



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 29.47 Thursday, November 23, 2023 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

Belleville DDA votes to buy second property

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After a half-hour closed-door session on Nov. 15, the Belleville Downtown Development Authority voted to move forward with the purchase of the property discussed in the closed session.

DDA chairperson Alicia McGovern responded to a question from the *Independent*, saying this is not the property at Third and Main, but another property. She said the Third and Main purchase has been delayed.

In the minutes of the Oct. 18 meeting, 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.

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

(continued on page 17)

BHS football to seek third-straight state crown on Nov. 26

The Belleville High School Varsity Boys' football team beat Davison High School, 63-21, on Saturday, Nov. 18, at Novi to win the MHSAA District 1 semifinals.

BHS has won 38 straight games without a loss.

At 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, BHS will face Southfield at Ford Field in Detroit with BHS seeking its third-straight Michigan Division 1 Championship crown.



Photo courtesy of Elena Manalp, VBT Communications Dept.

The Belleville Community Chorus performed at the Light up the Park event at Harris Park in Van Buren Township on Nov. 15. A large crowd attended the lighting of holiday decorations sponsored by the VBT Downtown Development Authority.

Belleville planners set public hearing on boat parking changes

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After a Nov. 9 discussion on the subject of boat parking in driveways, an issue for more than a dozen years, the Belleville Planning Commission agreed to set a public hearing on a proposed ordinance amendment to allow it during the summer months.

The public hearing was proposed to be at the commission's next meeting, at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 14.

At a recent city council meeting, Adam Beyer, president of the Victoria Commons Homeowners Association, explained his situation. He has a boat he uses in the summer and he keeps it in his driveway in between launches into the lake.

He said he can't keep it in his rear yard because his back yard is fenced in. He said he launches at Sandy's Marina and it costs \$400 a year to park the trailer at the marina for the season, so he brings it home.

(continued on page 13)



**The Belleville Area Museum
has been closed by
Van Buren Township for
1,361 days as of today.
Set for reopening in Dec.**

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

District library board hears report on artwork that was vandalized

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Arts Committee chairperson Michele Montour detailed the recent “unfortunate incident” where an artist’s work “Memories in the Rocks” was vandalized on a library shelf.

At the Nov. 14 regular meeting of the Belleville Area District Library board, Montour said she was called from the library on Nov. 12 and advised of the damaged artwork where a silver cross was taken. She said she advised the artist to take the artwork home with her.

Artist Cheryl Martin had signed a release, along with all the other artists who display their work at the library, which leaves the library free of responsibility if anything happens to it.

The artwork was put on an open shelf because the locked glass case didn’t have room for it. Montour said she told Martin she would call her the case was empty, but she didn’t call.

An apology was given, along with an offer for Martin to display her artworks, which include photos, at several times in 2024 or in 2025.

“In the future, I would discourage people from leaving such artwork outside the locked case and ask them to take it home with them until there was room,” Montour told the board.

She said there were no cameras in the area to catch the activity. Someone rummaged through the artwork and took the silver cross, but not Martin’s precious grandfather’s dogtags that also were in the exhibit, Montour said.

She said Martin does not blame the library for her loss.

“We use glass cubes to put over such exhibits,” said board vice chairperson Joy

Cichewicz, who is library director for the Michigan Avenue Branch of the Ypsilanti District Library.

“That’s the reason we bought the locked case,” Montour said. “In the future, if it’s not available, they’ll take it home.”

Board chairperson Sharon Peters said the person who vandalized the artwork, “was really bold to do that” in the middle of the library.

Library director Mary Jo Suchy said she had great sympathy for the artist, who worked to create the artwork and then had it destroyed.

Peters said they should send Martin a message from the board and boardmembers agreed.

Peters praised the work Montour has done as chairperson of the Art Committee. She said the board appreciates her talents and efforts and being so willing to help.

Montour announced the library has four exhibits each year, three months each. She presented the following schedule for 2024: January-March, Gary Washington photography, with Cheryl Martin possibly in the display case; April-June, Van Buren Secondary Student Exhibit; July-September, Steve Paulsen and Kim Ensich, with Cheryl Martin possibly in the display case; and October-December, Belleville Area Council for the Arts award winners.

For 2025: January-March, Danielle Whitehead; April-June, possible Van Buren Secondary Student Exhibit; July-September, Liz Dobbs with Cheryl Martin possibly in display case; and October-December, BACA award winners.

Montour said at one point she wanted shorter book shelving so she could have more room for the artworks. She said she remembers board member Joy Cichewicz telling her, “This is a library, not a gallery,”

and she thinks of those words often.

Montour said that the art on display that is up for sale is selling, with five or six pieces in the last exhibit and seven or nine in the exhibit before that.

She said in the future she would like to have a small reception at the opening of each new exhibit, with the artist explaining their work and process, if the artist is willing. She said she thinks the first one would be the school exhibit.

Offer to donate book collection

A guest present at the Nov. 14 board meeting was Don Sherman, who has lived in Van Buren Township for 40 years. He has been an automotive journalist for 52 years.

He brought samples of his 900-book collection on automotive subjects. He offered to donate his entire collection to the library in exchange for a tax credit. He said he would pay an expert appraiser to put a value on the collection.

He said he would like to see them shelved together in a convenient location at the library, with a small plaque acknowledging his donation.

“We’re in the heart of the automotive industry,” he said, noting Belleville would be a good location for the collection.

He said he has two children and, as he ages, he doesn’t want them to be responsible for finding a place for the books and, “I don’t want them landfilled.”

Chairperson Peters said the board will take his offer under consideration, but she believes it will be an administrative decision.

Sherman said he could deliver the books to the library door, although it would take several trips. He said he could include his oak shelving as part of his donation.

He said he still writes for Corvette and

Haggerty magazines. He said he has two degrees in engineering and it is important to have that background information when writing about vehicles.

Director Suchy asked Sherman if he would agree to do a program at the library on automobiles and he agreed to do so.

He said he got a lot of ideas for his writing from the people and vehicles at the car show in Belleville each week during the summer.

“This car show could become one of the best in the country, because of its high quality and high quantity,” he said.

In other business at the one-hour-and-four-minute meeting on Nov. 14, the board:

- Noted that the penal fines from the 34th District Court, which come once a year, were \$49,956 this year, up from \$36,000 last year. They were concerned that drivers had to get ticketed for bad driving for the library to get operating funds;

- Heard Director Suchy announce that she has been asked to be a grand marshal at the Winter Fest parade on Dec. 2 and the board applauded her announcement. (Janet Millard is the other grand marshal.) Suchy said the library will offer cookies and hot chocolate at Winter Fest from 5-6 p.m. on Dec. 2. She said library staff plans on marching in the parade as characters from “A Christmas Carol”;

- Heard Suchy say she is working on a job description for a library monitor or mentor to assist staff after school in enforcing library policies and ensuring that the library’s environment is safe and pleasant for all. She said, ideally, candidates for this position will have experience working with teens. Peters said, “Adolescents socializing can become pretty exuberant.”

VBT planners postpone site amendments for Hampton Manor

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After about an hour and a half of discussion on a request for a site plan amendment for the Hampton Manor development, the Van Buren Township Planning Commission voted unanimously to postpone action until such a time as developers had a complete set of revised plans.

This was at the regular meeting on Nov. 8. Commissioner Medina Atchinson was absent.

The next regular meeting of the planning commission is Dec. 13 so commissioners agreed to attend a special meeting before then if everything is in order, so the development is not held up longer than necessary.

Hampton Manor had planned to welcome

residents to its new facility at the corner of Tyler and Morton Taylor roads on Nov. 1.

Vidya Krishnan, senior principal planner from McKenna, said the applicant has made significant progress, with most in the last day or two.

One of the things at issue is the colors being used on the assisted living and memory care building. The planning commission rejected the use of blue siding for the project, which was not allowed by the site plan approved in 2021, so the blue siding has been removed.

They now are putting up brick and stone, with composite siding. They are installing the missing dormers and putting metal roofing on the dormers. There were questions about the 6’ metal fencing requested and the pillars at the front

entrance, which do not match the pillars as designed.

Sam Martin, representing developer Van Buren Investors Land Holdings, LLC, brought someone with him this time to help discuss the project. At the Sept. 27 meeting he appeared alone and was barraged with negative comments.

John Costa, architect, said he was not involved in the original plans and he was there to help make corrections. He said he did prepare construction documents, revised the dormers and had additional dormers put on the roof. He said the cultured stone was removed and it will be replaced.

He said they realized on the Monday previous to the Wednesday meeting that they would not be able to use vinyl siding.

He said there is a slight change in brick and cultured stone and the fence within the courtyard patios.

Planner Krishnan said the patios should be designed as amenities and should be shown as patios for each unit on the plans.

Martin said the aluminum black fence is for the safety of the residents. He said the development is pet-friendly and the fence keeps them in there.

Architect Costa agreed with Krishnan that plants in front of the fence could be put in to shield the fence from public view. Krishnan said she didn’t have an issue with the 6’ fence.

Commissioner Jeff Jahr said the fence needs to be on the site plan and a sample of the fence brought in along with the rest of

(continued on page 15)

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

We have plenty for which to be grateful

Thanksgiving is here and we know it means more than turkey and dressing and a couple days off from work. Here at the *Independent*, these are among the things for which we give thanks:

- The newly asphalted roads in Belleville's Hillside Cemetery and the generous donors who gave big amounts to make the cemetery more pleasant to access without gutting the city budget;

- The volunteers who are planning and working on the upcoming Winter Fest and all the other activities in the tri-communities. It takes their personal time and talents and that is freely given;

- Recently returned to office, Belleville city councilman Jeremiah Beebe who referred to himself as a "curmudgeon on finances." We need more like him, officials who pay attention to how much local governments are spending on what and whether it's in the best interests of the residents paying the taxes;

- Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright, who attended the Veterans Day ceremony in Belleville and tried to say a few words but was told he asked too late to get on the program. Wright promises there will be a wreath from Van Buren Township at the memorial at next year's ceremony and he will ask to speak sooner; and

- Library Director Mary Jo Suchy and Central Business Community coordinator Janet Millard, who have been selected as grand marshals for the Dec. 2 Winter Fest parade. The chamber made fine choices.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

Gayle Pitzen passed away last week and we are so sorry to see her go. One of the things about her that I found so charming was that she lovingly washed American flags and hung them out to dry, so her husband Pete could get them mounted to give away to the public.

The flags taken off the veterans' graves at Hillside Cemetery were given to Pete and then Gayle would wash them. After they were cleaned and remounted, they were put in containers in their front yard on South Biggs Street for distribution to the public – a labor of love.

Pete is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and they sponsor his work.

Others remember Gayle as the cheerful and helpful school secretary at North Junior High School, way back when.

May she rest in peace.

It was explained that the District 1 championship game for Belleville / Southfield next Sunday starts so late, at 7 p.m., at Ford Field because playoffs for other teams who have to travel back to the other side of the state after the game were put earlier. Those on this side of the state don't have to go as far to go to get home.

We read a report in a recent *Editor & Publisher* magazine that over the past 20 years more than 30% of the newspapers in the country have closed. Some have continued as "ghost newspapers," owned by chains who do not even have an office in the community and have no local reporters. Everything is done from a main office somewhere else.

This Thanksgiving, we are grateful for the community that supports this local

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



newspaper and reads it so faithfully to learn what is going on down the street and in the municipal government that covers their homes. The local pocketbook issues are especially important for residents to know about.

You may think you can find everything out on social media, but you can't. You have to have someone at the meetings in person to report accurately what decisions have been made and why. Then you can go to the next meeting to comment, if you like, or contact your elected officials to give your ideas.

We also thank the 11 members of the LLC who own the *Independent* and have supported it through thick and thin. They all live locally and some are shy about having their identities known because of all the opposition we received when we first started in 1995. Some are not so shy, including Barbara Miller, Lee Herrmann, and Jerry McKelvey. We thank them all.

The *Belleville-Area Independent* owners met last Saturday and it was a great meeting. They bring this paper, free of charge to you, and it is full of the story of your community. For our country to survive, we have to have informed citizens. We're trying to keep citizens informed in our corner of the world.

A reader told us that he called police when a man pulled a gun on him at a local market on Nov. 7 and it was reported in the Sumpter dispatch log as "family trouble," which it wasn't. He said there was no family involved and the case is being prosecuted

as assault with a dangerous weapon and felony weapon. We print the reports we get and don't know why it was listed as family trouble, although I've been told in the past they put on the log what the dispatcher gets in the original call. Maybe someone from the market called it in as family trouble. Best guess.

A reader said he doesn't understand why so many people want fireworks for events. He said his father was a Vietnam vet and every Fourth of July he trembled at the sounds of the exploding fireworks.

Other readers say they have to try to protect their pets from the firework sounds because the pets are afraid.

Fireworks are beautiful and people love them. I remember watching fireworks go off in a valley as we stood on a mountainside in Shiga Prefecture in Japan in August, 1982. It was great. I was there as part of a sister-city trip from the State of Michigan to Shiga. We also visited Hiroshima -- not so wonderful.

Guests from Michigan were treated to a ride on the Lake Michigan steamer on Lake Biwa, the largest fresh-water lake in Japan. Michigan helped Japan clean up Biwako after the atomic bomb pollution and Japan was grateful for the help and floated a boat named for the state.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

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Letters

Get well, Cornell Anton

To the editor:

Sorry to read that Cornell Anton was ill. I used to see him every Sunday at Denny's. Always good conversation with a real gentleman. Get well soon, Cornell.

Mickey Widener

Van Buren Township

Corrections:

VBT Clerk Wright did ask to speak at Veterans Day ceremony

Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright, a Navy veteran, said he attended the Nov. 11 Veterans Day ceremony in Belleville, and before it started asked the VFW member in charge if he could speak. Clerk Wright said he was told he wasn't on the program and they didn't have time for him. Wright said after the event, VFW member John Blackstone came over to him and apologized.

We apologize, too, since in last week's editorial, we said Wright didn't get up to speak. He said he tried.

Blackstone, who was the master of ceremonies, said Wright came up at the last minute and asked to speak and it was too confusing to add him since they were about to begin the ceremony.

Wright said next year he will make arrangements in advance and will also bring a wreath. Wright said although he didn't serve in a foreign war, he wanted to speak about his brother, who served in Vietnam and was sickened by Agent Orange and died.

We've been advised that a story on page 3 of last week's edition said Acting Belleville Police Chief Kris Faull had served as school resource officer for 12 years. The reader who contacted us said that is incorrect and she had been SRO for more years than that. He is correct.

At the Nov. 13 meeting of the city council, Councilman Tom Fielder explained that in 2001, a COPS grant paid for 80% of the SROs for the Van Buren Public Schools. He said VBT had Ryan Bidell and Sumpter Township had John Ashby. After the grant expired, VBT left and Sumpter no longer had Elwell School in its venue. Fielder said for the last 12 years, Faull was left alone as the only SRO for the district.

Also, we used the wrong first name for Ryan Bidwell, who is back as SRO from VBT. Actually, since Faull has been acting as police chief and has had surgery, Bidell currently is the only SRO for the school district. We apologize for the errors.

Also, the contact person for the University of Michigan boathouse in Van Buren Park is Michael J. Rein. We misspelled his last name in our Nov. 16 edition. Our apologies.

-- Rosemary K. Otzman, editor

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Friday, Nov. 24, and Saturday, Nov. 25** – Free Drive-In Movie Nights for kids at Get the Scoop, 644 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. From 6 to 8 p.m. each night. Watch "The Monkey King."

• **Thursday, Nov. 30, to Sunday, Dec. 3** – Winterfest in Belleville. Soup Crawl 6-8 p.m. Friday, with Holiday Village on Saturday from 10 a.m. to the lighted parade 5:30 Saturday afternoon, followed by dancing on the Fourth Street Square to live music, 8-11 p.m. Breakfast with Santa is Sunday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Carriage rides are Saturday and Sunday.

• **Friday, Dec. 1** – Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club invites you to join it for its annual holiday dinner at 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m., at UAW Local 898, 8975 Textile Rd., Ypsilanti Township. Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Includes dinner, beer, wine, and setups. Tickets can be purchased on line at <https://donorbox.org/swdc-holiday-party>. Information at (734) 252-9252 or (734) 634-3569.

• **Saturday, Dec. 2** – Free crochet class starts at noon at Faith Denton United Methodist Church, 2020 Denton Rd. Those who know how to crochet are welcome. Join in for an afternoon of fellowship and learning. Please call (734) 483-2276 or send email to faithchurch69@gmail.com if interested in attending this event.

• **Sunday, Dec. 3** – 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.

• **Sunday, Dec. 3** – Advent by Candlelight at 3 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 19109 Craig St., New Boston, with musical program. Light refreshments immediately following. All welcome. Information: 734-753-9048.

• **Sunday, Dec. 3** – Pictures with Santa featuring Rachel Leonard Photography from 3 to 6 p.m., with 6 to 7 p.m. for four-legged family members who must be on a leash, at the Pvt. James D. Donovan/Romulus Post 78. Cost \$7 for one or \$12 for a family. All proceeds benefit the building fund.

• **Wednesday, Dec. 6** – Angel of Hope ceremony at 7 p.m. at Hillside Cemetery remembers children who have died, no matter at what age. If you would like your child's name included in the program and spoken aloud, call Patti Monroe before Dec. 1 at the Brown Family Center, 697-5090.

• **Saturday, Dec. 9** – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority presents "Santa Paws" from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the DDA office at 10151 Belleville Rd. You and your four-legged friend are invited to dress in holiday attire for a photo op with Santa Paws. Schedule your photo op at (734) 699-8941.

VBT board OKs Class C liquor license for Agave Bar and Grill

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its Nov. 7 regular meeting, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees gave local legislative approval for a new Class C quota license for on-premise alcohol consumption for El Agave Bar and Grill, located at 10840 Belleville Rd.

The local approval goes back to the state for final approval. Owner/manager Juan Salinas and manager Leopoldo Coblan were present for the board's consideration. Salinas said they also manage El Tapatio Taqueria Restaurante in Ypsilanti and Mi Zarape II in Saline.

At other business at the Nov. 7 meeting, the board:

- Approved a Revocable License and Operation Agreement between the township and Van Buren Little League for the use of Beck Road Ball Fields. The term has been changed from one year to an open-ended agreement, McNamara said;
- Approved the Haggerty Road (Ecorse to Van Born) Water Main Design Services by Fishbeck engineers at a cost of \$257,620. The water main will be put in before the county's reconstruction of Haggerty Road between Ecorse and Van Born in 2024. Director of Public Services Ron Akers

(continued on page 16)

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
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Obituaries



Gayle Joyce Pitzen

GAYLE JOYCE PITZEN

(November 30, 1941 – November 16, 2023)

Gayle Joyce Pitzen, age 81, passed away November 16, 2023. She was born to Oscar E. Halverson and Virginia G. Whitehead in Detroit, MI on November 30, 1941.

Gayle was a lifelong Belleville resident, and graduated from Belleville High School in 1960, where she was voted "Best Looking". Gayle worked as a secretary for Van Buren Schools for 29 1/2 years and enjoyed organizing class reunions for Belleville High School. She had many interests such as sewing, gardening, planting flowers, and laundry. She would wash and hang to dry over 800 refurbished flags per year. She also liked baking. When a family member had a birthday, she was the one who made the cake. Her grandchildren called her "Grandma Tea" because of her love for tea and tea parties. Family was precious to Gayle, and she loved to host all family parties and holidays. Gayle is survived by her beloved husband Peter Pitzen II; children Jon (Kendra) Hancotte of Battle Creek, MI, Amanda Anderson of Holly, MI, and Andrea Weiss of Grayling, MI; stepchildren Peter Pitzen III of Chelsea, MI, Andrew Pitzen of Olympia, WA, Mark Pitzen of Grafton, OH, Matthew (Cathy) Pitzen of Loxley, AL, Barbara (James) Cassidy of Menomonee Falls, WI, and Michael Pitzen of Saginaw, MI; grandchildren Nikolas (Monica) Hancotte, Danielle Anderson, Dustin Anderson, Krista (Collin) Hancotte, Benjamin Anderson, Mollie Binert, Zora Binert, and Phoebe Binert; step-grandchildren Peter (Andrea) Pitzen IV, Heather Cassidy, Andrea Pitzen, Gunnar Pitzen, Cody Pitzen, Brendan Pitzen and Ashton Pitzen; great-grandchildren Peter Pitzen V, Trinity Pitzen and Alex Hancotte; siblings Gary Halverson of Winter Haven, FL, Suzanne MacKay of Troy, MI, Leonard Whitehead of Belleville, MI, Gene Whitehead of Wayne, MI, Kevin (Carol) Whitehead of Belleville, and Elayne (Gene) Taylor of Belleville; also many nieces and nephews.

Gayle is preceded in death by her mother Virginia, her father who raised her Leonard C. Whitehead, brother Bryan Whitehead, her son-in-law Michael Weiss, and the father of her children Louis Hancotte as well as his mother Phyllis Hancotte.

Visitation for Gayle was on Sunday, November 19, 2023 with a prayer service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Her funeral service was November 20, 2023 at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville, Father Bryan Shackett officiating. Gayle will be laid to rest in Sloop Cemetery, Van Buren Township, MI at a later date.

Memorial donations in Gayle's name may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.
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Anna Marie Cavill

ANNA MARIE CAVILL

(December 22, 1931 – November 17, 2023)

Anna Marie Cavill, age 91, a long-time Belleville resident, passed away on Friday, November 17, 2023 at Regency of Canton, MI. She was born to George and Frances (Van Boekel) Willemsen on December 22, 1931, in Detroit, MI.

Anna was a proud East-sider she loved to live on Belleville Lake. She enjoyed boating, fishing, and inviting friends over and having parties. She and her late husband Jack also owned homes in Irish Hills, MI, Alabama, Florida, and Texas. Anna enjoyed her friends at her senior living home and was a Bingo enthusiast. Most of all, Anna loved spending time with her family and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Anna is survived by her sons: John (Diane) Cavill of Belleville, MI, and Bill (Rolibelle) Cavill of Belleville, MI; 11 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren and 1 on-the-way; also 1 great-great-grandchild.

Anna was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years John "Jack" R. Cavill in 2014; two daughters Susan Bakkila in 2021 and Kathleen Stewart in 2016; siblings Joanna Thomas, Herman Willemsen, (Anna's twin) Patrick Willemsen, Richard Willemsen, and George Willemsen.

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

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Upcoming Meetings

• Monday, Nov. 27 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m. at Belleville Area District Library. Public reception precedes at 7 p.m.

• Tuesday, Nov. 28 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 3 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m.

• Monday, Dec. 4 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, Dec. 5 – Van Buren Township work/study at 5 p.m. and board meeting at 6 p.m.

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Photo courtesy of Marilyn Wood
Employees Carol and Karen from Bayloff Stamped Products in Belleville delivered 13 turkeys on Nov. 16 to the Emergency Food Closet housed at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St. They will be distributed to 13 community families to make a very special holiday dinner. Food Closet coordinator Marilyn Wood said, "Our numbers at the food closet have been exploding. We gave 56 bags out in three hours last Tuesday and 24 on Wednesday for 80 for the week. This is the most ever distributed in the food closet's history."

Nov. 23 – Finley Crosby
Nov. 26 – Gyzell Hooks
Nov. 27 – Sophie Blaharski
Nov. 28 – Jacqueline Copeland, Justine Kimbler

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Photo courtesy of Life Time

Cyclist Paige Onweller in Top 10 of Life Time Grand Prix competition

Paige Onweller, 34, who is a professional cyclist, placed seventh overall in the Life Time Big Sugar Gravel competition in Northwest Arkansas and Southwest

Missouri on Oct. 21 with a field of more than 1,900 riders.

Big Sugar Gravel was the final event in the seven-race series presented by Mazda for the prize purse of \$250,000. She earned her first big win, first place, last year which brought her increased sponsors.

Onweller spoke to the *Independent* from her sister's home in Van Buren Township where she spends about two weeks a year. Belleville is listed as her home base, as she travels around the country and the world for races.

This year she represented the U.S. team for the UCI Travelworld in Italy. On Nov. 7 she flew to Bentonville, Ark., where she will train throughout the winter.

She grew up in Lapeer and lived in Grand Rapids for more than 10 years where she worked in emergency care and as a Professional Assistant.

Onweller started off competing as a runner and then in 2021 started her career as a professional cyclist.



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VB Public Schools board approves non-homestead millage resolution

At its regular meeting on Nov. 13, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approved a non-homestead millage resolution to go on the Feb. 27 ballot.

To continue to levy and receive 18 mills from an operating millage, the board needed to adopt the resolution for the renewal of the existing millage that is expiring in November 2024. This will allow the district to add the millage on the ballot for the February election.

This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per-pupil foundation allowance.

The remaining 1.3197 mills are only available to be levied to restore millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Headlee amendment to the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and will only be levied to the extent necessary to restore that reduction.

So the voters will decide on renewing the operating millage proposal in the Van Buren Public Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw counties, by 19.3197 (\$19.3197 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a

period of eight years, 2025-32 inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes. The estimate the district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2025 is about \$13,248,583 that year.

In other business at the Nov. 13 meeting, the school board:

- Heard building presentations on school improvement initiatives from officials of Savage and Edgemont elementary schools and Belleville High School;
- Heard consultant Rob Kakoczki of Plante Moran discuss the bidding aimed to bring structured cabling and AV and security technology systems to McBride Middle School and Savage and Tyler elementary schools. A total from the 2019 bond money was determined as \$790,270, but Kakoczki said there is a hope an alternate bid could offer a savings of \$169,543 from that and he will get more information before the successful bidders and the total cost are voted on at the next meeting;
- Approved hiring April Crawford as a resource room teacher at Owen Intermediate School as of Nov. 6 and Alicia DelToro-Watson as a CI-teacher at McBride Middle School as of Nov. 7;
- Approved hiring the following non-instructional employees: Erica Lafferty as

a paraprofessional at Savage Elementary as of Oct. 30; Courtney Glasper as a Security Tech Specialist in the administration department as of Nov. 6; Barbara Furman as a paraprofessional at Tyler Elementary, as of Nov. 6; and Alganett Moore in Food Service at Belleville High School as of Nov. 13;

- Approved 25-30 student council members from BHS to attend the Feb. 23-26 2024 KLAA Student Leadership Conference in Grand Rapids, traveling by bus. Cost is \$300 per student and options for fund raising are available to all students

with the goal to cover 100% of the student fee; and

• Heard Racquel Bean tell the board that her daughter is getting sexually accosted under the stairway at BHS by one young male student and she has already talked to the principal and superintendent and others asking them to keep the boy away from her without results. She said she has already filed a report with the police. A meeting was set up with her to meet with School Supt. Kudlak on Nov. 15.

Information from the meeting supplied by Barbara Miller.

Court Watching

Exam set Dec. 6 for man accused of stealing catalytic converters

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor


Matthew Mark Taylor, 29, of Sumpter Township had his live preliminary exams on four cases adjourned from their Oct. 18 date to noon on Dec. 6. He said his assigned attorney had not been in contact.

The cases 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, 2029, 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.

(continued on page 13)

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Photo courtesy of Marilyn Wood

On Saturday, Nov. 11, Boy Scout Troop 231 and Girl Scout Troop 77515 held a food drive in the community and donated 120 bags of food to the Emergency Food Closet housed at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St. The scouts, their leaders and families, plus church volunteers sorted, checked freshness dates, and shelved all the food received which will help provide food in the coming weeks.

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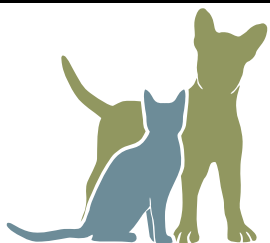
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Lisa Genton of Sumpter Township adopted Austin a few days before the Monster Mutt Walk in Belleville. Austin, who is eight years old and ill, was slated for euthanasia in a Detroit city animal shelter and Genton got him through a Monroe County shelter. Genton said her new dog's trachea is damaged and he has a mass on his rear, but she gave him a home. He was wrapped in a blanket and his barking had an odd sound.

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Belleville Plan

(continued from page 1)

Belleville's new city manager Jason Smith said he had talked with members of the community and has come up with a plan.

"Being a lakefront community, it makes sense to allow for some specific allowance of boat parking," he wrote in a memo to the commission. "It is recommended that it be seasonal in nature, and very specific to who can park what type of boat and where. Rather than forcing residents to tear up their lawn or place their boat in the garage or a storage unit, this gives them flexibility without undermining the spirit of the ordinance."

City Manager Smith said he did research by calling other lake communities, including Gibraltar and Tawas City.

"Belleville is notorious for not enforcing those rules," commissioner John Juriga said, referring to boat parking.

"I got many tickets," Beyer replied.

Commissioner Julie Kessler asked if the amendment would conflict with the Victoria Commons HOA rules.

Beyer said he is president of the HOA and it is prepared to change the HOA bylaws to allow the parking.

Beyer said many people in Victoria

Commons have received tickets for parking their boats in their driveways and he has been ticketed the worst.

Commissioner Kissler suggested changing the wording in the proposed amendment to "personal watercraft" instead of "boat" and Smith said that could be done.

"I think it's good we're looking at things as they occur," said commissioner Randy Priest.

"We advertise that we're a City on the Lake and we should act like that," said commission chairman Mike Hawkins.

Assistant city manager Steve Jones said after the public comments on Dec. 14, the commission can recommend the amendment to the city council, which will hold its own public hearing and take a vote.

Commissioners Priest and Kissel were elected to the city council on Nov. 7, so they have to resign from the planning commission before they are sworn into council office on Dec. 4.

In other business at the 52-minute meeting, the commission:

- Approved the proposed sign for Health Markets at 186 Main St. as requested by Mike Gatteri, who was present via cell phone being held by his associate in the audience. Building Official Rick Rutherford said the

sign meets the regulations. Commissioner Juriga said he liked the tree that had been on the property and, "It was too bad you had to cut that tree down. It was a beautiful tree." Commissioner Priest agreed, adding, "I miss the tree, too. A lovely tree, but it was your tree";

- Heard Priest ask questions about items that were in the March minutes, the last meeting the commission had held. He asked about the proposed loop road for 515 Sumpter Rd. and the lack of handicapped parking at the new shopping center by the bridge. "They were in a big hurry to get this done nine months ago and now it's just setting," said commissioner Juriga; and

- Heard commissioners Priest and Juriga talk about the plans for an outdoor development that were presented for the Main/Liberty Street shopping center that fell through the cracks. Juriga said carpeting from a high school was laid down there. Rutherford said what was presented to the commission was used as space for additional parking "I'll make myself a note and put a check on the status of that." Rutherford said there are three handicap parking spots on all three corners of the development. "It's not in our scope to follow it in the detail you want," chairman Hawkins said to Juriga and Priest.

Court watching

(continued from page 10)

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.

He 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's 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 9 a.m. on 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 he 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 said catalytic converters were stolen from vehicles at his printing business and the adjoining car lot at 11370 Hunt St. in Romulus.



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MDOT virtual public open house available through Dec. 16

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) invites the public to participate in a virtual open house to provide feedback on the ongoing National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Assessment (EA) for the I-94 connected and automated vehicle (CAV) corridor project in Wayne and Washtenaw counties.

The proposed CAV corridor project would use an existing lane on I-94 in each direction to create a technology-enabled express lane.

Interested residents, commuters, community stakeholders, and local businesses are invited to view the open house through Dec. 16 at I-94 Connected and Automated Vehicle Corridor (arcgis.com)

Attendees who require mobility, visual, hearing, written, or other assistance for effective participation should contact Orlando Curry at (517) 241-7462 or CurryO@Michigan.gov, preferably at least five business days in advance. Forms are located on the [Title VI webpage](#). Requests made after this timeframe will be evaluated and honored to the extent possible.


MDOT and Cavnu, a private company, are piloting the design and implementation of the I-94 CAV corridor project to test and support autonomous vehicles. Construction on the pilot phase of the corridor has started, using a lane closure to support the installation of technology necessary to test CAVs traveling on westbound I-94 from Haggerty Road to Rawsonville Road.

In addition to the pilot phase of the project, MDOT is completing an EA on the full project area from M-10 in Detroit to Ann-Arbor Saline Road in Ann Arbor.

MDOT is seeking input from the community throughout the environmental assessment and pilot phase for the corridor. Visit the I-94 CAV corridor study website for more information.

In addition to this virtual open house, comments and input can also be submitted using the contact information below or via an online public comment form by Dec. 16, 2013.

Monica Monsma
MDOT Environmental Services Section
MonsmaM@Michigan.gov
425 West Ottawa St., P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 335-4381



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VBT Plan

(continued from page 3)

the samples. At that evening's meeting the developers had provided the first batch of samples, which were displayed on a front table.

Commissioner Jahr said it should be clear that on the plans the rectangles are porches and not air conditioning pads. Also the landscaping should be on the plans.

Treasurer Sharry Budd, who sits on the planning commission, said she didn't like the hazelnut color of the proposed siding because there is no contrast with the other colors and that doesn't give the texture needed for the building.

"The cultured stone instead of brick doesn't provide the same level of breakup," Jahr agreed.

Commissioner Bernie Grant, who is an architect, noted that the tapered columns are on the drawings, but not in the field. He said the metal roofing supports are in place.

"Whatever you turn in and gets approved has to be built that way – so it matches exactly," Commissioner Grant said, adding things are close now, but they need 100%. "The dormers are not in place in the field as in the plan."

Krishnan said with the lighter brick, the hazelnut looks yellowish and there has to be a contrast. Grant agreed there had to be darks and lights.

Costa asked if the commission could approve the brick and cultured stone, so they could keep their masons working, while he finds a siding they will approve.

Grant noted they are not using full brick, cemented on, not laid. He referred to it as "stick a brick."

"I have reservations about approving piecemeal," Jahr said and Grant agreed that, "It should be presented as a complete palate."

"They could bring a siding with color the planning commission would like," Grant said, adding he was unhappy they didn't accommodate the foundation for real brick.

Jahr said he wanted it all at once.

Commissioner Peter Creal said they could come back with multiple samples that was likely to include one that could be approved. He said the commission could approve the bricks so they don't lose their labor. The developers would have to assume the risk that they couldn't find a good match.

"We don't want to delay them, but I'd like to see a full slate," Commissioner Jackson Pahle said.

Grant said he would support coming back with all the samples.

Creal asked if they could accept the plans, and Jahr said no. He said there were full bricks in the original plan.

Krishnan said they should have a full set of plans with the colors.

Grant warned the Costa and Martin, "You could get yourself in trouble, again."

Commission chairman Brian Cullin said at the last meeting they didn't want to piecemeal the approvals and, "We want that facility to open ASAP. Sitting there undone is not doing a favor to the community."

Steven Dark commented by zoom on the discussion pointing out that the monument signs at each exit are not in the same position as on the plans. Dan Power, director of planning and economic development, said they are not in the same position, but were OKed by the administration.

Once the plans are approved, Director Power said the developers must file with his department two signed, sealed versions of any amended sets of civil plans and two signed, sealed sets of any amended building plans, along with exterior building elevations and other plans.

In other business at the Nov. 8 meeting, the commission:

- Discussed a proposed land use plan for construction of 57 single family homes in the rear of the Hickory Woods attached multi-family development on the north side of Tyler Road between Morton Taylor and Haggerty roads. The back of the development is not completed, but has roads, drainage ponds, and electrical in place. Commissioners gave preliminary feedback to the developers so they could consider the options and come back with a formal proposal;

- Received an administrative update on Diamondback Music Hall, which is a reoccupancy of the former Diamondback Saloon, a 4.9-acre site on the S. I-94 Service Drive. The new owners, who have updated the interior and want an upscale environment for their patrons, plan five to eight high-traffic events per month. They will have a website and there will be no marijuana distribution on site, no pyrotechnics, and 25 employees during peak shifts, Director Power said. Power said this will be a vastly different kind of operation from the former country music saloon. A soft opening was set for Nov. 11 and it got its certificate of occupancy earlier that day, Nov. 8; and

- Was informed Power is working on a joint meeting of the commission with neighboring communities.



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VBT

(continued from page 6)

said the project was approved the previous week by the county commission and construction should start by the end of this month and be done by the end of next year;

- Approved engineering services (design) by Fishbeck engineers in the amount of \$40,800 for standby generators at Harmony Lane Lift Station and the Water Tower;
- Authorized two agreements with DTE Energy for the installation of street lighting within the Walden Woods subdivision, Phases 4 and 5. Special assessment district will be set up for the \$1,811 contributed by the township;
- Approved the 2024 Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) contract. Local match of \$60,317 is met by the township general fund and in-kind services;
- Approved the Commercial Fireworks Display permit application by Michigan Fireworks Club for 6:45 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2, or rain day Sunday, Dec. 3, over the lake from the west side of the closed Denton Road Bridge;
- Approved the Wayne County Annual Permit to allow the township to occupy the county road right-of-way for inspection, repair, and routine maintenance of facilities under township jurisdiction, including maintenance, restoration and special

events;

- Approved the township's Early Voting Plan for 2024 elections, as mandated by Proposal 2 of 2022 that each municipality in Michigan offer nine days of early voting prior to each federal and state election;
- Approved the Stormwater Maintenance Agreement with Subaru Research and Development at 50255 Michigan Ave.; and
- Heard Fire Chief Dave McNally announce that his fire department, along with firefighters from the city of Belleville and Ypsilanti will take part in a training burn of two houses owned by Ashley Capital on Haggerty Road on Sunday, Nov. 12.



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From left are Richard Riggs, Maria Palmo, Matthew Riggs, Genevieve Riggs, Mark Riggs, Paul Riggs, Karen Dworski, Deanne Dworski-Riggs, Ben Dworski-Riggs at the Detroit Institute of Arts at their recent visit. Paul and his family came to visit from Connecticut, Mark from Iowa, and Maria and Matthew from Lansing. Richard and Genevieve live in Van Buren Township.

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City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE

Request for Proposals

General Description

The City of Belleville is looking to select a qualified firm to provide Managed IT Services and an IT Infrastructure Upgrade. The City does not have any dedicated IT staff, and the City Manager will be the contact point and will coordinate all work and services with the chosen IT provider.

The City of Belleville has 35 - 40 computers across 3 sites and 7 servers.

Principal Contact
Jason Smith, City Manager
6 Main St
Belleville, Mi. 48111
734-252-4307
jsmith@Belleville.mi.us

Bid Information

Bids are due at 10:00am, Friday, December 8, 2023, and will be opened at that 10:30am that day.

Direct any questions regarding this RFP to the principal contact listed above.

Please submit your sealed proposals to:

City of Belleville
c/o Jason Smith, City Manager
6 Main St
Belleville, MI. 48111

The City staff will review submitted proposals and groups submitting an RFP will be asked to make a presentation to the City Council at the December 18, 2023, City Council meeting.

The City reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal for any or no reason and to waive any minor irregularity if determined to be in the best interest of the City of Belleville.

Publish: November 23, 2023, November 30, 2023

Belleville DDA

(continued from page 1)

accounts payable that included payments of \$2,300 and \$1,600 (totaling \$3,900) on Nov. 3 to Collins Appraisal Group for appraisals of "improved commercial property."

There was no other comment at the Nov. 15 meeting concerning the properties being considered for purchase.

Bleachers for Winter Fest

The DDA also approved, on a 5-1 vote, paying \$1,500 to put up bleachers seating 280 at the large vacant corner of Third Street and Main Street for Winter Fest with the permission of property owner Belleville Main, LLC.

DDA vice chairperson Kelly McWilliams said this was brought up at one of the DDA's economic development subcommittee meetings and so they reached out to the Chamber of Commerce.

McWilliams said the DDA also suggested a warming tent, but the chamber felt the bleachers were better this year.

John Winter, at his first meeting as a member of the DDA, said they should charge \$5 a person for a seat because people save seats and then the seats don't get used. They should have a master of ceremonies telling who was coming by in the parade.

Treasurer Sabrina Richardson-Williams

said she thought the first year should be free.

Winter said at his business (Egan's Pub) they charge for seats and they have the best seats in the house for the parade.

McGovern suggested just supplying the seats and see what happens.

Winter said he's seen people line up for this parade at 1 p.m., referring to the 5:30 p.m. lighted parade.

"We charge and the Belleville Main LLC lets us use the property free?" asked Richardson-Williams.

DDA secretary Denise Baker noted a warming tent would need electricity.

Assistant City Manager Steve Jones suggested they try the bleachers this year. When asked about the fire pits that the chamber uses for warming, Jones said they belong to Brad Traskos.

Winter was the only no vote on the motion to pay for the bleachers.

In other business at the Nov. 15 meeting, the DDA:

- Learned the DDA attorney agreed to be at the group's regular Jan. 17 meeting to refresh DDA members on the law. Members also agreed to set a 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, strategic planning session at the library, as they did last year;

- Heard Jones report that at the DDA's economic development subcommittee meeting, an idea was proposed to put on a new October event next year sponsored by

the DDA. It would kick off the month of Booville with an Oct. 5 event like a Maker Faire that would have demonstrations of ice carving, wood carving, and other things in multiple locations including Victory Park. Winter said if they had it later in the month they could use the tent Egan's is putting up for the Witches party and share the cost, but McGovern said she liked it being early. It was noted that Maker Faire is trademarked and Jones said the DDA could possibly join it and pay a fee. The DDA voted unanimously to have a hands-on demonstration festival on Oct. 5 and look into information on Maker Faire;

- Heard Richardson-Williams ask when this economic development subcommittee meets since it is putting forth all these ideas. McGovern said it meets at 8 a.m. Monday at her office. Richardson-Williams said she has been asking about an alley party for some time and she'd like to come to the meeting. McGovern said only so many DDA members can come because of quorum rules, they should ask chamber members to serve on the subcommittees. She also noted they had talked about a yearly calendar. Martha Hanoian, executive director of the chamber, said she puts events on her online chamber column and would put out the call for members to help on the DDA subcommittees. "Be sure we're getting people informed and at the table," she said.

Court Watching

James David Profit

James David Profit, 60, of Belleville is charged with driving while license suspended, 2nd, on Aug. 14 in the city of Belleville. The remote arraignment pretrial in 34th District Court was set for Nov. 1 and then Nov. 15, but he failed to appear. A show-cause hearing will be set.

Gary Michael-James Taylor

Gary Michael-James Taylor, 42, of Sumpter Township is charged with operating while intoxicated on May 10, 2022 in Van Buren Township and was scheduled for his remote arraignment pretrial on Nov. 15. He failed to appear so a show-cause hearing will be set.

Deja Marie Hall

Deja Marie Hall, 25, of Ypsilanti, is charged with driving while intoxicated and operating while intoxicated with an occupant less than 16 years of age on Aug. 13 in the city of Belleville. She was scheduled for her remote arraignment and pretrial on Nov 15, but she failed to appear. A show-cause hearing will be set.

Dionte Kristopher Kelly

Dionte Kristopher Kelly of Belleville is charged with child abuse 4th degree on Oct. 20, 2021 in the city of Belleville. The defendant was scheduled for a remote arraignment and pretrial, but he failed to appear and so a show-cause hearing will be scheduled.

City of Belleville Public Notice

Public Notice of Public Hearing ZBA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF BELLEVILLE
Zoning Board of Appeals

A Public Hearing has been set for Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Belleville City Hall, 6 Main St, Belleville, Michigan 48111. The purpose of the Public Hearing is for the Zoning Board of Appeals to consider a Variance request from Section 5.8 FENCES AND WALLS, Subsection 4(A)I – Requirements to Specific Zoning Districts, Residential Zoned Districts from Traci Hill to construct a 6-foot chain link fence, 65 S. Liberty St, Belleville, MI 48111.

At the above time and place, all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard before the Zoning Board of Appeals issues its determination regarding the application. Parties seeking visual or audio accommodation may contact City Clerk Brianna Hootman at 734-697-9323 ext. 7010, preferably with as much advance notice as possible, so that suitable arrangements can be made to help make needed accommodations.

Written comments may also be submitted in advance of the meeting to Building Official Rick Rutherford either by delivery to Belleville City Hall, or via email to building@belleville.mi.us or to Michelle Bellingham, Building Clerk, by deliver to Belleville City Hall, or via email to buildingclerk@belleville.mi.us.

Rick Rutherford
Chief Building Official

Brianna Hootman
City Clerk

Publish: November 16, 2023, November 23, 2023

City of Belleville Public Notice

Public Notice of Public Hearing ZBA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF BELLEVILLE
Zoning Board of Appeals

A Public Hearing has been set for Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Belleville City Hall, 6 Main St, Belleville, Michigan 48111. The purpose of the Public Hearing is for the Zoning Board of Appeals to consider a Variance request from Section 4.36 ACCESSORY BUILDINGS from Hometown Construction to construct a 24' by 24' storage building for personal use, 57 Bedell St, Belleville, MI 48111.

At the above time and place, all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard before the Zoning Board of Appeals issues its determination regarding the application. Parties seeking visual or audio accommodation may contact City Clerk Brianna Hootman at 734-697-9323 ext. 7010, preferably with as much advance notice as possible, so that suitable arrangements can be made to help make needed accommodations.

Written comments may also be submitted in advance of the meeting to Building Official Rick Rutherford either by delivery to Belleville City Hall, or via email to building@belleville.mi.us or to Michelle Bellingham, Building Clerk, by deliver to Belleville City Hall, or via email to buildingclerk@belleville.mi.us.

Rick Rutherford
Chief Building Official

Brianna Hootman
City Clerk

Publish: November 16, 2023, November 23, 2023

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 232 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, Nov. 12:

0032 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Westlake
0137 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr./Denton Rd.
0314 – noise complaint, Vernon St.
0825 – threat, Parkwood Dr.
0832 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0905 – malicious destruction of property, Tyler
0948 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Maurice Dr.
1116 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1324 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1616 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
Xxxx – misc. complaint, Cobblestone Creek Dr.
1835 – animal complaint, Denton Rd.
1828 – family trouble, Brandi Dr.
1850 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Woodbury Dr.
1914 – welfare check, E. Archwood Dr.
2142 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
2348 – property damage accident, Elwell Rd.

Monday, Nov. 13:

0040 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
0516 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Bemis Rd.
0731 – welfare check, Harbour Club
0807 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty
0843 – animal complaint, Denton Rd.
1035 – motorist assist, Belleville/N. I-94 Service
Xxxx – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1141 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
1214 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Ecorse
1246 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Ayres Ave.
1543 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1631 – malicious destruction of property, Harmony Ln.

1729 – neighbor trouble, Jewell Ave.
1737 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.
1859 – animal complaint, S. Timberview Dr.
1807 – assist other dept., Meadows Cir.
1851 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1939 – larceny from auto, Michigan Ave.
2042 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
2107 – domestic, W. Archwood Dr.
2130 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2137 – family trouble, Nautica Dr.
2246 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Colony Ln.
2305 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2340 – welfare check, Oak Ln.

Tuesday, Nov. 14:

0150 – assault & battery, Maurice Dr.
0831 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, E. Schooner Dr.
0959 – felony assault, Pond Bluff Dr.
1215 – assist other dept., Parkwood
1227 – vehicle lock out, Belleville Rd.
1413 – intrusion alarm, Van Buren St.
1421 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
1606 – civil matter, Nautica Dr.
1638 – suicidal person, Belleville Rd.
1645 – 911 welfare check, Brookside Dr.
1652 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Happy's Pizza
1742 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd./E. I-94
1933 – assist other dept., Haggerty Rd.
2103 – motorist assist, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
2142 – malicious destruction of property, Rawsonville Rd.
Wednesday, Nov. 15:
0824 – civil matter, Madison Dr.
0912 – warrant arrest, Ecorse Rd.
1046 – larceny, Bayshore Dr.
1049 – domestic, Winding Pond Dr.
1115 – malicious destruction of property, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1410 – fraud, Haggerty Rd.
1313 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,

Belleville Rd./Quirk Rd.
1602 – larceny, W. Huron River Dr.
1604 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
1643 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd./Van Born Rd.
1705 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./Van Born Rd.
1839 – civil matter, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1947 – disorderly, Outer Dr.
2236 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Maude Ct.
Thursday, Nov. 16:
Xxxx – repossession, Parkwood
0716 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
0734 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Westlake Cir.
1056 – 911 welfare check, Mott/Lewiston Rd.
Xxxx – repossession, America
1144 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1146 – assist fire dept., Parkwood Dr.
1203 – welfare check, Van Buren St.
1201 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1210 – fraud, Park Estates Dr.
1304 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1339 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd.
1445 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
1520 – animal complaint, Denton Rd.
1518 – private property impound, Jackson/Tyler
1515 – family trouble, Parkwood Dr.
1555 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1638 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1640 – welfare check, W. Adams
1659 – juvenile complaint, Cambridge Ct.
1743 – intrusion alarm, Parkwood Dr.
1736 – harassment call, Rayna Ct.
1758 – road hazard, Tyler Rd./Haggerty Rd.
1903 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
2040 – threat, Chinkapin Dr.
2102 – motorist assist, Rawsonville Rd./Snow Rd.

Friday, Nov. 17:
0019 – road hazard, Belleville Rd.
0020 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
0106 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
0249 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0305 – unauthorized driving away of auto, rest area
0722 – neighbor trouble, W. Adams
0804 – 911 welfare check, Country Walk Blvd.
0855 – vehicle lockout, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0907 – assist other dept., Tyler Rd.
0914 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
0949 – warrant arrest, Dearborn PD
1015 – civil matter, Winding Pond Dr.
0954 – motorist assist, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1054 – juvenile complaint, Country Walk Blvd.
1108 – motorist assist, Tyler Rd./Morton Taylor
1112 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
1140 – larceny from auto, Lake Villa Dr.
1155 – domestic, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1315 – property damage accident, Beck/Ecorse
1314 – larceny from auto, S. Bellridge Dr.
1402 – fraud, Ecorse Rd.
1357 – juvenile complaint, Winding Pond Dr. / Pond Ridge Dr.
Xxxx – threat, Jeremy Rd.
1610 – civil matter, E. Huron River Dr.
1619 – assist other dept., N. University
1731 – neighbor trouble, Westlake Cir.
1631 – larceny from auto, E. Archwood Dr.
1645 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.
1857 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
1855 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Edwards Rd.

1935 – sexual assault, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2154 – family trouble, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2234 – welfare check, S. Sunset Ln.
2255 – family trouble, Parkwood Dr.
2301 – intrusion alarm, E. Walden Dr.
2356 -- intrusion alarm, Revere
2354 – civil matter, Oak Ln.
Saturday, Nov. 18:
0008 – property check, McBride
0016 – property check, Country Walk
0028 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0103 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Elwell Rd.
0141 – personal injury accident, E. I-94/Belleville
0307 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Western St.

0718 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Denton
0831 – domestic, Outer Dr.
0936 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1055 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1057 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Edwards Rd.
1131 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Elwell Rd./W. Huron River Dr.
1136 – breaking & entering, Parkwood Dr.
1216 – narcotics crime, Belleville Rd.
1215 – animal complaint, Lindsey Dr.
1233 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./Van Born Rd.
1344 – animal complaint, Montague Ave.
1243 – welfare check, Monroe Ct.
1303 – neighbor trouble, Denton Rd.
1305 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1310 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1343 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1355 – animal complaint, Ecorse BP
1406 – intrusion alarm, Samuel Barton Dr.
1445 – threat, Denton Rd.
1524 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1632 – 911 welfare check, Ecorse Rd.
1705 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Riggs Rd.
1755 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
Xxxx – larceny from auto, Old Rawsonville Rd.
1828 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd.
1914 – assist fire dept., Oak Ln.
1934 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
2125 – welfare check, Stonebridge Dr.
2119 – assist other dept., Briarwood Dr.

Also on this week's log are 60 traffic stops, eight of which are on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 12:

0214 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Columbia Ave.
0820 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.
1609 – assault & battery, Main St.
1934 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.

Monday, Nov. 13:

0644 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./High St.
1452 – juvenile complaint, S. Edgemont St.
1631 – property damage accident, Main St.
1747 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd./Industrial Pk. Dr.
1803 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Lake Villa Dr.
1844 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Liberty
2101 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Quirk Rd.
2328 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.

Tuesday, Nov. 14:

0331 – intrusion alarm, Menlo Park Dr.
0737 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Liberty
0845 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.
0903 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.
1120 – traffic stop, N. Biggs Ave./E. Huron River
1335 – traffic stop, Madelon St./E. Huron River
1411 – traffic offense, Main St./First St.
1506 – civil matter, W. Columbia Ave.

Wednesday, Nov. 15:

1222 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Columbia Ave.
1530 – vehicle lockout, Village Park
1718 – trespassing, Loza Ln./Potter Dr.
2144 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Bedell St.

Thursday, Nov. 16:

0036 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
0154 – intrusion alarm, Menlo Park Dr.
1703 – assist other dept., Cambridge
1956 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
2001 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
2009 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
2032 – traffic stop, Main St./N. Liberty St.
2048 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
2113 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.

Friday, Nov. 17:

0815 – shooting, S. Edgemont Ave.
0829 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave.
0929 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave.
1637 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1233 – traffic stop, Madelon St./Robbe St.
1314 – assist other dept., Robbe St.
Xxxx – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
1548 – parking complaint, N. Liberty St.
1619 – parking complaint, S. Aberdeen Ct.
1632 – welfare check, San Carlos St.
1716 – parking complaint, Robbe St./Clarence

2025 – traffic stop, South St./Henry St.
2139 – traffic stop, Belleville/Quirk
2156 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./S. Biggs
2225 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
2304 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
2331 – traffic stop, South St./E. Wabash Ave.

Saturday, Nov. 18:

0710 – animal complaint, Henry St.
0842 – traffic stop, High St./Edison St.
0859 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Potter Dr.
1010 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave.
1115 – welfare check, Menlo Park Dr.
1149 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1331 – larceny, N. Edgemont Ave.
1547 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr. / N. Edgemont Ave.
1559 – traffic stop, Main St.
1613 – traffic offense, S. Biggs/E. Huron River Dr.
1732 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr./Elwell Rd.
1751 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1842 – parking complaint, Village Park
2006 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.
2033 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Victorian Ln.
2056 – traffic stop, South St./E. Wabash Ave.
2234 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Martinsville
There were 41 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 12:

0423 – welfare check, Oregon St.
0659 – property damage accident, 41000 bl. Willow Rd.
1120 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1134 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1211 – animal complaint, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1453 – shots fired, Creekside Dr.
1707 – alarm, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2009 – animal complaint, Harris Rd./Savage Rd.

Monday, Nov. 13:

0844 – follow-up investigation, Carriage Ln.
0904 – fire dept. assist, Birch Dr.
1026 – welfare check, Edgewood Dr.
1138 – family trouble, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1157 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1223 – property damage accident, 40000 bl. Bemis
1319 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico St.
1352 – citizen assist, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1406 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1650 – neighbor dispute, Washington St.
1729 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1829 – property damage accident, Tamarack Dr.
1908 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
2016 – subpoena service, Carriage Ln.
2205 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2210 – 911 hang up, 21000 bl. Dale Dr.
2215 – fire dept. assist, Delaware St.
2340 – animal complaint, Judd Rd./Sumpter Rd.

Tuesday, Nov. 14:

0750 – assist other agency, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.
0820 – animal complaint, Utah Ct.
1046 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1124 – follow-up investigation, Carriage Ln.
1248 – mental health call, Rustic Ln.
1519 – animal complaint, 9900 bl. Rawsonville
1825 – civil dispute, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
1955 – subpoena service, Carriage Ln.
2015 – follow-up investigation, Utah Ct.
2139 – suspicious circumstance, 44000 bl. Judd
2233 – shots fired, Rustic Ln.
2313 – fire dept. assistance, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
Wednesday, Nov. 15:
0035 – fire dept. assist, Tulip Dr.
0417 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.
0751 – property damage accident, Bemis/Sully
0955 – traffic complaint/hazard, 25000 bl. Sumpter
1007 – suspicious circumstance, 25000 bl. Elwell
1022 – property damage accident, Karr Rd. J&T/
Arkona Rd.

1237 – suspicious circumstance, 48000 bl. Willow
1242 – mental health call, Magnolia Dr.
1349 – civil dispute, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1707 – suspicious circumstance, Pecan St.
2225 – family trouble, Edgewood Dr.
2334 – 911 hang up, Hampshire Dr.
Thursday, Nov. 16:
0643 – fire dept. assist, Tulip Dr.
0842 – fraud complaint, 8500 bl. Meadow Springs Ln.

(Continued on page 19)

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Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

0949 – mental health call, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1135 – motorist assist, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
1317 – suspicious person, Magnolia Dr.
1742 – property damage accident, Willow/Elwell
2341 – suspicious vehicle, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.

Friday, Nov. 17:

0327 – family trouble, Texas St.
0407 – follow-up investigation, Texas St.
0433 – family trouble, Magnolia Dr.
0813 – welfare check, Mulberry Dr.
1011 – alarm, 5000 bl. Willow Rd.
1109 – fire dept. assist, Wayside Dr.
1200 – civil dispute, Magnolia Dr.
1227 – alarm, 21000 bl. Clemmons Ct.
1420 – welfare check, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1426 – welfare check, 22000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1602 – fire dept. assist, Willis Rd./Lohr Rd.
1615 – fire dept. assist, Idaho St.
1813 – property damage accident, Bemis Rd. /
Martinsville Rd.

1901 – 911 hang up, 17000 bl. Davenport Dr.
1942 – assist other agency, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1953 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2014 – suspicious vehicle, 5800 bl. Oakville Waltz
2246 – animal complaint, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2305 – civil dispute, Delaware St.
2352 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Arkona Rd.

Saturday, Nov. 18:

1044 – fire dept. assist, Birch Ct.
1047 – follow-up investigation, Mulberry Dr.
1747 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.
2106 – suspicious circumstance, 51000 bl. Willis
2252 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
Also, there were 190 patrol checks, 104 traffic stops
and 23 misc. details on this week's log.

*To build a better world,
start in your own community*

Court Watching

Jeffrey Byron Lominac

Jeffrey Byron Lominac, 58, of Sumpter Township was video-arraigned by 34th District Court Magistrate Al Hindman on Nov. 8 while in custody of Sumpter Township police. He is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and felony firearm on Nov. 7 in Sumpter Township.

His probable cause conference was set for Nov. 22 and his bond set at \$5,000/10%. He is ordered not to possess weapons and to have no contact with the protected party.

Mark Anthony Crawford, Jr.

Mark Anthony Crawford, Jr. of Van Buren Township was video-arraigned by Magistrate Hindman while in custody of Van Buren police on Nov. 17 on a charge of domestic violence on Nov. 15 in Van Buren Township. He was scheduled for a remote pretrial on Nov. 29 and personal bond was set at \$5,000. He is not to return to the protected address or contact the complaining party.

John Victor Grillo, Jr.

John Victor Grillo, Jr., 37, of St. Clair Shores was video-arraigned on Nov. 17 by Magistrate Hindman while in custody at Van Buren Township police lockup. He is charged with receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle in Van Buren Township on Nov. 17. His bond was set at \$2,500/10% and his probable cause conference set for Nov. 29.

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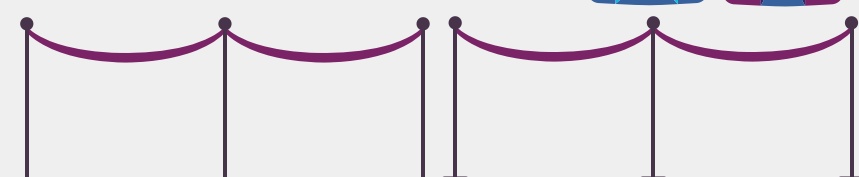
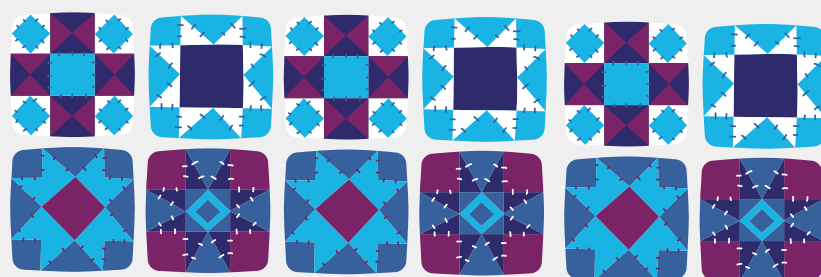
*The Belleville Area Museum &
The Western Wayne County Quilting Guild*



**SAVE THE
DATE**

In recognition of National Quilting Month in March, the Belleville Area Museum and Western Wayne County Quilting Guild will present a month-long quilt exhibit at the Museum.

If you are interested in taking part in our quilt exhibit, please email bam@vanburen-mi.org indicating your interest in loaning a quilt.



The Belleville Area Museum is currently closed to the public but will reopen December 2023.



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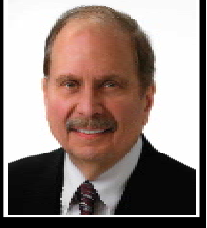
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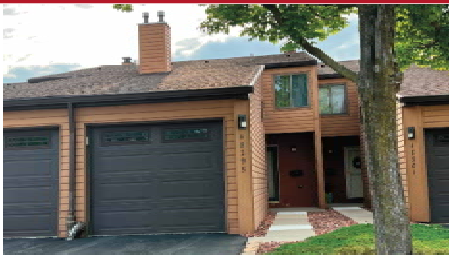
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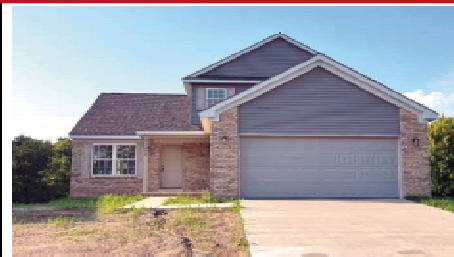
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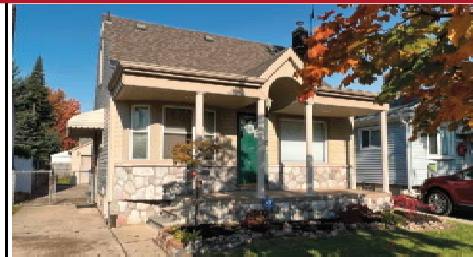
21900 BOHN, SUMPTER TWP

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 \$295,900



42482 N CUMBERLAND, VAN BUREN

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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.

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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

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SUMPTER TWP CLARK 17+ AC \$199,500

SUMPTER T' **SOLD 5 AC \$60,000**

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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