



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 30.7 Thursday, February 15, 2024

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE



Photo courtesy of Sheila Brown

American Water-Willows or Lake Willows have been found next to the Denton Road bridge. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources lists them as an endangered species and they must be moved for their protection before any construction begins on the bridge. These pictured are not the local Water-Willows, but a photo of the plants in another location. Only four or five plants were found at the Denton Road bridge, according to reports.

Update on Denton Rd. bridge includes saving Lake Willow plants

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

During investigation of the Denton Road bridge reconstruction, a group of plants that is an endangered species in Michigan – the Lake Willow or American Water-Willow -- was found and the plants have to be relocated before work can begin.

According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources listing of the state's endangered species, it is *Justicia americana*.

At the Feb. 6 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, Municipal Services Director Ron Akers gave a report on the bridge and told of the Lake Willow plant that has to be relocated and monitored for three years in its new location.

The board approved \$42,240 for

addendum #2 to the contract with Fishbeck Associates engineers to handle the design engineering for Denton Road bridge. This is to take care of the Water Willow issue.

Director Akers said the Water-Willow will be moved to somewhere in the vicinity and he didn't know the exact location. He said there were three or four plants found on the south side of the causeway.

Water-Willows usually grow in the mud along waterways, according to reports.

"I would have been asking for bouquets of them last year if I knew about them," said Supervisor Kevin McNamara, adding they have purple flowers and it "looks like a weed."

Akers read a report on the bridge he had

(continued on page 8)

16th Annual Report to Taxpayers

Van Buren Township 2023 Public Safety Wages and Cost to Township

	Police Wages	Fire Wages	Total Compensation
Police			
Floro, Kenneth V.	\$135,435.62	\$85,874.43	\$282,247.15
McCormick, Ryan M.	\$133,813.35	\$85,874.43	\$278,308.33
Abdilla, Marc L.	\$123,631.89	\$85,874.43	\$266,946.54
Keele, Louis J.	\$113,554.96	\$85,874.43	\$253,872.93
Champagne, David A.	\$97,224.45	\$85,874.43	\$232,064.70
Buckberry Jr, Mark D.	\$153,520.19		\$219,835.26
Smith, Amy M.	\$148,097.99		\$219,171.39
Stanton, Jeffrey L.	\$133,301.43		\$199,974.59
Rini, Michael J.	\$137,565.98		\$195,546.71
Schulz, Alexander W.	\$132,299.45		\$188,714.07
Bazzy, Charles E.	\$121,346.90		\$184,820.89
Wright, Jason J.	\$116,441.25		\$167,099.62
Raschke, Matthew A.	\$114,587.52		\$166,073.56
Short, Jordan G.	\$110,769.67		\$162,761.43
Griggs, Scott M.	\$113,628.91		\$159,724.97
Barry, Ryan T.	\$107,156.22		\$151,983.25
Edge, Michael	\$101,725.08		\$151,696.32
Long, Michael D.	\$108,888.49		\$150,128.82
Harrison, Dale A.	\$105,345.88		\$145,496.13
Mowbray, Kurtis	\$105,333.27		\$144,071.32
Valinski, Christopher M.	\$103,018.50		\$143,318.01
Svabik, Daniel	\$99,424.90		\$143,312.97
Evans, Seth	\$101,549.77		\$140,852.01
Fedel, Andrew	\$105,822.28		\$139,145.81
Vargas Jr, Juan	\$88,553.61		\$137,288.31
Bettendorf, William J.	\$94,253.87		\$136,198.60
McCarthy, Donovan L.	\$95,286.01		\$135,658.13
Bidwell, Ryan A.	\$87,936.65		\$135,206.11
Byrd, Adam R.	\$92,455.44		\$134,975.84
Perez, Derek S.	\$94,290.71		\$134,818.99
Monte, Joshua	\$105,855.65		\$134,553.70
King, Mark J.	\$92,077.23		\$131,395.95
Wehrman, Patrick J.	\$90,411.45		\$127,894.65
Tront, Jason L.	\$95,658.66		\$124,612.31
Hillen, James E.	\$87,712.60		\$124,239.44
Daniels, Keith	\$93,242.82		\$124,139.48
Velevska, Katerina	\$91,145.45		\$121,190.15
Hall, Joshua	\$89,178.43		\$118,804.43
Rubens, Donavin	\$84,996.02		\$113,679.42
Schmidtke, Casey	\$67,932.69		\$108,849.17
Kasenow, Kyle	\$73,264.71		\$108,395.71
McGregor, Devonte	\$77,238.52		\$104,495.34

(continued on page 3)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

16th Annual Report to Taxpayers

(continued from page 1)

Van Buren Township 2023 Public Safety Wages and Cost to Township			
	Police Wages	Fire Wages	Total Compensation
Police (continued)			
Jaffar, Ali	\$70,226.99		\$93,346.88
Hernandez, Christian	\$57,556.72		\$83,317.04
Hayes, Christopher J.	\$23,076.51		\$29,667.25
Harman, Christina A.	\$61,323.66		\$90,087.63
Lesperance, Crystal	\$51,540.81		\$83,416.60
Ordinance			
Schuler, David J.	\$59,635.83	\$85,874.43	\$174,672.15
Queener, Robert W.	\$75,480.97		\$117,815.95
Fire			
McInally II, David C.		\$111,056.13	\$152,476.17
Folks, Ronald P.		\$105,656.10	\$144,665.48
Bowman, Scott		\$90,815.29	\$132,242.37
Ladach, Aaron S.		\$91,469.40	\$131,651.47
Walter, Daniel J.		\$90,924.00	\$127,764.63
Lenaghan, Andrew		\$99,860.68	\$127,571.68
Smith, Ryan J.		\$95,760.36	\$114,601.64
Pierce, Christopher A.		\$84,772.81	\$108,220.62
Greff, Allison		\$73,511.41	\$95,937.95
Brushaber, Jeffery		\$65,962.58	\$92,058.57
Lewis, Zion		\$70,626.57	\$90,037.17
Maryanski, David		\$48,636.58	\$70,615.83
Cady, Matthes		\$33,252.30	\$51,878.41
Everett, Rachel S.		\$41,228.44	\$45,222.62
Townsend, Nathan		\$33,025.76	\$41,976.67
Stevens, Mitchell		\$32,411.55	\$41,962.68
Smith, Edward		\$34,477.44	\$37,258.96
Ling, Jason		\$33,004.67	\$36,220.48
McCormick, Elizabeth L.		\$26,168.09	\$28,736.84
Henley, James		\$24,361.88	\$26,759.65
Hayden, John T.		\$21,618.60	\$23,756.70
Vlademar, Michael		\$20,495.33	\$22,547.14
Hart, Halie		\$15,286.95	\$19,408.47
Lunsford, Curtis D.		\$14,848.26	\$16,345.55
Cox, Dustin G.		\$13,992.53	\$15,408.87
Rose, John L.		\$8,302.10	\$9,179.79
Dispatch			
	Dispatch Wages		
Johnson, Dominique	\$70,362.40		\$113,298.16
Lucas, Gretchen E.	\$73,699.55		\$111,023.35
Baker, Georgia J.	\$72,964.65		\$110,270.77
Martin, Robert B.	\$68,877.08		\$103,320.36
Jones, Julie C.	\$71,827.13		\$95,399.31
Rea, Teri L.	\$67,910.02		\$93,032.72
Giroux, Gabrielle	\$68,849.66		\$92,049.70
Weisbecker, Vicki L.	\$60,483.99		\$84,130.73
Pauls, Kelsey	\$61,864.06		\$82,787.74
Barker, Ryan	\$56,526.13		\$78,998.01
TOTAL			\$10,184,703.29

2023 Total Public Safety Wages and Cost to Township -- \$10,184,703.29
2022 Total Public Safety Wages and Cost to Township -- \$9,490,959.29
Difference + \$693,744.00
2023 Public Safety total wages & compensation had approximately a 7.3% increase since 2022.

Compiled by Diane Madigan.

Van Buren Township 2023 Employee Wages and Cost to Township		
	Base Wages	Total Compensation
Elected Officials		
McNamara, Kevin M.	\$104,184.56	\$132,501.00
Wright, Leon	\$99,871.02	\$147,273.19
Budd, Sharry A.	\$99,871.02	\$129,715.01
Boynton, Donald	\$19,019.92	\$29,677.63
Frazier, Sherry A.	\$19,019.92	\$29,500.63
Kelley, Bryon	\$16,740.00	\$26,094.28
Martin, Kevin D.	\$19,019.92	\$29,528.63
Assessing		
Dorazio, Gina M.	\$72,980.81	\$114,919.51
Building and Grounds		
Esch, Charles A.	\$64,270.81	\$84,653.73
Hood, Kathryn	\$29,786.50	\$39,301.82
Jenkins, Kirk A.	\$63,594.66	\$94,682.53
Luckett, Lawrence	\$93,445.27	\$119,863.99
Miller, Patty A.	\$51,387.20	\$69,088.94
Taylor, Gerald W.	\$52,414.28	\$76,709.35
Villa, Samuel S.	\$51,346.78	\$69,127.73
Clerk		
Beaudry, Brittany	\$91,141.26	\$130,418.81
Towles, Carol	\$83,888.10	\$108,368.80
Tyler, Karen	\$60,985.47	\$95,257.70
Communications		
Japowicz, Michael	\$72,121.04	\$96,757.26
Manalp, Elena	\$65,983.88	\$88,655.81
Michaels, Chloe	\$14,884.50	\$16,023.17
Dohring, Tammy	\$84,220.62	\$108,749.85
Price, Jennifer L.	\$54,853.60	\$84,940.26
Renaud, Elizabeth	\$106,480.75	\$137,611.66
DDA		
Coburn, Merrie	\$69,999.93	\$90,295.47
Ireland, Susan D.	\$42,137.09	\$63,847.34
Development SVS		
Williams, Brittney	\$45,366.40	\$81,614.38
Grishaber, Tina	\$55,280.00	\$76,052.91
Manley, Caroline	\$34,534.12	\$46,900.44
Murphy, Deanna	\$48,710.12	\$66,013.56
Power, Daniel	\$96,860.46	\$143,627.54
Salazar, Christopher	\$90,778.45	\$132,150.94
Elections		
Coleman, John IV	\$44,107.52	\$60,292.39
Hubbard, Donae	\$57,573.64	\$76,558.27
Human Resources		
Sumpter, Nicole D.	\$91,418.15	\$123,822.55
IT		
Barbaza, Brad	\$80,250.01	\$104,016.54
Dandy, Kenneth R.	\$78,559.42	\$115,267.26
Rankin, Steve L.	\$95,755.50	\$124,740.38
Worthy, Blake	\$51,442.33	\$71,418.83
Municipal SVS		
Akers, Ronald	\$97,999.98	\$145,022.18
Museum		
Utz, Mary	\$1,575.50	\$1,696.02
Parks		
Bacon, Tobias	\$13,198.50	\$14,208.19
Cochenour, Jonathon R.	\$66,189.14	\$100,834.27
Drotar, Ryan T.	\$66,122.50	\$86,944.77
Edenstrom Aidan	\$7,299.00	\$7,857.38
Hollenbeck, Michael	\$4,968.00	\$5,348.06
Kuszak, Benjamin	\$4,941.00	\$5,318.98
Locke, Jason	\$66,688.58	\$99,560.36
Michaels, Brooke	\$5,269.50	\$5,672.62
Pause, Samantha	\$4,569.37	\$4,918.93

(continued on page 13)

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The Belleville-Area Independent

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Vesta Losen retires after finishing her local education goal

We remember, more than 20 years ago, when Vesta Losen and Tom Bowles were elected to the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education with the goal of improving the education and the operation of the district. They failed. The district leaders and unions rebuffed them at every turn. We remember the fiery meetings that lasted past midnight.

Once their four-year terms were up, Losen and Bowles turned to forming a new school to offer local children the education they deserved to have. Losen, who was running Bethany Daycare, wanted her students to have some place to go to learn. She had lots of helpers.

That's how Keystone Academy was formed, starting 22 years ago and celebrating its 20th year in operation last summer. Bethany Daycare will be celebrating its 50th year this summer.

Bowles moved to the Upper Peninsula years ago, but Losen was on the Keystone school board from the beginning, as president much of the time, and now she is retiring to follow other projects.

Keystone has been a place to send the children, outdoing the other local districts in test scores for 17 years. This year, for the second year in a row, Keystone was recognized as a Michigan Reward School by the State of Michigan with "A" grades in all three categories counted.

Losen knows it's safe to move on to other challenges and so we all wish her continued successes.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Our regular letter-writer Ruth Bleeker, age 98, has been in and out of the hospital a couple of times and in rehab in between after she broke her hip in January. She died Tuesday morning in hospice care at Cedar Woods in Van Buren Township.

She had passed on a hug to me for putting a note in the paper that she was in rehab and could use some cards. She said she got about five a day and some were from people she didn't know. Those who sent her mail made her life happier during those days and we're all glad people took the time. Ruth was one in a million.

One reader told me he would like to meet her. He said he didn't agree with most of what she wrote, but she was so enthusiastic about it.

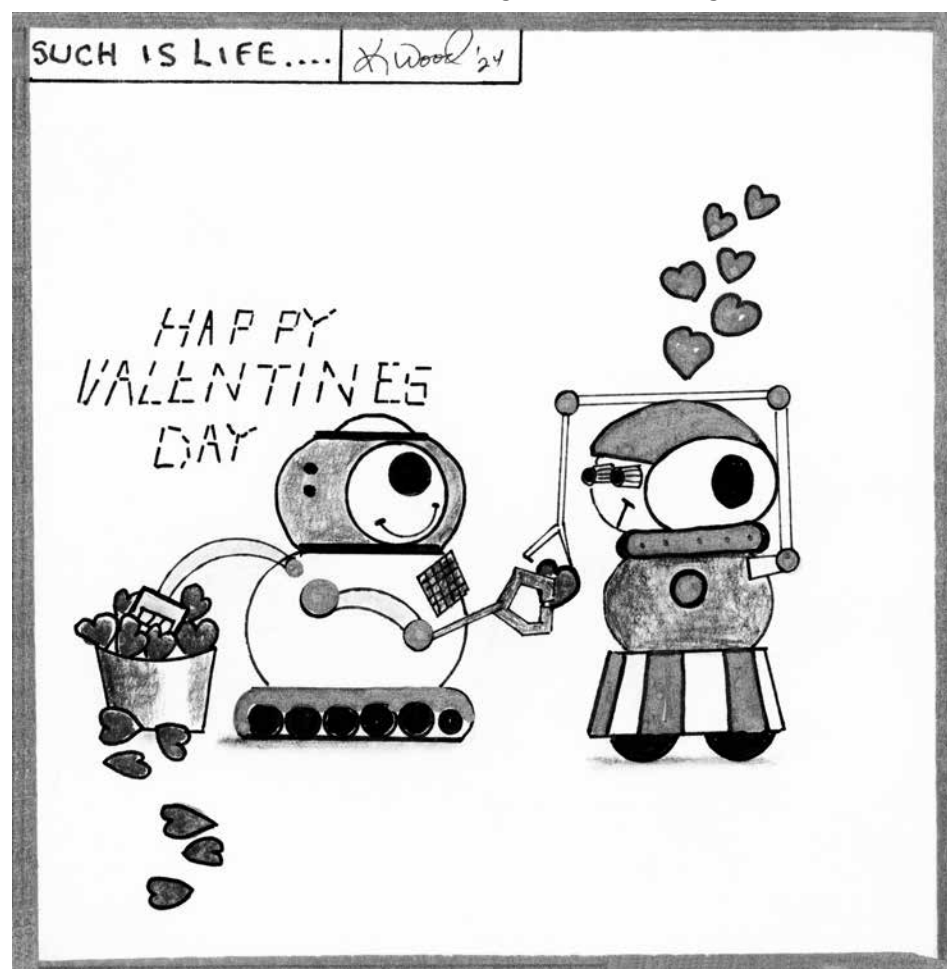
Ruth joked, passing on word to me that she would be writing letters again with lots of capital letters, bold fonts, and underlining, as she always did.

Justicia americana, the endangered plant that must be moved before construction can begin on the Denton Road bridge, blooms from April to October and attracts bees and butterflies with its white and purple flowers. It is minimally deer resistant, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

It is called the American water-willow (and lake willow, sometimes) and colonizes by underground stems. It grows in moist soil or submerged in a few feet of water and gets up to about three feet tall.

There are about five plants next to the Denton Road bridge, but over time they can grow into large colonies of 1,000 square feet.

This is just to acquaint readers with the



plant that may hold up construction of the local bridge. I can't find anything saying when is the best time to move it, except one notation on line that said in the early spring and one that said in the fall. We'll see what EGLE says for Michigan.

Someone told me a robbery was under way recently at the 7-Eleven at the corner of Rawsonville and W. Huron River Drive / Textile Road in Washtenaw County. Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department caught the suspect, we're told, and there were a lot of police on the scene.

When we were on our way to delivering papers to Rawsonville Woods on Feb. 1, we were surprised to see all the vehicles and workers on site on Sumpter Township's side of Rawsonville Road immediately north of the mobile home park.

At a recent Sumpter meeting it was said they would put out some barrels along where they would be working to replace the water line that was recently found to be in the wrong place. They wouldn't close the roadway, it was announced.

The area being worked on stretched on quite a distance north and so we understood why the cost was more than \$300,000. A week later, on Feb. 8 when we went by, it looked like all the work was done and just details needed to be mopped up.

Sumpter was thinking of suing Wayne County or some engineers or someone else to have them pay for the misplacement of

the line. It was some 50 years ago when it was put in the wrong place so it will take some doing to place the blame.

Kudos to Sumpter for getting the work done now and worrying about who's to blame later. Trustee Matthew Oddy said most of it will be paid with federal funds, anyway.

Barbara Miller said it's not too late to go to the special exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts with members of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts and other community members on Saturday.

It's a free ride on a bus paid for by the DIA (and your tax dollars at work). The highly praised exhibit "After Cubism" will soon close. Give her a call on her cell phone at (734) 516-0025 and she'll get you a last-minute reservation for the trip. The bus leaves at 11 a.m. on Feb. 17 from the parking lot of the Van Buren Township Hall.

Parker Mears and Thomas Okubo, who both were named semi-finalists for 2024 National Merit Scholarships, have been advised they have moved up a step to now being finalists for the scholarship. Parker and Thomas are seniors at Belleville High School. About half of the finalists are expected to get Merit Scholarships.



www.bellevilleareaindependent.com
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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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James Otzman

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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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Letters

The poison of division

To the editor:

I was saddened recently when my family found a postcard on the ground, apparently a student's school assignment. Living near a middle school, we are accustomed to finding lost academic materials. One side read "White Prilege [sic]". The opposite side read, "You can now argue with the cops, get into congres [sic], own poropety [sic]."

It appears that the Van Buren schools are actively teaching students that white people can flaunt authority without consequences and that white people alone can participate in government or own property. Not only is this demonstrably false, it is morally reprehensible.

This kind of instruction is blatant bigotry, making generalizations about entire people groups. Worse than that, however, is that teaching a child that he or she is either a victim or a victimizer will damage that child for life. It is a form of indoctrination which teaches children to subdivide themselves by race.

Further, the motive for this segregation is to incite envy and resentment on one side and self-loathing on the other. Neither of these contribute to making mature adults. This should never be the goal of our public school system. The parent or teacher that thinks otherwise should carefully consider what society will look like after 30 or 40 years of child rearing based on racial generalizations. This is a lie intended to drive us backwards, not forwards. And it is effective only because it leverages our lesser selves.

This is a gross misuse of authority. I urge parents everywhere to inject themselves in this destructive program to protect their children from this poison of division.

Wayde Hoppe
Van Buren Township

Baseball is in the air, it's time to sign up

To the editor:

Now that the Super Bowl is over and the Kansas City Chiefs are on their way to becoming a dynasty organization and although the ground hog has predicted 6 more weeks of winter, the Van Buren Area Little League (VBALL) is gearing up for

another successful and fun-filled spring of baseball and softball.

Registration has now opened and will close on Monday, March 4.

We offer programs for baseball and softball from the ages of 4 to 13 for any player who lives in the Van Buren School District or attends one of the schools in the Van Buren School District.

We offer discounts for families with two or more players registering for baseball or softball.

To register, please visit www.vanburenarealittleleague.org.

Create an account and register your child or children. Volunteer opportunities are available if you might be interested in coaching or helping coach your son or daughter.

If you are a business and are interested in supporting your community as a team sponsor, please email us at vanburenarealittleleague@yahoo.com.

Team sponsorship allows a business to have their name displayed on the back of all the team's players plus coaches and a company banner displayed on a fence around the complex.

Registration closes soon, so don't wait. Get your Little Leaguer signed up now and get ready for a spring filled with smiles and laughter.

If you have any questions, please send them to vanburenarealittleleague@yahoo.com.

Marc Littleson, president
Van Buren Area Little League

Here's an idea for Five Points congestion

To the editor:

How about before we go too far, we just rethink our existing traffic lights in Belleville.

It seems to me all we would have to do is eliminate all the green lights and go to blinking caution lights on Main Street and South Street. Then, blinking red lights on Liberty Street, Denton Road, High Street, Third Street, Huron River Drive, Columbia East and West, and South Street.

I know we do not like change, but I've noticed during power outages when portable stop signs are put in place, traffic seems to flow real well.

With all that said, I say let's just give it a try.

Jim Graham
City of Belleville

"You can observe a lot just by watching."
— Yogi Berra

KAREN'S PLACE

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Musings

By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director



Have you noticed the new sign at Douglas Carpets' building? Dr. Les Neinas moved his eye care office to Van Buren Township in the early '90s and now Perspective Eye Care will be on Main Street in the city. Dr. Robert Kennedy, who took over when Dr. Neinas retired, will be making the move to the new office and will continue to see clients at the Belleville Road location until the new building is ready.

Michael Gentz, president/general manager, said the building on Main Street will double the space they have at their office in Van Buren Plaza. Davenport Brothers Construction is overseeing the renovations, and Michael said he expects to be up and running at the new location in March.

It is time to mark your calendars for the March 2 annual BHS Jazz Band Spaghetti Dinner. Running from 5 to 8 p.m. in the BHS Commons, tickets will be available at the door. The dinner includes spaghetti with homemade meatballs, salad, garlic bread, dessert and a beverage for only \$12/person. Great price and it comes with entertainment by the Jazz Band!

Van Buren Area Little League has been registering since December and its March 4 deadline will be here before you know it. Parents and grandparents, let's make sure the kids don't miss out. As I always told my children and grandchildren – spring is for baseball/softball – do soccer in the fall!

Do you have a business item you would like to share? Call Janet at (734) 699-9020 or write to her at jfayemillard@att.net.



Feb. 19 – Anna Smolinski
Feb. 20 – Robert Stoner
Feb. 26 – Dore Juchartz
Feb. 27 – Gerald McKelvey
March 8 – Michael Burns

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.

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Obituaries



Michael Arthur LaPorte

MICHAEL ARTHUR LaPORTE

(October 30, 1971 – February 8, 2024)
Michael LaPorte, age 52, of Belleville, Michigan, passed away on February 8, 2024, at home in hospice care surrounded by his loving family. He was born on October 30, 1971, in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Paul and Carol (Cebula) LaPorte. After some years in high school Michael started his family and became a dad to his three amazing daughters. He was very proud of and very close to his three girls all his life. Michael also loved to golf and bowl. He enjoyed watching the Red Wings and really loved his semi-truck that he drove for work. Most of all he loved his family and doted on his grandchildren who lovingly referred to him as “Papa Arthur.”

Michael is survived by his mother, Carol LaPorte of Ypsilanti, MI; his step-mother, Joanne LaPorte of Atlanta, MI; his wife, Kimberly Cholette of Belleville, MI; his children Brittany (Spencer) McKenzie of Ypsilanti, MI, Megan (Zachery) Alliston of Van Buren Twp., MI, Kaylie LaPorte of Ypsilanti, MI, Kelli (Joe) Mann of Romulus, MI, and Wally Cholette of Romulus, MI; his siblings, Paul (Jody) LaPorte of Harrison, MI, Laura Plonte, of Van Buren Twp., MI, Tina (Burl) Hays of Monroe, MI, Linda (Kevin) Kukola of Harrison, MI, John (Lynette) Stewart of Cheboygan, MI, Gary Stewart of New Boston, MI, mother-in-law Mary Ulman, of Romulus, MI; brother-in-law Jim (Gayle) VanMeer of Romulus, MI; and sisters-in-law Shannon (Greg) Cholette, of Romulus, MI, Becki (John) Graybeal, of New Boston, MI, and Heather (Mike) Maki, of Taylor, MI; and his beloved grandchildren, Ada, Logan, Quinn, Hadley, Joey, Jenah, Peyton and Trey; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and neighbors. He was preceded in death by his dad and his father-in-law Jim VanMeer.

A visitation took place on Monday, February 12, 2024, at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 East Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI, 48111, and a funeral service with a visitation an hour before the service took place on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at the funeral home with Pastor Gordon Moore officiating. A procession followed the service with burial at Michigan Memorial Park, in Flat Rock, MI. Donations to the family in lieu of flowers would be appreciated.

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ROBERT LEE SMITH

(November 22, 1959 – February 6, 2024)
Age 64, of Van Buren Township and formerly of Havre, Mont. BHS graduate. Survived by wife Deborah; children Darcy, Joshua and Dancy; four grandchildren; and siblings, Vicky, Leslie, Jeff. www.davidcbrownfh.com

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Friday, Feb. 16** -- St. Aloysius Lenten Fish Fry Cod Dinner, 4:30-7 p.m. Curbside pickup (313) 439-0864. Credit and debit cards accepted. Baked or fried, \$14; kids meals, \$8; pizza, \$6. Church is at 37200 Neville St., Romulus.

• **Saturday, Feb. 17** – Belleville Area Council for the Arts bus leaves the Van Buren Township Hall at 11 a.m. for a free ride to the Detroit Institute of Arts for the special “After Cubism” exhibit. Call (734) 516-0025 for last-minute reservation.

• **Saturday, Feb. 17** – Wayne County Polar Plunge will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Belleville Yacht Club, 831 E. Huron River Dr., Van Buren Township. Plunge check-in and pre-plunge party leads up to the noon plunge into Belleville Lake. The annual event raises money for Special Olympics Michigan. somi@somi.org

• **Saturday, Feb. 17** – Benefit for Breast Cancer dinner party at the Eagles Lodge. Tickets are \$20 each with all proceeds going to the Rogel Cancer Center at the University of Michigan. Entertainment by Anthony Richendollar, 7-11 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. Menu: Smoked pork chop, au gratin potatoes, vegetable, salad, bread, butter, dessert.

• **Monday, Feb. 19** – God’s Closet will hold a children’s clothing shopping day from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 89 S. Edgemont St. in Belleville, next to Edgemont Elementary School. \$1 buys you a FULL bag of children’s clothing. Donations of children’s clothing accepted from 7-8 p.m. on Wednesdays or 10-11 a.m. on Saturdays.

• **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.

• **Friday, Feb. 23** -- St. Aloysius Lenten Fish Fry Cod Dinner, 4:30-7 p.m. Curbside pickup (313) 439-0864. Credit and debit cards accepted. Baked or fried, \$14; kids meals, \$8; pizza, \$6. Church is at 37200 Neville St., Romulus.

• **Friday, Feb. 23** – Tacos & Margaritas from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Pvt. James D. Donovan/Romulus VFW Post 78, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus (734) 941-3030. All proceeds go to the building fund.

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Denton Rd. Bridge

(continued from page 1)

compiled as an update for the board.

"The goal is to have the plans submitted to Wayne County by March 1 and that plan is on track. The township and our engineers had the grade inspection meeting with Wayne County on Jan. 29 where we reviewed the 85% completed plans with Wayne County Engineering.

"We had a good discussion that put the plans on track for Fishbeck to submit them to Wayne County on March 1. The county thus far has reviewed the plans quickly and has provided timely feedback so we could continue to meet our timelines.

"After this meeting, we had a discussion with the bridge engineers regarding tree removal and the impact on an adjacent property owner. We will be reaching out to that property owner to discuss what is going on in the next week. Overall the plan development is on track and we are able to continue meeting all of the original design goals of the bridge including raising the height of the bridge, adding a sidewalk, and completing decorative elements. As we have previously discussed, the bridge will have one pier in the middle of the bridge which will support two spans."

Supervisor McNamara said there will be street lights for the sidewalk on the bridge and causeway.

Akers said the township had a survey in December and January on what material will be used for the retaining wall. He said the winning option was the simulated limestone which will be incorporated into the design.

He said Fishbeck has submitted the necessary environmental permits for the project and with that night's authorization will finish addressing the comments from the state. He said it is anticipated that the township will have the necessary environmental permits secured prior to the summer so work can begin.

Akers said the township, Fishbeck, and Wayne County have met with DTE Gas to discuss the relocation of the gas main on the bridge. He said the gas line will need to be relocated along Beckley Road and potentially the I-94 South Service Drive to maintain service to those areas on the west side of the bridge.

He said they are working on a solution and a timeline to complete the work and he anticipates meeting with them all again on Feb. 9 to discuss this further.

"In order to help us expedite this process,

the supervisor and deputy supervisor have been in contact with DTE Governmental Affairs and had gotten their assurances that they would help us move forward as quickly as we can in order to meet our timelines," Akers said. "As soon as I have more information I will make sure it is shared."

Akers said after the plans are submitted to Wayne County they will move forward in their procurement process by bidding the project out, securing a contractor, and constructing the bridge.

"We will continue to work with them to make sure we get the project started as fast as we are able," he said.

"This project has come a long way in the past year and has been a collaborative effort from everyone involved to keep this moving," Akers said. "We will continue to push forward to ensure this project is completed as quickly as feasible."

Van Buren Township had taken over engineering of the project for Wayne County and the total cost to the county so far is \$499,940, Akers said. Several grants have been procured for the project.

Court Watching:

Four conferences set Feb. 28 for accused catalytic converter thief

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Matthew Mark Taylor, 30, of Sumpter Township was scheduled for his four probable cause conferences and one remote pretrial on Jan. 17. He is charged with larcenies from vehicles, mostly catalytic converters, in Romulus and Van Buren Township in 2020.

His defense attorney Rebecca Tieppo was assigned to the cases in October and is seeking a global resolution. She said she needed time to work with the prosecutor and Judge Martin adjourned the probable cause conferences until Feb. 28 and said the driving while license suspended misdemeanor will continue with the felony cases.

Tieppo said she didn't know the history of this case and Martin told how it started before Judge David Parrott who recused himself after finding the victims were his friends. The other two judges also recused themselves and the court was arranging for a visiting judge to preside. Then COVID hit and Martin was elected to the bench. She was able to continue with the cases.

Taylor failed to appear for his four preliminary exams on Dec. 6. The exams had been set for Oct. 18, but the defendant said his new attorney had not been in contact.

Judge Martin told the attorney that her client owes the court \$5,800 from other cases and for him to make arrangements to settle these commitments. Taylor laughed at this statement.

Derek William-Ryan Jones

Derek William-Ryan Jones, 30, of Canton was arraigned by Judge Martin on charges of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and domestic violence on Sept. 25, 2022 in Van Buren Township. His probable cause conference was set for Oct. 5, 2022. Personal bond was set at \$10,000 and he must not return to a home on Outer Drive or have any contact with the victim except by a third party to arrange care for a child they share in common. On Oct. 5, 2022 his attorney

Andrew Sullivan asked Judge Martin for permission for Jones to do his job at Town and Country Mobile Home Park where he has a contract and that is where the victim resides. A tree is down and Jones needs to do his job, Sullivan said.

Judge Martin said she had no objection to allowing him to fulfill his contract, but he is not to go to the victim's home.

A preliminary exam on the charges was held Nov. 23, 2022 and he was bound over to circuit court for a Nov. 30 arraignment on the information. A calendar conference was set for Dec. 14, a final conference for Feb. 1, 2023 a pretrial for Feb. 8 and then Feb. 22, at which time he pled guilty to intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and the domestic violence charge was dropped. On March 8, he was fined \$198 and sentenced to 12 months in the Wayne County Jail with a credit of 100

(continued on page 16)



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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztzman

Vesta Losen announced her retirement from the board of Keystone Charter Academy on Feb. 8. National Heritage Academy representative Andrew Roth bought her the flowers because he knew she was thinking of announcing her retirement. He also had a plaque commemorating her 22 years of first starting to organize Keystone and then to serve on the board when it was running. She has been president for many years. She also received a pen with her name engraved on it.

Keystone Academy board president retires after 22 years of work

By Rosemary K. Oztzman
Independent Editor

Vesta Losen, who has spent the last 22 years working first to start Keystone

Charter Academy and then to sit on its board of directors, announced she was retiring at the Feb. 8 regular meeting of the Keystone board.

The board will officially accept her retirement at its next meeting at 5 p.m., March 14. She has been president of the board for many years and Keystone recently celebrated 20 years of existence at its campus in Sumpter Township.

Losen of Van Buren Township started Bethany Daycare almost 50 years ago and she is on the committee to commemorate that achievement, as well.

Losen said she would like to retire soon because, "I have much to do and so little time left." She referred to her age.

Board members encouraged her to retire now if that's what she wanted and so she said she is retiring. She agreed to come to the next meeting briefly because people who wanted to do something special for her

(continued on page 10)



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Keystone

(continued from page 9)

were taken aback by her sudden leaving.

Losen filled the board seat of “educator” and each local board is required to have an educator by charter granter Bay Mills Community College. She sought out two educators she knew to possibly fill her seat and they were interviewed at the Feb. 8 meeting.

Losen said it is hard to get an educator for a board seat and several National Heritage Academy schools need an educator to fill out their boards.

The new board member will fill the two remaining years of Losen’s board seat, but not her position as board president. The annual election of officers is in May.

The board interviewed Melanie Ziemba and Marion Welt-Smith, both of Van Buren Township.

Ziemba is a teacher in the Lincoln Consolidated Schools and the mother of two who are in high school. She teaches computers with hands-on programs for STEM classes and teaches the first graders how to type.

Welt-Smith was an original Keystone board member, before the building was built, and was a board member for two years total, resigning six weeks after the building was up because of family considerations. She home-schooled her two children who now have advanced university degrees. She now works for EduStaff and is looking for a job.

After they were interviewed, board member Christine Mihaly asked for details on what actually made up an “educator” because she has coworkers at Washtenaw County Community College that are in administration and were parents of previous Keystone students. She would like to talk to them about applying for a seat on the board if they qualified, she said.

National Heritage Academies representative Andrew Roth explained that Bay Mills wanted an educator to explain to other board members what the staff was talking about if they didn’t know about educational procedures.

He said it’s often hard to get a retired educator to serve on a board because, “When they are done, they are done.”

He said Bay Mills has the educator as a “soft-strong” recommendation and the person doesn’t have to be a teacher in a classroom.

The way board selection works at Keystone is for the local board to recommend a person and then for Bay Mills to do background checks and prepare an oath for the local board to administer to seat the person.

Bay Mills used to take a month or two for a background check, but now it’s not that long any more, said Brittany Cook, Bay Mills representative at Keystone meetings.

After board members said both of those interviewed would make good board members, Losen suggested they send both names to Bay Mills for consideration.

Roth said he would call them both to see if they are still willing to serve if selected. He said Bay Mills usually requires the board to make the decision and just send one name.

Mihaly said she would talk to her coworkers to see if they were interested in applying.

In other business at the one-hour-45-minutes meeting on Feb. 6, the board:

- Heard Principal Jorvonna Drain announce that Keystone was recognized by the State of Michigan as a Michign Reward School for the second year in a row. She said a school needs a letter grade of an “A” in one of three categories: growth, proficiency, or performance among peers and for the second year in a row, Keystone

received an “A” in all three categories. She said this is a “huge accomplishment”;

- Approved changing the calendar for the 2023-24 school year to include a half day on the last day of school on June 7;

- Reviewed benchmark assessments required by getting federal ESSER [Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief] funds for COVID relief. Roth said this requirement will go away after September;

- After reviewing the absentee figures, which were 163 for the school year, heard Losen say, “Kids are not going to school across the country. Since they were at home [during the pandemic] they felt they didn’t need to be in school”;

- Heard Roth say they are still suggesting uses at Keystone for the ESSER funds, noting most of the money so far has been spent on equipment and retention bonuses. He said they are replacing Chromebooks that have been damaged. Vice president Steve Harsant said when the money goes away this fall, how is NHA going to compete with Van Buren Public Schools in

salaries? Roth said NHA has a new policy of “following the floor” of salaries. “I just see a storm coming,” Harsant said;

- Learned Young 5’s teacher Florentina Holowicki and sixth-grade teacher Mark Higgins are engaged to be married. Principal Drain said they two didn’t meet at Keystone and knew each other before they started working at Keystone; and

- Heard Drain report that Keystone has 51 more applications for the 2024-25 school year than last year at this time. She said of those applications, they have 97 families registered and 17 in acceptance status that have to finish the paperwork, so there is a possibility of 114 new students so far. With the current re-enrolling and registered students, Keystone has 716 students.

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The Serene™ Technology

- **Instant fit** - a single office visit is all it takes
 - **Easy to use and wear** - All-day comfort
 - **Hear effortlessly** in noisy places, watching TV, or on the phone.
 - **Tiny size** and great price!
- SAVE \$1000 THIS WEEK!**



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She’s
wearing new
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BONUS OFFER
\$20 Gift Card**



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734-389-8725

Ann Arbor
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734-274-6794

WWW.BELTONEHEARINGAID.COM

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**Must complete hearing screening to be eligible for gift card. See store for details. Beltone 2024™

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& X-Rays

ORPHAN OF THE WEEK MOLLY



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**Look at my cuteness!
Aren't I adorable?**

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734-699-6510

www.amcvanburen.com

Independent photo by James Oztzman

A new gas station is now pumping fuel from four pumps at what previously was only the Metro Park Party Store strip mall at the corner of Haggerty Road and E. Huron River Drive in Van Buren Township. The gas pumps opened up for use on Friday and BP gas is the brand. Andy Shina first asked for Van Buren Township consideration of the project in May of 2018. The upgraded location has new sidewalks, landscaping, a monument sign, bench, and LED gas price sign. The party store and mall also have been updated.

BHS at-home games

- **Friday, Feb. 16** – Boys Freshman Basketball vs. Dearborn HS, 4 p.m.; Boys JV Basketball vs. Dearborn HS, 5:30 p.m.; Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Dearborn HS, 7 p.m.
 - **Tuesday, Feb. 20** – Girls JV Basketball vs. Churchill HS, 5:30 p.m.; Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Churchill HS, 7 p.m.
- Go Tigers!
Diane Kiessel
BHS Athletics Secretary

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Call Tom (734) 864-2243



This is sunrise over Belleville Lake viewed from the area of the Belleville Bridge on Feb. 7.

Photo courtesy of Richard Smith



Photo courtesy Randy Miller

This is a picture of Sherwood Road in Sumpter Township early on Feb. 2. Wayne County crews came out on Feb. 6 and graded Sherwood Road from Willow Road south to Oakville Waltz. There are still lots of almost impassable roads in the township.

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 FOR THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION
FEBRUARY 17-25

VAN BUREN
 CHARTER TOWNSHIP

2024 February
 Sun Mon Tues Wed Thur Fri Sat
 01 02 03
 04 05 06 07 08 09 10
 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
 25 26 27 28 29



City of Belleville Public Notice



2024 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE

The **BOARD OF REVIEW** of the City Of Belleville will be held on the following dates:

March 5th, Tuesday

9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

(Organizational Meeting)

No Appeals Heard at this Meeting

March 5th, Tuesday

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 12th, Tuesday

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

REVIEW IN PERSON IS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Taxpayers/Property Owners may appeal by making an appointment to appear before the Board of Review OR by letter appeal (personal appearance is not required).

Letters of appeal must be received by noon MARCH 12, 2024.

Appointments to appeal in person may be scheduled by calling the Assessing Office at 734-252-4314 between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. by MARCH 5, 2024.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2024 are as follows:

Commercial	47.66%	1.049
Industrial	49.19%	1.016
Residential	43.72%	1.143

Briana Hootman
City of Belleville

Publish: Thursday, February 15, 2024

Thursday, February 22, 2024

Thursday, February 29, 2024

School Board approves three-year contract for transportation mgmt.

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education on Monday unanimously approve funds for a three-year contract with Transfinder/Zonar for a computerized bus management and fleet routing system.

Treasurer Simone Pinter was absent from the meeting.

Cost for the system is \$115,616 for initialization and the first year, \$38,826 for the second year, and \$41,928 for the third

year.

The system was discussed in detail at the board’s previous meeting with action being delayed until the Feb. 12 meeting to give time for questions.

“This is going to make a lot of parents happy,” said board president Amy Pearce. “It will enable parents to get information directly ... sub-drivers, as well.”

James Williamson, director of plant operations, said it will take six months to get it up and operating, so it should be up by the beginning of next school year or shortly thereafter.

Parents will be able to check on apps where their children’s buses are to determine how soon the students have to be outside for pickup, along with when the buses are delayed and other details.

Williams said the district has spent the past year or so looking into updating its bus routing and fleet management systems with the hope to find a system that is more user-friendly and includes additional features like GPS, turn-by-turn navigation, enhanced parent communication with access to a parent app, and reporting/tracking options.

The district had a free system that was not as helpful through RESA, but there is going to be a charge soon so it looked into better options.

In other business at the Feb. 12 meeting, the board:

- Was provided with information on candidates for a seat on the Michigan Association of School Boards’ board of directors for Region 8. Each district in the region gets one vote in by March 6. School Supt. Pete Kudlak told board members to look over the candidates, reach out to them for more information, and they can decide at the next meeting;
- Approved the retirement of Owen Intermediate principal Jason Salhaney on June 30 after five years as of June 30;
- Approved the resignation of Belleville High School teacher Cary Phillips after 26 years of service as of Feb. 15;
- Approved the resignations of paraprofessional Jessika Tuddles as of Jan. 25 after more than a year of service and Rachel Dobbins as of Feb. 9 after more than a year of service;
- Approved the employment of Madison Waldroop as a paraprofessional at Rawsonville Elementary School as of Feb. 5 and the employment of Sarah Charlton as a custodian as of Feb. 7;
- Approved the employment of teacher Jennifer Wolf for Edgemont Elementary School as of Feb. 20 and Derrick Graves for Owen Intermediate School as of Feb. 12; and
- Heard parent Racquel Bean, who had been at a school board meeting in November to tell about her daughter being sexually assaulted at Belleville High School, again complain about the sexualization of school children with the content and grooming in its sex education program. She said her daughter was made out to be a criminal when she was a victim. She read from the Revised School Code and noted those under the age of 16 don’t have the legal right to consent to sex. She said the charge of statutory rape never expires and penalties include prison time and 25 years on the sex offender list. The district’s current method of teaching sex education is illegal, she said, and, “You can’t do it.” She replied to the board president and board with “f- - k you” after president Pearce thanked her for her comments, and repeated that as she left, calling out, “Are you going to call the FBI about all the rapes that take place under your roof?” There were no replies to her comments.

16th Annual Report to Taxpayers

(continued from page 3)

Van Buren Township 2023 Employee Wages and Cost to Township

	Base Wages	Total Compensation
Parks (continued)		
Rupnow, Jay	\$18,855.00	\$20,297.41
Sikora, Ethan	\$5,697.00	\$6,132.82
Smith, Alexis	\$5,385.47	\$5,797.46
Stack, Johnathan	\$3,311.38	\$3,564.71
Wilson, Chandler	\$12,694.50	\$13,665.63
Yoder, Josiah	\$8,694.00	\$9,359.09
Recreation		
Simpson, Corenina M.	\$22,334.91	\$24,043.53
Zaenglein, Jennifer B.	\$69,901.85	\$101,255.66
Seniors		
Balewski, Marylynn	\$3,296.66	\$3,938.43
Duncan, Anne	\$38,913.09	\$51,602.61
Hayenga, Paul	\$2,484.00	\$2,674.03
Hodder, Deborah	\$4,549.65	\$4,897.70
Kingscott, Candace	\$7,895.18	\$8,499.16
Partridge, Denise	\$22,817.61	\$24,563.16
Porter, Beverly L.	\$12,690.00	\$13,660.79
Sanders, Marcella	\$7,608.96	\$8,191.05
Suminski, Lindsey	\$5,454.00	\$5,871.23
Syracuse, Nora	\$2,362.50	\$2,543.24
Zitzewitz, Darrin	\$6,885.47	\$7,412.21
Supervisor		
Rodriguez, Hannah	\$63,050.00	\$82,041.63
Selman, Daniel V.	\$95,532.76	\$124,649.52
Treasurer		
Adams, Kathy A.	\$57,851.06	\$86,020.15
Bellingham, Sean L.	\$101,782.78	\$143,187.46
Shevrovich, Jessica M.	\$54,728.82	\$82,990.99
Water & Sewer		
Brice, Garrett	\$10,704.38	\$18,520.61
Hazlett, Kelsey	\$50,970.63	\$82,573.27
Miller, Eric	\$64,570.49	\$98,995.18
Nesler, Jordan	\$54,313.34	\$72,266.58
Patton, Brandon N.	\$85,726.92	\$129,963.12
Pecsenye, Karen E.	\$56,878.61	\$83,274.33
Sabin, Joel S	\$75,884.24	\$100,860.38
Schlutow, Kristopher	\$18,355.32	\$39,049.80
Strickland, Joseph E.	\$23,240.07	\$31,475.93
Valinski, Jason A.	\$6,646.77	\$8,365.60
Vondrak, Jason	\$18,117.16	\$27,625.04
Zantop, Kendyl M.	\$47,843.54	\$64,846.15
Zysk, Marcus	\$81,244.53	\$100,195.49
Lawrence, Kevin	\$99,999.90	\$127,765.39
Hine, Bradley L.	\$4,249.96	\$4,575.08
Mabry, Maranda A.	\$18,336.75	\$23,022.15
TOTAL		\$5,763,655.68
Benefits include FICA and may include health care, dental, life insurance, vision and pension.		

2023 Total Employee Wages & Actual Cost -- \$5,763,655.68

2022 Total Employee Wages & Actual Cost -- \$5,677,656.26

Difference + \$85,999.42

2023 employee total wages & compensation had approximately a 1.5% increase since 2022.

2023 Van Buren Township Retiree Health Care Costs	
Employee	Cost to VBT
Bovitz, Kristy	\$9,722.95
Brooks, Dennis	\$5,201.25
Brooks, Ken	\$4,230.21
Brooks, Terri	\$8,903.43
Burgor, Michael	\$13,039.10
Buxton, Mark	\$28,126.76
Caincross, Noah	\$14,625.84
Cline, Kathleen A.	\$9,774.90
Combs, Linda	\$5,228.25
Devos, Bart	\$8,903.43
Fields, Julia	\$8,915.52
Fleming, Pamala	\$10,429.50
Fondaw, Jeffrey	\$28,434.28
Foster, Helen	\$5,228.25
Greene, Robert	\$9,202.50
Gueli, Jeff	\$9,741.40
Guenther, Dale	\$9,202.50
Hayes, Christopher	\$16,553.45
Hunter, Donna	\$5,136.35
Ireland, Susan	\$4,365.97
Jordan, Lynette	\$26,623.26
Kauppila, Barb	\$5,201.25
Kennedy, Sharon	\$9,503.34
Kurtz, Brenda	\$7,932.39
Laurain, Gregory	\$21,227.73
McIntosh, Laurie	\$23,962.98
Miller, James	\$14,005.56
Moening, Michael	\$8,937.63
Montgomery, Joanne	\$26,623.26
Morse, Vernon	\$21,227.73
Noye, George	\$9,250.53
Osborne, Jeffrey	\$23,962.98
Papin, Michel	\$24,994.09
Partridge, Denise	\$4,669.06
Pinard, Mario	\$23,526.09
Sears, Robert	\$9,202.50
Smith, Daniel	\$8,002.50
Smyth, Keith	\$8,985.79
Stevenson, Linda	\$14,104.74
Strickland, Joseph	\$16,851.28
Thornsbury, Ernie	\$13,496.29
Toney, Kenneth	\$24,014.29
Valinski, Jason	\$7,065.44
Wilson, Diane	\$5,064.75
Yono, Fred	\$5,275.65
TOTAL	\$578,676.95
2022 - 41 Retirees	-- \$638,893.85
2023 - 45 Retirees	-- \$578,676.95
Difference	- \$60,216.90
2023 retiree health care costs had approximately a 9.4% decrease since 2022.	

New resident believes racism got his house egged in Haggerty Sub

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor
Eric A. Cheeks, who formerly lived in Sumpter Township, moved to a home on Arthur Street in Haggerty Subdivision last August.

He said he is the father of two adult children, is divorced, and lives alone.

He said there were no bars on the windows or doors and it seemed like a safe neighborhood. He even turned off his outside lights at night.

But that changed, Cheeks, 60, told the Van Buren Board of Trustees at its Feb. 6 meeting.

He said on Jan. 2, around 3 or 4 in the morning, he heard a strange sound and then nothing. In the morning he found that his

windows has been egged and full pop cans had been thrown at the brick house. The pop cans exploded and pop spilled on the bricks. Egg cartons were thrown in the yard. He said he is glad the cans didn't hit the windows because they could have broken.

He said he didn't have surveillance cameras then, but he does now. He said he gets along with the neighbors and pretty much stays to himself.

"No one's house, in the year 2024, should get egged," he told the board.

Clerk Leon Wright told him four to five homes in his subdivision of Andover Farms got egged and cans thrown at them, at another time. He said they got surveillance tapes, but couldn't identify the individuals because of the hoods. Clerk Wright said he thinks it's a bunch of kids.

Cheeks later said he doesn't think it was

kids and obviously was racist. He said police didn't try to get fingerprints from the cans, but tried to turn it on him, asking what he is into, who he offended, if he gave anybody the finger, and about any ex-girlfriends. It was none of that, he said.

A neighbor came out and said he'd lived in Haggerty Sub for 50 years and they never had eggs or cans thrown at the houses before.

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'89 MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE 5.0. New top, new radiator & new battery. No rust. 70,000 miles. \$17,800. Interested parties. (734) 325-5352 02/22

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More Letters

'The Belleville Three' started right here

To the editor:

I was speaking to my son who spoke about a California-based comedy podcast he enjoyed. The podcast shared a side story about music.

They stated the birthplace of techno music was Belleville, MI in the 1980s. Three African-American high school students created it in their basement and it ended up going global. They called themselves The Belleville Three. More information can be found on Wikipedia.

Van Buren Township residents
Names withheld by request

"Truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a time, but it ain't goin' away."
— Elvis Presley

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

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



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The Belleville-Area Independent will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The Independent's liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the Independent be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

VBT board approves \$46,300 to fix water leak over Edison Rd. bridge

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A small leak in a 16" water line over the deteriorating Edison Road bridge was found last August and Van Buren Township got four bids for its repair.

At the Feb. 6 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, a contract for \$46,300 with recognized low-bidder Ongrade Contracting was approved to repair the water main and to install a valve, paid for from the Sewer Fund.

Kevin Lawrence, director of Water and

Sewer, said the valve would be used so not as many people will be put out of service while they make the repair.

He said the water main runs from Hannan Road to Haggerty, serving residences and going behind a business and over the old Edison Road bridge.

Director Lawrence said in the past there have been several repairs made to the cast iron water main on the bridge and the installation of the 16-inch valve would isolate the area with minimum service disruption with future repairs.

Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara said there also is a gas line on the deteriorating bridge and the township should talk to DTE about the gas line and Director Lawrence said he would do so.

"Someday, we'll have to deal with the bridge," Supervisor McNamara said.

He said the bridge is very old and he has seen a picture of Model A's driving over that bridge. It has been out of service for traffic for many years, following the construction of the nearby bridge over the Huron River on Huron River Drive.

In other business at the 47-minute

meeting, the board:

- Heard a report from Downtown Development Authority Merrie Coburn on DDA projects and funding pursuits. She said they are looking at a 2025 construction season for the widening of Belleville Road;

- Approved special land use for Kimberly Younglas to change an existing Day Care, Family Home to a Day Care, Group Home at Busy Bee Home Daycare, 13657 Country Walk Blvd. Treasurer Sharry Budd, who is board liaison to the planning commission which recommended the approval, said day cares are an important need in the state and the township welcomes her expansion to take care of more children;

- Approved Fishbeck Associates to provide a Wastewater Master Plan Study for Van Buren Township's sanitary system in the amount of \$198,500 to be paid from the Sewer Fund. Director Lawrence said among other things they will track township sewage going into the city of Belleville. Fishbeck said this will be a seven-month study starting April 1. It will use 17 temporary flow meters plus rain gauges to see how much rain gets into the system. The township already has a five-year study, but is not detailed enough. McNamara said there is land in the north part of the township that needs sewer service to be developed for large manufacturers and the township has to see how much sewage it can accept and which one of the four sewer services serving the township can accept the flow. A draft of the study will be to the township by May of next year;

- Approved the budget amendments to increase the Director of Recreation pay to \$75,000 and the Recreation Programmer to \$68,841 as discussed in last fall's budget hearing;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointments of Delores Hogan, Helen Wylie, Mary Korgal, Patricia Sobecki, and Patricia Tumas to the Senior Endowment Committee with terms to expire Feb. 6, 2026;

- Approved the Stormwater Maintenance Agreement with DTE Electric at 42061 Ecorse Rd.;

- Approved the renewal of the Daniel Consulting Agreement for two years at a cost of \$4,000 per month for lobbying the State of Michigan on behalf of the township for grant-funding opportunities, being available for strategy sessions, working with the township on other governmental issues, and other matters. The core team consists of David Katz, Jill Alper, and Allaire Swart ;

- Approved the 2023 Blight Control and Demolition Management Program Activities as performed by the township's planning consultant at the direction of the VFT Planning and Economic Development Department. The report included four demolitions, 14 rehabilitated structures, and 28 active projects, including the upcoming demolition of the blighted motel at 11605

(continued on page 16)

Public Notice

OFFICE OF THE WAYNE COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

JEWETT DRAIN

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION

DATE: Tuesday, February 27, 2024

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

LOCATION: Wayne County Community College District
Ted Scott Campus, Room A112
9555 Haggerty Road
Belleville, MI 48111

QUESTIONS: (313) 536-0355

A Board of Determination will meet at the above date, time and location to hear all interested persons, receive evidence and determine whether the maintenance and improvement, as set forth in the petition, dated October 8, 2023, is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience, or welfare pursuant to Chapter 8 of Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended.

A presentation will be made to the Board of Determination, which outlines a brief history of the Drainage District, and describes the roles, responsibilities and decision to be made by a Board of Determination. The presentation is to provide background for landowners and municipalities in the Drainage District and to facilitate the dissemination of information and the receipt of testimony of landowners in the Drainage District. The Board of Determination will make its decision at the end of the meeting.

Proceedings conducted at this public meeting will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Wayne County Drain Commissioner's Office located at 400 Monroe, Suite 400, Detroit, Michigan 48226. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the Wayne County Drain Commissioner's office.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Drain Commissioner at the number listed above or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Anyone aggrieved by the decision of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review pursuant to MCL 280.72a.

Elmeka N. Steele, Esq.
Wayne County Drain Commissioner

(continued from page 15)

Haggerty Rd.;

- Approved the Senior Endowment Committee Bylaws, updating the meeting schedule and updating the title of Senior Director to Senior Programmer, as determined in the Jan. 9 Senior Endowment Committee meeting; and

- Heard Clerk Leon Wright explain the Feb. 27 election starts Feb. 17 under the new Early Voting law. He said this is different than Absentee Voting, which is still in place. He said with Early Voting the voter can come into the township hall and vote on a voting machine. This is accepted as a final vote. It can't be changed like the Absentee Voting procedure where if you make a mistake you can cancel the vote and get a new ballot and vote again, he said.

Court Watching

(continued from page 8)

days and three years of probation starting March 8, 2023. In lieu of other fees, he was sentenced to 100 hours of community service.

Stephanie Renee Sutton

Stephanie Renee Sutton, 36, of Ypsilanti, was charged with police officer assault on Feb. 19, 2021 in Van Buren Township and was present by zoom for her probable cause conference on Oct. 5, 2022. Her attorney Sharon Jones worked out a plea deal and she pled guilty to an added count of attempted obstruction of a police officer and was put on one year of probation. Her attorney said she attempted to run away from Police Officer Fidel. The original charge was dismissed.

Jones said her client has nine months of sobriety and is in a program through

14B District Court. Judge Martin sent her to the probation department for a recommendation and the formal sentencing was held Nov. 28, 2022. It included fines totaling \$1,325 and random testing.

Gregory Martin Scully

Gregory Martin Scully of Ann Arbor and previously of Belleville, was charged with possession of narcotics or cocaine less than 25 grams on Aug. 20, 2021 in Van Buren Township. He was present for his Oct. 5 probable cause conference which was adjourned to Oct. 12 because not all the discovery had been received by the defense.

Court records show on Sept. 12, Scully called the court and said he tried to turn

himself in to Van Buren Police on the warrant that had been out on him, but a "lady from VBPD" told him they do not let them turn themselves in and he should contact the court. The court told him to talk to the officer in charge to set up turning himself in on a warrant.

Scully turned himself into the court in person on Sept. 15, 2022 and he was arraigned.

On Oct. 12, 2022 his live exam was set for Nov. 2, 2022. The exam was conducted and Judge Green dismissed the case.

Justin Lee Boyer

Justin Lee Boyer, 41, of Chelsea is charged with operating while intoxicated

(continued on page 17)

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 6, 2024

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Zoom Meeting ID for public participation: 894 2765 4392. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Boynton, Trustee Martin, Trustee Frazier and Trustee Kelley. Others in attendance: Deputy Supervisor Selman, Recording Assistant Beaudry, Director of Community Services Renaud, Deputy Director of Community Services Dohring, Director of Municipal Services Akers, DDA Director Coburn, Fire Chief McNally, Director of Public Services Lockett, Director of Water and Sewer Lawrence, Director of Planning and Economic Development Power and an audience of eight.

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

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

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA: Boynton moved, Kelley seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2024, Prepaid List of January 18, 2024, Prepaid List of January 25, 2024, Prepaid List of February 1, 2024, Voucher List of February 6, 2024, Approval of the budget amendment to increase 101-622-703-001 Director of Recreation to \$75,000 and to increase 101-622-703-003 Recreation Programmer to \$68,841 from general fund balance, Approval of the reappointments of Delores Hogan, Helen Wylie, Mary Korgal, Patricia Sobecki, and Patricia Tumas to the Senior Endowment Committee with terms to expire February 6, 2026, Approval of the Stormwater Maintenance Agreement and Board Resolution 2024-01 with DTE Electric at 42061 Ecorse Road, Approval of the renewal of the Daniel Consulting Agreement for 2 years, Approval of the 2023 Blight Control and Demolition Management Program Activities Report and Approval of the Senior Endowment Committee Bylaws. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E /

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS: Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority Director Coburn gave a presentation on Projects and Funding Pursuits.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): A resident spoke on an incident where someone threw eggs and pop cans at their home and he wants to know what else can be done outside of contacting the police.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve a special land use request by Kimberly Younglas to change an existing Day Care, Family Home to a Day Care, Group Home use as defined per Section 2.102(A)(60)(b) of the Van Buren Township Zoning Ordinance at 13657 Country Walk Boulevard. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Martin seconded to approve Fishbeck to provide a Wastewater Master Plan Study for Van Buren Township's sanitary system in the amount of \$198,500 to be paid from Sewer Fund 592-537-971-003 Capital Sewer Fund. Motion Carried.

Kelley moved, Boynton seconded to approve addendum #2 to the agreement between Fishbeck Associates and Van Buren Township for the design engineering for Denton Road Bridge in the amount of \$42,240. Motion Carried.

Martin moved, Wright seconded to approve Ongrade Contracting to provide a 16-inch water main repair and valve installation for Van Buren Township's water system on Edison Road in the amount of \$46,300 to be paid from Water Fund 592-536-971-001 Capital Outlay System Improvement. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Clerk Wright informed voters that Early Voting will take place from February 17th until February 25th from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm at Township Hall for all Van Buren Township voters.

ADJOURNMENT: Boynton moved; Frazier seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Published: February 15, 2024

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



VAN BUREN
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

2024 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The **BOARD OF REVIEW** of the Charter Township of Van Buren will be held on the following dates:

March 5th, Tuesday
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
(Organizational Meeting)

No Appeals Heard at this Meeting

March 11th, Monday
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 13th, Wednesday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

REVIEW IN PERSON IS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Taxpayers/Property Owners may appeal by making an appointment to appear before the Board of Review **OR** by letter appeal (personal appearance is not required).

Letters of appeal must be received by noon MARCH 13, 2024.

Appointments to appeal in person may be scheduled by calling the Assessing Office at 734-699-8946 between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. by MARCH 5, 2024.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2024 are as follows:

Agricultural	44.86%	1.1146
Commercial	48.08%	1.0399
Industrial	47.24%	1.0584
Residential	47.24%	1.0584
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Leon Wright
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: Thursday, February 15, 2024
Thursday, February 22, 2024
Thursday, February 29, 2024



City of Belleville Public Notice



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF BELLEVILLE CITY COUNCIL UNPAID UTILITY CHARGES

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to Section 90-243 of the City Code, the City of Belleville's City Council will conduct a public hearing regarding all unpaid utility charges for utility services remaining unpaid for a period of six months or more as of February 5, 2024 and not paid by February 29, 2024, will be spread upon the City's tax roll against the premises to which such utility charges were supplied or furnished, and shall be collected in the same manner as City Taxes.

The City Council will conduct its public hearing on February 20, 2024, at 7:30 PM, during the regular City of Belleville City Council meeting, at the Municipal Council Chambers located at 6 Main Street, Belleville, Michigan.

Copies of the roll 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 February 20, 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: 02/15/2024

Court Watching

(continued from page 16)

and possession of a controlled substance – analogues on Sept. 18, 2021 in Sumpter Township. He was present for his Oct. 5, 2022 probable cause conference and his attorney Sofia Nelson said she was seeking a misdemeanor resolution, but she has all the discovery except the disk given to her coworker which she has yet to get. The exam was set for Nov. 23, 2022 but she said they may not need it.

On Nov. 23, 2022 the exam was held and Boyer was bound over to circuit court for a Dec. 7, 2022 arraignment on the information. A calendar conference was set for Jan. 6, 2023 and a final conference for March 10. A pretrial was set for March 17 and adjourned to May 15.

A jury trial was set for Aug. 30, 2023 but on July 12, he pled guilty to a reduced charge of operating under the influence of liquor / per se / OWI-3rd offense, a felony. The other two charges were dismissed. He was sentenced to a fine of \$1,698, 60 hours of community service, confinement in the Wayne County Jail with credit for two days served, and two years of probation starting Sept. 8, 2023.

Marion Lucille Goodlow

Marion Lucille Goodlow, 54, of Sumpter Township had been charged with indecent

exposure on March 12, 2022 in Sumpter Township. A bench trial was set for Oct. 7, 2022 and at that time a plea hearing was held and she pled no contest to a reduced charge of disorderly person. She was sentenced to 12 months of probation, no contact with an address on Rawsonville Road, and a fine of \$200. On Oct. 11, 2023, the previous disposition was set aside and the caseload reopened. Charges were dismissed by the party and the case was closed.

Alaina Christine Fain

Alaina Christine Fain, 36, of Canton was present before Judge Green on Oct. 12 on a motion hearing. Her attorney Connie Ribiat had presented a motion to set aside the conviction and Judge Green said she would sign it and go along with what the state recommended.

Fain had been charged with home invasion-third degree and assault or assault and battery for a Jan. 8, 2012 incident in the city of Belleville. The first charge was reduced to illegal entry without owner's permission. All aspects of probation had been complied with.

Deborah Joann Collett

Deborah Joann Collett, 59, of New Boston had her probable cause conference adjourned from Oct. 12 to Oct. 26, 2022. She is charged with operating while intoxicated-third on March 29, 2022 in Sumpter Township.

Her defense attorney Murray Duncan said he was trying to get a plea deal for her and so Judge Green adjourned the probable cause conference to Oct. 26, 2022. The live preliminary exam was set for Nov. 9. Then it was set for Dec. 14.

On Dec. 14, the defendant waived the exam and Judge Green bound her over to circuit court for trial, with a Dec. 28 arraignment on the information reset by the court to Jan. 11, 2023. A calendar conference then was set for Jan. 24. Final conference was set for March 14 and continued to April 20. A final conference was set for May 2 and she pled guilty to the offense. On May 26, she was fined \$908 and sentenced to two years of probation.

Jason John McCulley

Jason John McCulley, 53, of Van Buren Township was charged with domestic violence-third offense notice on April 2 in Van Buren Township. He was freed on \$5,000 personal bond. McCulley was present by zoom for his Oct. 12 probable cause conference before Judge Green. His live preliminary exam was set for Nov. 22. At that time he pled *nolo contendere* to a reduced charge of domestic violence. His file was sent to probation for a recommendation before the final sentencing. He was sentenced to non-reporting probation with no fines.



City of Belleville Public Notice



NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION Tuesday, February 27, 2024

TO THE REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Presidential Primary Election will be held in the City of Belleville on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, with nine (9) days of Early Voting beginning on Saturday, February 17, 2024.

Polling locations, dates, and times will be as follows:

Saturday, February 17, 2024 – Sunday, February 25, 2024

- Polls open at 8 a.m. and close at 4 p.m.
- Location: Belleville City Hall, 6 Main St.

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

- Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.
- Location: St. Anthony's Church Gymnasium, 409 W. Columbia Ave.

Both polling locations are accessible to voters with disabilities.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the residents in the City of Belleville will choose to vote among the following ballots:

DEMOCRATIC BALLOT – OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND BALLOT PROPOSAL

REPUBLICAN BALLOT – OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND BALLOT PROPOSAL

NO PARTY DECLARATION BALLOT (Proposal only) VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

Sample ballots may be obtained in-person at the City of Belleville Clerk's Office, 6 Main Street, Belleville, Michigan 48111, or by visiting the City's website: www.bellevilleonthelake.com.

Briana Hootman,
City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: February 15, 2024

**Read The Newspaper
On The Web!**
**The Belleville-Area
Independent Website
is Online! Visit us @
bellevilleareaindependent.com**

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 264 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, Feb. 4:

0026 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sage Cir./Reedgrass Ln.
0052 – welfare check, Birch Dr.
0106 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.
0202 – mental subject, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0407 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Archwood Dr.
0852 – assist other dept., E. I-94/Haggerty Rd.
0911 – intrusion alarm, Parkwood Dr.
1105 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
1306 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1305 – 911 welfare check, S. Bellridge Dr.
1554 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.
1602 – neighbor trouble, Daisy Blvd.
1618 – intrusion alarm, Maude Ct.
1833 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Bemis Rd.
1925 – unauthorized driving away of auto, N. Bellridge Dr.
1948 – neighbor trouble, Rogers Ave.
2118 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2240 – 911 welfare check, Fret Rd.

Monday, Feb. 5:

0203 – assist other dept., Christina Ln.
0851 – welfare check, Maple Dr.
0930 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1020 – follow up by officer, Haggerty Rd.
1121 – welfare check, Ironwood Dr.
1226 – threat, W. Huron River Dr.
1300 – welfare check, Tyler Rd./Morton Taylor
1323 – assist other dept., S. Bellridge Dr.
1424 – harassment call, Belle Pointe Dr.
1342 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1422 – misc. complaint, Belleville Rd.
1510 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rolan Meadows Dr.
1542 – misc. complaint, Riggs Rd.
1633 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1650 – welfare check, Parkside Dr.
1912 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Quirk Rd.
1914 – unauthorized driving away of auto, N. Belleridge Dr.
1840 – threat, McBride Ave.
1957 – assist fire dept., Holly Ln.

Tuesday, Feb. 6:

0055 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. Woodbury Dr.
0959 – fraud, Barkley St.
1021 – found property/child, Independence Ln.
1003 – motorist assist, Denton Rd./Belleville Rd.
1021 – found property/child, Westlake Cir.
1237 – juvenile complaint, Niagara
1211 – welfare check, Lakeview Dr.
1228 – assist fire dept., Waters Edge Ln.
1314 – fraud, Red Oak Dr.
1324 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1401 – private property impound, Belleville Dr.
xxxx – fraud, Hampton Dr.
1625 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.
1714 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

1903 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2055 – welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
2152 – civil matter, Belleville

Wednesday, Feb. 7:

0041 – leaving the scene of the property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0128 – intrusion alarm, Dellor St.
0506 – assist fire dept., Aspen
0708 – property damage accident, W. I-94 / Belleville Rd.
0825 – domestic, Forestdale Dr.
0846 – fraud, Sumpter Rd.
1118 – harassment call, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1114 – fraud, Parkwood Dr.
1402 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1414 – domestic, Chatsworth Dr.
1454 – abandoned auto, Ruthan Dr./Marina Dr.
1520 – follow up by officer, Chatsworth Dr.
1601 – fraud, Cumberland Ct.
1601 – threat, Haggerty
1603 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Freeport Ct.

1710 – domestic, Denton Rd.
1755 – assist other dept., Republic Dr.
1834 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Van Born Rd.
1947 – civil matter, Sadie Ln.
2043 – intrusion alarm, Samuel Barton Dr.
2048 – warrant arrest, Willis Rd.
2210 – hospice death, Sumpter Rd.
2233 – threat, Riggs Rd.
2358 – intrusion alarm, Brookside Dr.

Thursday, Feb. 8:

xxxx – repossession, Parkwood Dr.
0703 – welfare check, Water's Edge Ln.
0742 – 911 welfare check, Red Oak Dr.
1127 – welfare check, Van Born
1141 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Pebblebrook Dr.
xxxx – PPO violation, Belleville Rd.
1237 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Woodbury Dr.
1322 – PPO violation, Belleville Rd.
1433 – retail fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
1526 – welfare check, Bayshore Dr.
1545 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./Tyler Rd.
1614 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Morton Taylor Rd.
1704 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1841 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.
1837 – animal complaint, N. Ponderosa Trl.
xxxx – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.

1924 – civil matter, Sylvia Dr.
1931 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
1954 – domestic, Van Born
2101 – dumping complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2108 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
2338 – civil matter, Oak Ln.

Friday, Feb. 9:

0017 – 911 welfare check, Outer Dr.
0320 – noise complaint, Rose Blvd.
0653 – noise complaint, Rose Blvd.
0615 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
0840 – intrusion alarm, E. Walden Dr.
0847 – neighbor trouble, Park Estates Dr.
0941 – private property impound, Hardwood Dr.
0953 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Coca-Cola Dr.
xxxx – juvenile complaint, S. Adams
xxxx – misc. complaint, Haggerty Rd.
1031 – mental subject, Denton Rd.
1045 – civil matter, Tyler Rd.
1121 – harassment call, Sylvia Dr.
1156 – welfare check, Van Born Rd.
1229 – threat, Samuel Barton Dr.
1259 – threat, Belleville Rd.
1340 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Van Buren St.

1502 – prisoner transport, Wayne County Jail
1533 – personal injury accident, Ecorse Rd./Beck
1550 – personal injury accident, Tyler Rd. / Springfield Blvd.
1555 – 911 welfare check, E. I-94/Belleville Rd.
1607 – neighbor trouble, Brandi Dr.
1641 – sexual assault, Outer Dr.
1636 – vehicle lockout, Brandi Dr.
1636 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1641 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./Tyler Rd.
1722 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

/ E I-94
1825 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

1816 – malicious destruction of property, Denton
1826 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1837 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
xxxx – repossession, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2028 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd./Tyler Rd.
2227 – malicious destruction of property, Denton
2335 – noise complaint, Meadows Ln.

Saturday, Feb. 10:

0001 – malicious destruction of property, Denton
0105 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Parkwood Dr.
0419 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0656 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.
0907 – welfare check, Laguna Dr.
0950 – domestic, Meadows Cir.
1238 – intrusion alarm, Maude Ct.
1323 – intrusion alarm, Castell Blvd.

1419 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1436 – domestic, Belleville Rd.
1507 – animal complaint, Pebblebrook Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Oak Ln.
1842 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
2000 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
2243 – domestic, Oak Ln.
2304 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
Also on this week's log are 107 traffic stops, seven of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 4:

1000 – retail fraud, South St.
1038 – malicious destruction of property, Henry
1057 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1116 – vehicle lockout, Main St.
1221 – traffic stop, South St./E. Davis St.
1413 – traffic stop, Five Points
1606 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Victorian Ln.
1625 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Loza Ln.
1639 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr./Ormond
1645 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1941 – traffic stop, Main St./Roys St.
2015 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr./Harbour Pointe Dr.
2036 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr./Harbour Pointe Dr.
2054 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
2247 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.

Monday, Feb. 5:

0736 – property check, Sumpter Rd.
0818 – misc. complaint, Main St.
1007 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1059 – prisoner transport, 34th District Court
1410 – 911 welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1824 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1833 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./First St.
2156 – larceny, N. Liberty St.
2212 – civil matter, N. Aberdeen Ct.
2303 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Bedell St.

Tuesday, Feb. 6:

0117 – warrant arrest, Middlebelt Rd.
0942 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Henry St.
0955 – private property/property damage accident, W. Columbia Ave.
1041 – traffic stop, Loza Ln./E. Huron River Dr.
1103 – traffic stop, Angola St./E. Huron River Dr.
1130 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr.
1352 – traffic stop, Church St./W. Columbia Ave.
1406 – traffic stop, Third St./Main St.
1423 – traffic stop, Church St.
1512 – property check, Sumpter Rd.
1516 – property check, Hull Rd.
1524 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd.
1644 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1724 – juvenile complaint, S. Edgemont Ave.
2112 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr./Harbour Pointe Dr.

Wednesday, Feb. 7:

0421 – traffic stop, Main St.
0917 – larceny, Menlo Park Dr.
1011 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.
1548 – assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave.
1714 – harassment call, N. Liberty St.

Thursday, Feb. 8:

0444 – intrusion alarm, S. Edgemont Ave.
1605 – property damage accident, Main St.
1625 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Main St.
1826 – property check, Sumpter Rd.
1931 – hospice death, Estrada
1952 – 911 welfare check, Carmell St.
2132 – misc. complaint, E. Waterbury Ct.

Friday, Feb. 9:

0854 – property check, Sumpter Rd.
1004 – traffic stop, Main St./E. Huron River Dr.
1149 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Biggs
1159 – sexual assault, W. Columbia Ave.
1450 – unauthorized driving away of auto, E. Huron River Dr.
2035 – traffic stop, Main St./Second St.
2048 – traffic stop, Main St./N. Liberty St.
2104 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Angola St.
2104 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Angola St.
2115 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr./Harbour Pointe

2123 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./Church St.
2124 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
2257 – disorderly, Belle Villa Blvd.

Saturday, Feb. 10:

0601 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.
1027 – property check, Main St.
1033 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.
1033 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.
1035 – property check, Henry St.
1039 – property check, Third St.
1046 – property check, Loza Ln.
1050 – property check, Sumpter Rd.
1059 – property check, Sumpter Rd.
1246 – malicious destruction of property, E. Thornhill Ct.
1948 – welfare check, N. Liberty St.
2011 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Biggs
2013 – traffic stop, Church St./W. Columbia Ave.
2038 – traffic stop, Victorian Ln.
2045 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./Edison
2104 – traffic stop, Church St./High St.
2134 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr./Harbour Pointe Dr.
2308 – intrusion alarm, E. Columbia Ave.
There are 37 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 4:

0351 – obstruct police, Huron Twp. PD
0600 – alarm, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
0633 – obstruct police, Huron Twp. PD
1039 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1116 – follow-up investigation, Huron Twp. PD
1404 – civil matter, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1509 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1538 – juvenile matter, Arizona St.
1616 – juvenile matter, 19000 bl. Crandell Ave.
2019 -- L3504 – detail – special unit, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

2026 – 911 hangup, Creekside Dr.
2057 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Willow Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.
2304 – civil matter, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

Monday, Feb. 5:

0144 – fire dept. assist, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0229 – harassment complaint, Mulberry Dr.
0731 – traffic complaint/hazard, Bohn Rd./Judd
0855 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1312 – follow-up investigation, 49000 bl. Judd
1730 – fire dept. assist, Delaware St.
1854 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2014 – family trouble, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2048 – civil matter, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
2149 – welfare check, Pecan St.
2223 – 911 hang up, Maine St.
2358 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Crandell Ave.
0000 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.

Tuesday, Feb. 6:

0316 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Bemis Rd. / Elwell Rd.
1433 – assist other agency, Timberlane Dr.
1444 – family trouble, Washington St.
1514 – family trouble, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1642 – civil matter, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1750 – assault, Mulberry Dr.
2051 – fire dept. assist, Dakota Ct.
2233 – noise complaint, Arizona St.
2313 – noise complaint, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

Wednesday, Feb. 7:

0000 – noise complaint, Arizona St.
0835 – civil matter, Hampshire Dr.
0944 – welfare check, Wayside Dr.
1439 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.
1448 – suspicious circumstance, 19000 bl. Clark
1554 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1601 – citizen assist, Rustic Ln.
1606 – neighbor dispute, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
1627 – animal complaint, Willow Rd./Martinsville
1656 – neighbor dispute, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1801 – fire dept. assist, Wayside Dr.
1807 – 911 hang up, Rustic Ln.
2016 – animal complaint, Willow Rd./Sumpter Rd.
2022 – traffic complaint/hazard, 49000 bl. Bemis

Thursday, Feb. 8:

0821 – family trouble, New Mexico St.
1126 – follow-up investigation, Arizona St.
1219 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Fenster Ave.
1244 – lost property, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.

(Continued on page 19)

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Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

1617 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.

1733 – property damage accident, Martinsville Rd. / Clay Rd.

1804 – animal complaint, Willow Rd./Haggerty

2149 – 911 hangup, Rustic Ln.

Friday, Feb. 9:

0122 – 911 hang up, Carriage Ln.

0310 – suspicious circumstance, Arizona St.

0501 – suspicious vehicle, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.

0859 – larceny complaint, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.

0921 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.

0927 – suspicious circumstance, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1027 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.

1213 – harassment complaint, Rustic Ln.

1226 – welfare check, Timberlane Dr.

1227 – alarm, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.

1339 – 911 hang up, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.

1602 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Haggerty

1623 – suspicious circumstance, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1709 – civil matter, Colorado St.

1724 – civil matter, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.

1823 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

2011 – welfare check, Arizona St.

2056 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, Feb 10:

0105 – suspicious circumstance, Delaware St.

0156 – 911 hang up, Arizona St.

0936 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1342 – citizen assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1448 – larceny complaint, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.

1503 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.

1536 – suspicious circumstance, Carriage Ln.

1548 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.

1657 – civil matter, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.

1732 – alarm, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.

1814 – civil matter, Wayside Dr.

1833 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.

2107 – welfare check, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Also on this week's log are 161 patrol checks, 73 traffic stops, and three misc. details.

Upcoming Meetings

- Saturday, Feb. 17 – Strategic planning session for Belleville DDA, 9:30 to 11 a.m., at the Belleville Area District Library. Open to the public.
- Tuesday, Feb. 20 – Van Buren Township regular meeting, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m., preceded by a 5:30 p.m. meeting from the Michigan Municipal League on "Essentials of Local Government."
- Wednesday, Feb. 21 – Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 6 p.m. Also, City of Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 26 – Van Buren Township Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS
- Tuesday, Feb. 27 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 3 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 28 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, March 4 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 5 – Van Buren Township regular meeting, 6 p.m.
- Monday, March 11 – Van Buren Township Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

SEEKING DEMOLITION BIDS

VAN BUREN
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
BID INSTRUCTIONS FOR
VAN BUREN PARK:
STRUCTURE DEMOLITION PROJECT

The Charter Township of Van Buren will receive sealed bids for the demolition, removal, disposal, and ground restoration of several structures at Van Buren Park (50901 S. I-94 Service Dr., Van Buren Township, 48111) at the Office of the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, MI 48111 until Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., local time. No bids will be received after that time.

Bid documents will be available on MITN, the Township website and at the Office of the Township Clerk. Bids will be accepted only on provided forms. Bids must be sealed in an envelope marked "VAN BUREN PARK: STRUCTURE DEMOLITION PROJECT" and submitted to the office of the Township Clerk. Bids will be publicly opened at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 in the Van Buren Township Hall.

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on Thursday, February 22nd at 12 pm at Van Buren Park (50901 S. I-94 Service Dr., Van Buren Township, 48111).

The Charter Township of Van Buren reserves the right to waive any discrepancies or irregularities in the bid. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and is not required to accept the low bid. Bidders should direct questions and correspondence to Jason Locke, Director of Parks, at jlocke@vanburen-mi.org.

Published: 2-15-24



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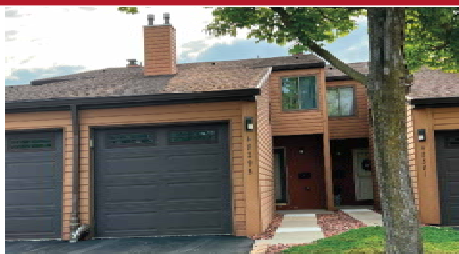
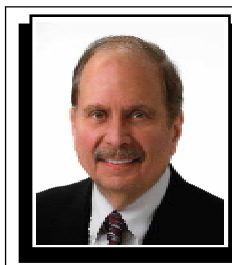
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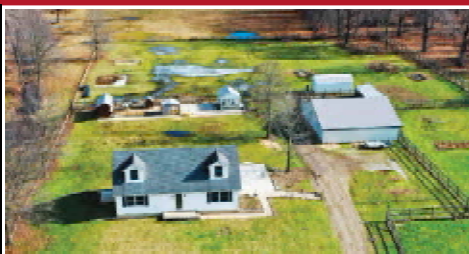
48295 BAYSHORE, VAN BUREN TWP

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



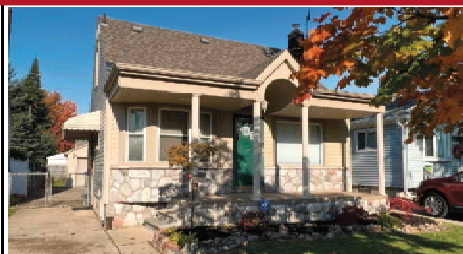
21900 BOHN, SUMPTER TWP

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



12755 RAWSONVILLE, SUMPTER TWP

Spacious and Updated 4 bedroom Cape Cod on Paved Street with 3.4 Acres. Newer 95% Furnace and Central Air, Fenced Yard + Huge 54x40 Pole Barn set up for farming. \$475,000



18275 HARMAN., MELVINDALE

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



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. 1 acre, beautiful yard and mature trees. \$240,000



49241 BEMIS, SUMPTER TWP

COMING SOON Country Ranch with Newer Roof and Furnace. Featuring 3 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths, Big Living Room with Fireplace, Large Family Room, \$275,000



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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

20728 GRIFFIN SUMPTER 1 ACRE \$45,000

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 SOLD 17+AC \$199,500

BROWNSTOWN 27102 DEBIASI \$85,000

VACANT MARIO ANN ROMULUS \$38,000

6551 BUNTON, SUMPTER 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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