxxx – repossession, Pebblebrook Dr.
2009 – welfare check, Holly Ln.
2026 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Savage Rd.
2258 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Kirkridge Park Dr.
Thursday, Dec. 28:
0028 – noise complaint, S. Prairiegrass Ct.
0113 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0630 – juvenile complaint, Hamlin St.
0714 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Purple Sage Ct.
0827 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0839 – assist other dept., Brandi Dr.
xxxx – fraud, Ecorse Service B Dr.
1009 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Andover Dr.

1111 – civil matter, Burtrig St.
1124 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1229 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, McKinley St.
1253 – 911 welfare check, Westlake Cir.
1302 – civil matter, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1331 – welfare check, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1508 – hospice death, N. Prairiegrass Ct.
1521 – property damage accident, Elwell Rd.
xxxx – property damage accident, Elwell Rd.
xxxx – personal injury accident, Elwell Rd.
1610 – larceny, Oak Ln.
1616 – assist other dept., Belle Villa
1837 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1950 – follow up by officer, Hamlin St.
2017 – noise complaint, Village Green Ln.
2223 – motorist assist, Tyler Rd./Haggerty Rd.
2354 – family trouble, Beck Rd.

Friday, Dec. 29:

0209 – domestic, Lake Villa Dr.
0530 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Beck Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Cumberland Ct.
0910 – 911 welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.
0923 – larceny, Pond Bluff Dr.
1037 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Belleville Rd.
1130 – harassment call, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – misc. complaint, N. Bellridge Dr.
1515 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1548 – assist other dept., E. I-94/Rawsonville I-94 ramp E.

1650 – neighbor trouble, Woodbury Dr.
1919 – disorderly, Haggerty Rd.
2047 – malicious destruction of property, Turnberry Ct.
2225 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2343 – malicious destruction of property, E. Archwood Dr.

Saturday, Dec. 30:

0307 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Wildrye Ct.
0650 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Venetian Ave.
1114 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Greenwood Dr.
1150 – disorderly, Locust Dr.
1230 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1244 – malicious destruction, Denton Rd.
1250 – civil matter, Tyler Rd.
1328 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd.
1358 – welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
1417 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1428 – traffic offense, W. I-94/Belleville Rd.
1615 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
2016 – family trouble, Haggerty Rd.
2204 – assist fire dept., Outer Dr.
2242 – intrusion alarm, Sondra Dr.
2250 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.
2322 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. I-94 Service Dr.

Also on this week's log are 20 traffic stops, one of which was on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 24:

0804 – animal complaint, Henry St.
0932 – welfare check, Belle Villa
1549 – disorderly, Main St.
1733 – domestic, N. Aberdeen Ct.

Monday, Dec. 25:

0823 – domestic, N. Liberty St.
1451 – assist fire dept., South St.
1525 – assist other dept., Estrada
1711 – neighbor trouble, Henry St.
Tuesday, Dec. 26:
0752 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
0810 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd./Quirk Rd.
0836 – traffic stop, Main St.
0856 – traffic offense, Main St./First St.
0903 – traffic offense, South St.
0950 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Harmony Ln.
1059 – traffic stop, Liberty St./Fourth St.
1110 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr.
1128 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1139 – traffic stop, Liberty St.
1221 – traffic stop, Main St./Second St.
1237 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave.
1631 – disorderly, Main St.

Wednesday, Dec. 27:

0004 – traffic stop, South St./Henry St.
0038 – noise complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
0201 – mental subject, Menlo Park Dr.
1530 – malicious destruction of property, Victorian Ln.

Thursday, Dec. 28:

0055 – overdose, N. Liberty St.
0108 – intrusion alarm, S. Edgemont Ave.
0822 – juvenile complaint, Carmell St.
1532 – follow up by officer, Belle Villa
xxxx – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, South St.

xxxx – assist other dept., Belle Villa

Friday, Dec. 29:

1434 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
1645 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
xxxx – civil matter, Belle Villa
1844 – assist other dept., Harbour Pointe Ct.
2059 – suicidal person, Belle Villa Blvd.
2128 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./Church St.
2245 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 30:

1209 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1726 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
1826 – assist other dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2041 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd.
2119 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./South St.
2228 – traffic stop, South St./E. Wabash Ave.

There were 18 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 24:

0101 – noise complaint, Wayside Dr.
0601 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1249 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1414 – property damage accident, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1555 – family trouble, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1927 – 911 hang up, 9100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1958 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Martinsville Rd./Mulberry Dr.

2154 – larceny, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.

2219 – family trouble, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.

2235 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.

2249 – assault, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.

2338 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.

Monday, Dec. 25:

0811 – family trouble, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.
1350 – assist other agency, Rawsonville/Willis
1610 – fire dept. assist, Oregon St.
1619 – fire dept. assist, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1643 – property damage accident, Willis Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 26:

0014 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0500 – animal complaint, 51000 bl. Wear Rd.
0923 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0949 – alarm, Kansas St.
1007 – 911 hang up, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1133 – neighbor dispute, 46000 bl. Thatcham Ln.
1142 – hazard, Sherwood Rd./Judd Rd.
1142 – animal complaint, Judd Rd./Sumpter Rd.
1355 – fraud complaint, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.
1400 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1406 – shots fired, Willis Rd.
1409 – assist other agency, Rustic Ln.
1458 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1517 – fire dept. assist, Wayside Dr.

1627 – 911 hang up, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1642 – family trouble, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1731 – animal complaint, Arizona
1733 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Collyer Ct.
1818 – welfare check, 47000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1850 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Sumpter Rd. / Wear Rd.

1947 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.

2011 – follow-up investigation, Arizona

2019 – lost property, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.

2023 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.

2033 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

2208 – mental health call, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.

2221 – assault, Timberlane Dr.

2350 – suspicious circumstance, Redwood

Wednesday, Dec. 27:

0258 – suspicious circumstance, Arizona
0516 – family trouble, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0842 – juvenile matter, Arizona
1004 – 911 hang up, Brookview Dr.
1321 – suspicious person, Texas St.
1446 – 911 hang up, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.
1510 – follow-up investigation, 46000 bl. Wear
1624 – civil matter, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
1816 – suspicious circumstance, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1828 – follow-up investigation, 42000 bl. Willis
2210 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Wear Rd. / Elwell Rd.

Thursday, Dec. 28:

0051 – assist other agency, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
1018 – neighbor dispute, Nevada St.
1338 – auto, Knollwood Dr.
1352 – family trouble, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1549 – 911 hang up, 19000 bl. Clark Rd.
2034 – fire dept. assist, 6400 bl. Oakville Waltz

Friday, Dec. 29:

0532 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
0914 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0919 – mental health call, Edgewood Dr.
0931 – animal complaint, Rawsonville Rd./Willis
1058 – civil matter, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1112 – civil matter, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1432 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico
1644 – fire dept. assist, Brookview Dr.
1749 – property damage accident, Judd Rd. / Martinsville Rd.

1801 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
1908 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1911 – family trouble, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
2039 – 911 hang up, Wear Rd./Bohn Rd.
2044 – suspicious circumstance, 46000 bl. Willis
2102 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Karr Rd.
2111 – subpoena service, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 30:

1053 – fire dept. assist, Huron Twp. PD
1209 – fire dept. assist, Huron Twp. PD
1501 – neighbor dispute, Greenmeadow Dr.
1506 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Paris Dr.
2146 – alarm, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2150 – fire dept. assist, Delaware
2157 – 911 hang up, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.

Also on this week's log are 157 patrol checks, 46 traffic stops, and five misc. details.

Sumpter Twp. approves \$339,375 to relocate Rawsonville water line

At its regular meeting on Nov. 28, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees approved the lowest qualified bid of Diversified Excavating and Site Utilities for relocation of a water line on Rawsonville Road that had been misplaced some 50 years ago.

The total cost is \$339,375, which includes \$288,583.46 for Diversified, plus 10% contingency which brings it up to \$317,441.74, and \$21,938 for Hennessey Engineers for project management.

Trustee Matt Oddy said federal ARPA funds will cover the lion's share of that expense. Attorney Young is looking into getting experts to help document what went wrong to support a township damage claim.



VAN BUREN
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Denton Road Bridge Aesthetic SURVEY

As the design phase of the Denton Road Bridge replacement progresses, Van Buren Township is seeking public input in selecting the aesthetic for the bridge. Take the survey below to choose your favorite aesthetic design.

We want to hear from YOU!

Scan the QR code to pick your favorite aesthetic for the Denton Road Bridge.



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VBT

(continued from page 13)

2023 DDA Annual Report. The VBT DDA was created in 1990;

- Approved having Fishbeck engineers provide a Reliability Study and General Plan for the township's water system in the amount of \$34,500. The study is mandated by law every five years and VBT's last study was in 2016;

- Approved having Fishbeck engineers provide engineering services for the North Shore and Beckley Road pump station replacements for the township sanitary system in the amount of \$68,900. The North Shore pump station has three grinder pumps in wet well and a 1-1/4-inch diameter discharge. The station was installed in 2013. The Beckley Road pump station is a 100 gpm-rated steel dry-pit pump station installed in 1970. The North Shore pump station has reliability issues and Beckley Road pump station is at the end of its useful life;

- Approved the petition and resolution for

the abandonment of a portion of the Bell Creek Drain on properties owned by Ashley Capital on the west side of Haggerty Road south of Van Born and 6480 Haggerty Rd. The abandonment of this section of the drain will facilitate the development of the 175-acre Crossroads North Phase 2 development. The drain, which starts on the site, will be rerouted to the storm basin and south to a different drainage district. The petition and resolution is required by the Michigan Drain Code for this abandonment to occur. Wayne County makes the final decision;

- Heard Morris Little from Van Buren Estates say there is a rumor about a new township hall being built. Treasurer Sharry Budd, who was chairing the meeting in the absence of the supervisor, said they are not building a new building for the township hall, but they are building a community center. Little also asked about who is paying for the reconstruction of Haggerty Road and was told it was mainly the grants. Little said at one point the supervisor wanted to pay a large amount for the project, but that didn't happen; and

- Heard Clerk Leon Wright say that because of State Proposal 2, there are changes to how the voting will go in 2024, starting with the Republican presidential primary on Feb. 27 and then elections in August and November. He said early voting will take place nine days before election day and the township has two precincts set up at the township hall where people can vote and then put their ballot in the tabulator. He said they also have no-reason absentee voting, which starts 45 days ahead of election day, but these ballots are not counted until election day. If a voter changes his or her mind after turning in the absentee ballot, the ballot can be spoiled and the voter can revoke. There is a major difference between the two voting methods because with early voting, the ballots are put into the tabulator and can't be recalled.



City of Belleville Public Notice



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF BELLEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE ZONING ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Belleville's Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on proposed amendments to the City of Belleville's Zoning Ordinance regarding Seasonal Boat Storage.

The Planning Commission will conduct its public hearing on January 11, 2024 at 7:30 PM, during the regular City of Belleville Planning Commission meeting, at the Municipal Council Chambers located at 6 Main Street, Belleville, Michigan.

Copies of the proposed Amendment will be available for inspection by the public at the Office of the City Clerk, 6 Main Street, Belleville, Michigan. Written comments will be received until the hearing record is closed on January 11, 2024. Written comments should be sent to the City of Belleville's City Manager, Jason Smith, at 6 Main St, Belleville, MI, 48111.

Briana Hootman
Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: 12/28/2023, 01/04/2024



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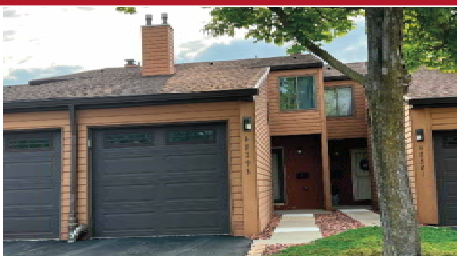
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BELLEVILLE LAKE \$\$\$\$ in Improvements. 2 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths, Smart Designed Kitchen with Cabinets and Granite, Fireplace, Hardwood, Covered Patio \$299,900



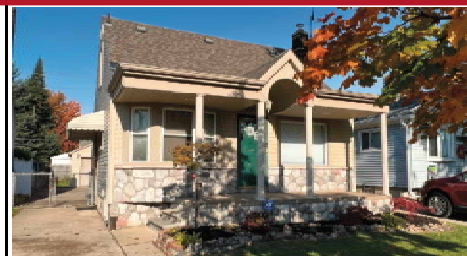
21900 BOHN, SUMPTER TWP

THREE BEDROOM 2 1/2 Bath Ranch featuring Hardwood Floors, 3 Seasons Sunroom plus walkout to Huge Deck. Newer Metal Roof, 2 1/2 Car Garage \$279,900



45910 PURPLE SAGE, VAN BUREN TWP

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



18275 HARMAN., MELVINDALE

STORYBOOK LOOK! Beautiful 3 Bedroom home with Hardwood floors everywhere, Full Basement, 4 Seasons room, Large Yard and big Garage plus More. \$164,900



SOLD

3136 MILDRED, WAYNE

IMPRESSIVE BRICK RANCH 3 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths, Living Room w Fireplace, Family Room, Kitchen with Corian, Full Basement, 2 1/2 Car Garage & more. \$225,000



27900 ROMINE, HURON TOWNSHIP

BRICK AND VINYL COUNTRY RANCH Featuring 3 bedrooms, Huge family room, hardwood floors. 1 1/2 car garage PLUS 40x30 Pole Barn. A Clean Dream. \$240,000



8909 RAWSONVILLE, SUMPTER TWP

ROOM TO ROAM 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths and over 2,300 Square Feet with Separate Living Space. 3+ Car Garage and Workshop. One acre, beautiful yard and mature trees. \$240,000



458 MAIN & 25 FIFTH STREET, BELLEVILLE

2 KEY BUILDINGS WITH OVER 10,000 SQ FEET. Owner retiring after 37 Years. Traffic count 12,000 cars per day. \$995,000 NOTE: 458 Main could be purchased separately.

BELLEVILLE 3 RESIDENTIAL LOTS ONE PRICE. TOTALING .41 ACRES WITH CITY WATER AND SEWER AT STREET ACROSS FROM BELLEVILLE LAKE NOW \$49,000

3 ACRES - COMMERCIAL CORNER AT SUMPTER AND WILLOW NOW \$150,000

GRANT & WAHRMAN 4 ACRES LT IND BY METRO AIRPORT \$250,000

SUMPTER RD EXETER TWP 8 AC \$80,000

VACANT JUDD SUMPTER 2.1 AC \$45,000

VACANT JUDD 8.7 AC. PAVED RD \$85,000

HAGGERTY 1.5 AC VAN BUREN \$70,000

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

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

HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$55,000

WILLIS & MARTINSVILLE 1.64 AC \$65,000

COLF ROAD EXETER TWP 10 AC \$100,000

50540 BOG RD ONE HALF ACRE \$55,000

7 PARCELS ON THE CORNER OF BEMIS AND MARTINSVILLE. PRICED \$40,000

BUILDER SPECIAL 3 LOTS for \$100,000

SUMPTER TWP CLARK 17+ AC \$199,500

BROWNSTOWN 27102 DEBIASI \$85,000

VACANT MARIO ANN ROMULUS \$38,000

6551 BUNTON, YPSILANTI TWP 427 X 1019 10 ACRES PAVED STREET NOW \$200,000

19+ ACRES BREST RD, TAYLOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY - PAVED STREET NEAR INKSTER ROAD. \$550,000

VACANT LOUISA "DREAM LOT" \$55,000



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**WELCOME,
BRANDON MILLER!**