



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 30.9 Thursday, February 29, 2024 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

Council approves putting unpaid water bills on property taxes

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

No concerned citizen was present for the Feb. 20 Belleville City Council public hearing on a special assessment roll to add delinquent utility bills to the summer 2024 tax bills.

It is expected that \$127,887.69 can be added to the property tax roll.

The city council meeting had been moved to the Belleville Area District Library because of the state's new Early Voting process that required the council chambers to be used as the location of the voting equipment.

City Manager Jason Smith said although the public hearing had been posted as being at city hall, the change of location was posted on the door at city hall and the change wouldn't be a problem.

The council confirmed the special assessment roll of delinquent utility bills, which will be placed on the summer tax roll unless paid.

The list of unpaid water bills included at the top, \$41,416.67 for 745 E. Huron River Dr., the Loza Lane mobile home park, and at the bottom, \$5 at 143 E. Huron River Dr.

Council members asked if the city could send each a letter explaining what is happening and remove those who pay from the property tax and Smith said that would work.

Assistant City Manager Steve Jones said resources are available to those who need help and information is given out at the counter at city hall.

City Manager Smith said help was available that would be included in the letter.

"There's no water cutoff," said Councilman Randy Priest. "They are put on the tax roll, but they still have water." He wanted confirmation that residents will still have water, which he said is necessary for survival.

Smith said the procedure is to hold a public hearing, council authorizes to add to the summer tax, letter goes out, and they have the ability to pay.

Mayor Ken Voigt said, it goes on the
(continued on page 17)

Rooster crows whenever it wants, city to put together new ordinance

Belleville City Manager Jason Smith said he will put together a new ordinance to prohibit barnyard animals in the city and present it to the council for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

At its Feb. 20 meeting, he told the city council of a rooster that crows whenever it wants to on Henry St.

Neighbors have complained to the city about the rooster that crows not only at dawn and dusk, but in the middle of the night and middle of the day, plus assorted nighttime hours. It's on a small lot at 100 Henry St.

Police Chief Kris Faull said residents of nearby Tuscan Manor apartments have also have complained about the rooster.

Nearby neighbors have also noted there are other animals in the yard, including chickens, rabbits, dogs, and even, reportedly, a goat, and piles of animal waste. Another resident said there were piles of cardboard boxes that harbor rodents.

City Manager Smith said they checked the city ordinances and found the ordinances only pertained to dogs.

"We should have limitations on roosters," Mayor Ken Voigt said. "It's ridiculous the hour they get up in the morning."

He said he used to have a nextdoor neighbor that had chickens and the neighbors brought eggs over to them.

"I'll put together something," Smith said.



Photo courtesy of Chloe Michaels, VBT Communications Dept. The Belleville Yacht Club hosted the annual Polar Plunge on Feb. 17 to earn money for Special Olympics in Michigan. Participants jumped into Belleville Lake under the watchful eyes of the Van Buren Township emergency crew members on the dock and in the water.

Sumpter sells disputed property to wife of township trustee

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Robin LaPorte, the wife of Sumpter Township Trustee Don LaPorte, submitted an unsolicited offer of \$53,500 for a 9.32-acre piece of township property near their

home on Sumpter Road and the township board accepted the offer on a 3-1 vote at its regular meeting Feb. 13.

Robin LaPorte said she wants to build a new events center. The approval was
(continued on page 15)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

FMAR rescues 2 mother cats, 9 kittens, 10 cats -- now they need homes

In late January Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, a no-kill shelter located in Sumpter Township, received a call over the weekend that someone wanted to bring in a mother cat and nine kittens. FMAR agreed to this.

On Jan. 29, the people who called brought in a box with seven kittens, approximately three weeks old. They indicated that they were unable to get the other two and the mom.

Jennifer Rutherford, operations manager at FMAR, said at that time the story was something around a vacant apartment near them that they found out had all these cats.

These kittens were too small to be on their own yet, so the FMAR board president took them home to bottle-feed them.

"We reached out to the apartment complex to see if we could arrange a time to meet to try and capture the remaining two kittens and mom," Rutherford said. "It was at that time that we learned the people who brought in the seven kittens were actually the former residents of the apartment in question. They had been evicted."

Rutherford said when the FMAR staff entered the apartment, it was filthy and covered in garbage and animal waste. While walking around it was discovered that more than just the two kittens and mom were there.

"Over the next several weeks, we returned four times to capture more cats to bring to our shelter," she said. "When we brought what we thought was the last one back on Feb. 13, we had totaled 19 cats rescued from this apartment in Flat Rock.

"Our most recent development was that we were able to secure the mom cat and two remaining kittens from the beginning of this whole process.

"It seemed like a person was trying to do the right thing and care for all of them, but it was overwhelming and got out of hand," Rutherford said.

She said FMAR has been working through getting the animals set up with age-appropriate vaccines, spay/neutering them, and testing them for socialization so they can get them adopted out to loving homes as quickly as possible.

"While we definitely want to be able to get all of these cats adopted, we also are hoping to help bring attention to the effort that went into rescuing these animals and that FMAR is here to help the community," Rutherford said.

She said it definitely was a case they never expected to be that involved. In total it was 2 mother cats, 9 kittens, and 10 cats roughly a year or older.

"As these animals become ready for adoption, we will put them up on our



website," she said. "It depends on how fast we can get them evaluated for health and they spay/neuter them.

"But, people could put in an adoption request (also on the site) and if they see a cat they like on the website, they can indicate that or just indicate general age that they are looking for.

"They can also call to set up an appointment or drop by during our public

hours on Saturdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The application is key to get the process started, but we tend to be pretty flexible for people who want to come save one of our furry buddies."

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VBT board approves agreement with county on Denton Rd. bridge

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved an intergovernmental agreement with Wayne County at its Feb. 20 meeting that authorizes the county to reimburse the township for its expenses related to design engineering of the Denton Road bridge.

The township staff will continue to work moving the design engineering and bridge project forward, said Ron Akers, director of municipal services.

On the day of the vote, the Denton Road bridge had been closed for 506 days due to its instability. Both the county and the township agreed the bridge must be replaced.

To move the project forward, the township got permission to do preliminary engineering plans at its expense, with the belief the county would reimburse the township and then take charge of construction once state funds are received.

The township had provided preliminary engineering, load rating, and updated the MIBRIDGE, which is the Michigan Department of Transportation reporting software.

The county is required to reimburse the township for the costs of design

engineering when it receives funding from the state of Michigan not to exceed \$499,940, which is equal to the township's contracted engineering amount.

State Rep. Reggie Miller, D-Van Buren Township, who previous served as township trustee, announced she was able to get \$11 million in state funds for the project, which would be available once the state budget was approved.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara said there may be an issue with the high-pressure gas line that goes over the bridge. There is a proposal to redirect gas service from the South I-94 Service Drive to the homes on the west side of the Denton Road bridge.

Director Akers said the township will be done with its part of the bridge project in early March.

In other business at the 30-minute meeting on Feb. 20, the board:

- Approved the reappointments of Joe Baskin and Victor Delibera to the Downtown Development Authority board, with terms to expire March 9, 2028. Baskin is a business owner in the district and Delibera is a resident in the district;

- Approved the personal service agreement with Stephan Harvey as Facilities Coordinator. Supervisor Kevin McNamara said 20 to 30 people applied and Harvey

was the one with top credentials, having run a family janitorial business among other experience;

- Approved the first reading of an ordinance amendment on the use of alcoholic liquors by the underage. Second reading and adoption is set for the next meeting. This adopts state law, not as a misdemeanor, but as a civil infraction. Attorney Angela Mannarino said the township very infrequently uses this ordinance, "But we want to make sure we have the right ordinance." Clerk Leon Wright said under this, the first time is a mistake, and they have a second chance. Supervisor McNamara said he's the one who started the program in tandem with the schools to keep the prosecution local and in Growthworks, which has a 80% success rate of keeping kids out of the system, against a national rate of 20%;

- Approved the first reading of an ordinance amendment on the use of tobacco and vaping by those under 21, similar to the previous ordinance. Second reading and adoption is set for the next meeting;

- Approved amendment No. 2 to the Plante Moran Realpoint contract and amendment No. 6 to the Newmann/Smith Architecture contract for the new community center, now expected to open in April. The

opening date was extended because of DTE's schedule delay with primary cable relocation in the area of the gym, Black Box theater sound booth addition and associated technology equipment (\$76,500), DTE's delay in delivery of its transformer for HVAC equipment, and delayed final parking lot asphalt paving until better weather conditions in April due to DTE's delays of underground utility installations. Increase in architect cost was \$27,500 which includes cost for designing an irrigation pump required for landscape sprinkler system and \$49,000 for Plante Moran services for five additional months of building. Director of Community Services Elizabeth Renaud said despite the extra expenses, the project is still under budget overall. She said the "closeout" activities are important to make sure the township got what it paid for;

- Learned J. Stalmack sent a letter to Police Chief Wright in appreciation of the professionalism shown by Police Officer David Champagne during her Jan. 12 accident;

- Was advised by Clerk Wright that the township's secondary health provider which services employees who actually go to the doctor saved the township \$249,514

(continued on page 16)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Water bill glitches need to be fixed before shutoffs

Before putting unpaid water bills on residents' property tax bills, the city of Belleville should make sure the bills are as accurate as possible.

There have been moves to get new water billing equipment and that should be completed before taking the drastic step of putting the unpaid bills on property tax rolls. The city council voted to do this at its last regular meeting, but we know they can delay putting it into effect until they are sure things are right.

Now the council has asked for more information on a policy to cut off water service if a bill isn't paid in one or two cycles. The bills are sent every two months, so two cycles would be 120 days.

If there was confidence in the bills, that might sound reasonable.

At the Feb. 20 meeting, the city manager said a church had received a bill for \$49,000 for one cycle and they had to figure that one out. We remember when Enrica's shop on Main Street was billed for excess water use when it was completely closed for COVID. Checks by plumbers assured it wasn't a leaky toilet.

The problem with the billing has been going on for some time.

There's a \$41,000 bill now for Loza Lane Mobile Home Park and it would be a train wreck for that water to be turned off, according to a councilman. Nothing's been done about unpaid bills since COVID stopped shutoffs. The city needs to slow up.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

The intergovernmental agreement between Van Buren Township and Wayne County on the Denton Road bridge replacement was prepared by the county and sent over for township approval at its Feb. 20 meeting. It had been reviewed by the township attorney and sent on for approval.

Township Trustee Donald Boynton pointed out that at the bottom of each page of the agreement, in small print, it said the county's agreement was with "Belleville Township." The board agreed to approve the agreement, with the stipulation that it would be corrected to read "Van Buren Township."

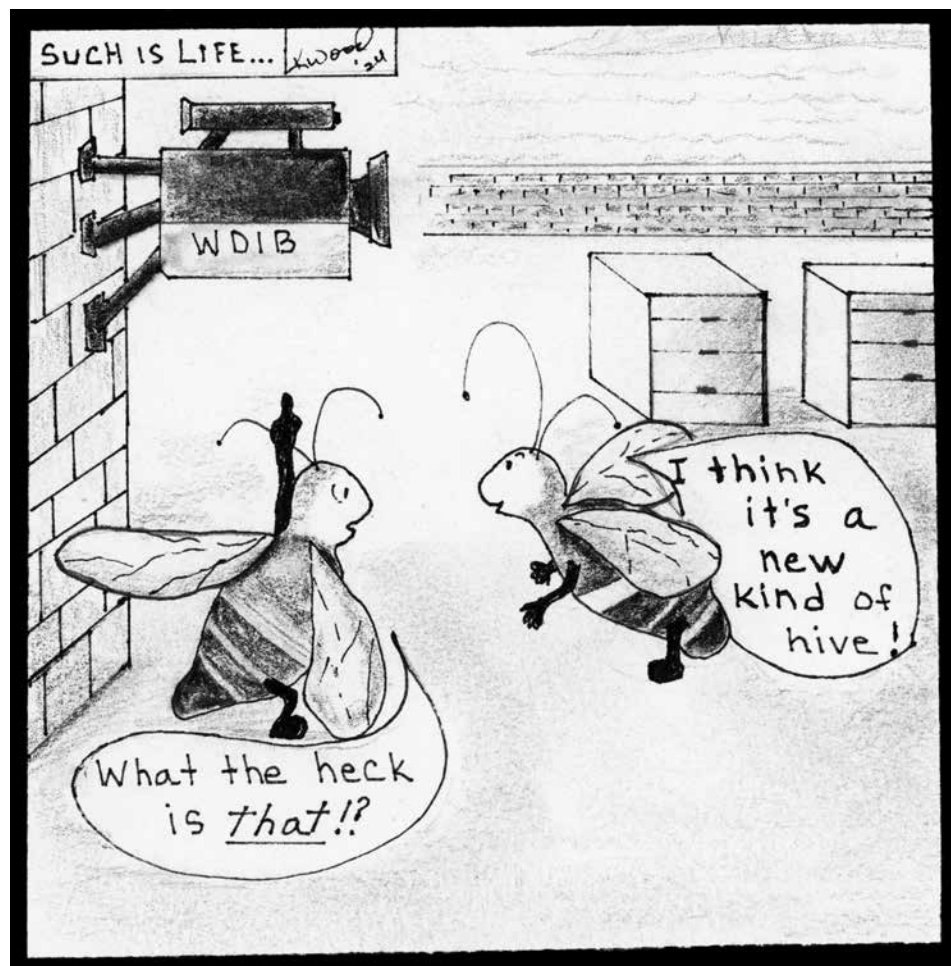
Supervisor McNamara said at that meeting that he sat next to Belleville resident Tom Fielder at a recent meeting of the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network, to which they both belong, and Fielder made the motion to pay police to hire kids to go in and try to buy narcotics.

A brief story in last week's column was about a senior citizen/veteran who wondered whether the reimbursement FEMA representatives promised him for his losses in last summer's storm was a scam. He reports this week that \$52,285 was put into his bank account from FEMA, plus another \$900 in a second deposit. He was surprised and pleased.

There have been several newspaper stories and television reports encouraging people to contact FEMA if they had damage from that storm last August. Guess it wasn't a scam.

According to news reports, a hack of pharmaceutical internet service took place

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



last Wednesday which interfered with prescriptions being filled over a wide area, including for local customers.

Some customers couldn't get their prescriptions filled by having their doctor call in or fax it and had to go to their doctor's office for a paper prescription, which they then had to hand-carry to the pharmacy.

That's what happened to my son, who after driving to Ann Arbor for his paper prescription that he hand-carried to Meijer on Monday, had to wait in a slow line because pharmacists were trying to explain to customers what the problem was.

I know when I was out delivering papers last Thursday, a shop keeper said his cell phone wasn't getting service. Some local cell phones were affected and some weren't.

Cyberattacks seem to be becoming more prevalent these days.

There are some darling baby goats in the pen at Willis Feed Mill in Willis. Over the weekend, we were admiring the little ones when we were told one of the babies was rejected by its mother. The baby was given to an employee to take home and feed with a bottle. It seems to be responding. We were told once the mother rejects a baby, it usually doesn't survive.

Belleville Mayor Ken Voigt said that he had made tentative plans for goats to come back to Horizon Park to trim the shrubbery before Lake Fest. The details will be brought

to the next city council meeting on March 4.

The veteran banners that hung on Main Street light poles since around Veterans Day and over the winter, are at city hall for pickup. Mayor Voigt said some of the banners have been lost.

One of those Soroptimists from the Flat Rock Area who is working on the Purses with a Purpose project sent us an email after last week's letter on the project was published:

"The newspaper article is working already! Someone talked about it at the Masonic Temple meeting, and they have now decided to collect purses and will drop them off in New Boston. When it comes to helping others our communities are wonderful. Thank you for help. Creating the magic! I'm excited to share the final results with you. Thank you so much for being part of this program."

This was from Johan Sutton who explained the purses are filled with personal items to be given to victims of domestic violence by the Michigan State Police. She said the UAW Local 387 is collecting care items to help fill the purses. Information: (734) 782-5076.



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152 Main St., Suite 9,
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734-699-9020
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Editor: Rosemary K. Otzman
Home phone (NO ADS, PLEASE!): 697-1294

Advertising Manager:
Janet Millard

Bookkeeper: James Otzman

Production Manager:
James Otzman

Office Manager: Elaine Gutierrez

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Letters

Egging of local houses, cans thrown is plain evil

To the editor:

Read about a resident in the Haggerty Subdivision, also about the neighbors of Clerk Leon Wright in Andover Farms being egged and cans thrown at them on Feb. 15, 2024 in the *Independent* paper.

This is an evil thing. This is not only an evil thing done against the people of Andover Farms and Mr. Eric A. Cheeks, but to all of us who live in Van Buren Township.

Whatever the motive be, racial, ethnical, or etc., it is plain evil and we all suffer from injustice done to another.

What's created is hatred and fear and division by someone or group of persons who are promoting division and violence because they have a heart that is not of life and light of Jesus, but a heart of darkness and hatred and evilness.

We who are lovers of peace and love should not react in hate and violence but with love and forgiveness, as Jesus did even when He was crucified on the cross.

We know who is behind all the evil that is being done in this world and that is the devil. These poor, miserable sinners will have to come before God and be judged for their evil actions and justice will prevail, if not in this life; but certainly prevail in the next life which will be for eternity.

My prayers and heart go out to Mr. Eric A. Cheeks and to Clerk Leon Wright's neighbors.

In the peace and love of Jesus. Smile, God loves you all.
Tom Clayton

Roundabout will not work with pedestrians

To the editor:

I would love to have a roundabout, but it will not work with pedestrian traffic.

Just a thought about a potential roundabout at 5 Points, which is actually 6 Points.

I'm not sure how pedestrians cross in a roundabout as the traffic should never stop.

All the children from the high school, middle school, park, neighborhoods that need to walk home or into and out of town may not survive a roundabout run. And the seniors on Columbia will have limited access to town.

Mel Glazier
Van Buren Township

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Quilters meet March 9 at library, also March Quilt Show at museum

To the editor:

Western Wayne County Quilting Guild is meeting Saturday, March 9, in the Cozadd room at the Belleville Area District Library. The meeting runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This month we will sew a bowl cozy with children and they will take it home. Children may sign up through the Belleville library.

We will bring our sewing machine, supplies, and a sack lunch. All are welcome to come to a meeting and see if you'd like to become a member.

And, don't forget our joint effort with the Belleville Area Museum. The March Quilt Show is March 1-28: Tuesdays, 4-7 p.m. and Wednesdays through Saturdays, 12-4 p.m. Entry cost is \$5.

Door prize awarded weekly: a sewing machine and a basket of items.

On Saturdays there is a Trunk Show on the hour by a different guild member. Over 100 quilts of all sizes.

Roxann Baker – Greeter
Western Wayne County Quilters Guild

Didn't like editorial page cartoon

To the editor:

Hello. I was notified that there was a cartoon in this past week's edition of the *Independent* talking about sponsors for Little League. As much as I appreciate the support and the advertisement, I also however want my league represented properly.

The cartoon says Belleville Little League. We have not used that name since 2013. In fact, that name no longer exists. Using an improper name does not do the Van Buren Area Little League any good except cause confusion within the community.

Thank you.
Marc Littleton
Van Buren Area Little League



March 4 – Steven L. Cinnamon

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.

Obituaries



Sandra Kay Marlowe

SANDRA KAY MARLOWE

(May 4, 1953 – February 22, 2024)

Sandra Kay Marlowe was born in Romulus, Michigan on May 4, 1953 to two loving parents, Silas Kellogg and Gloria Faye Pullen. Sandra passed on February 22, 2024 at her home, in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Sandra attended Belleville High School and graduated in 1971. She attended Madonna University and Lansing Community College, graduating with an Associate's Degree with honors, and was employed with the Department of Education with the State of Michigan for over 25 years, retiring in 2011.

Sandra was involved in multiple plays as an actress, starring in performances at the Riverwalk Theater, and was also an award-winning set designer. After her retirement, she kept herself busy as a tutor for children at Michigan State University, a docent at the Potter Park Zoo, and a volunteer at the Purple Rose Theater. She recently became a member of the Belleville Community Choir and a new crafting group. She was a lifelong learner who was passionate about self-improvement and self-discovery.

She loved listening to music – particularly the Beatles (and especially Paul McCartney), watching movies, reading, crafting, going to concerts, walking and taking photos in nature, and spending time with friends and family. She enjoyed Zumba and was dedicated to physical fitness. Always introspective, Sandra enjoyed sitting on her balcony in beautiful weather and watching the hummingbirds. She loved visiting craft shows and going on outings with her sister Valerie.

She was a strong advocate for feminism and the queer community, volunteering for causes through N.O.W. and the LGBTQ+ whenever possible.

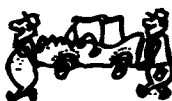
She loved spending time with her grand-dogs and was always willing to dog sit. She always enjoyed spending time with her darling “grand” nieces, Olivia and Mia.

Sandra will be lovingly missed by her two sons, Scott (Courtney) Marlowe and J. Paul (Mayumi Asaba) Marlowe, her sister Valerie Gondek, her brother Jack (Marsha) Pullen, and her nieces Amy, Samantha, and Amanda, and her nephew, Jeff, as well as their spouses and children. Sandra adored her animals, especially her beloved cat Allie, as well as her grand-dogs Willamina, Maggie, and Ziggy.

Sandra was preceded in death by her parents, brother-in-law Stanley Gondek, and her former husband Carl David Marlowe.

A celebration of life will be held on March 3, 2024 at 3 p.m. at David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville, Michigan with visitation beginning at 1 p.m. www.davidcbrownfh.com
Donations can be made in Sandra's name to the Purple Rose Theater in Chelsea, MI. <https://www.purplerosetheatre.org/give-now>

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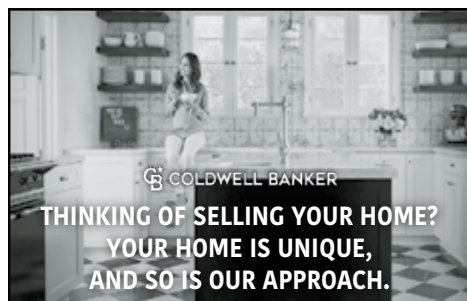


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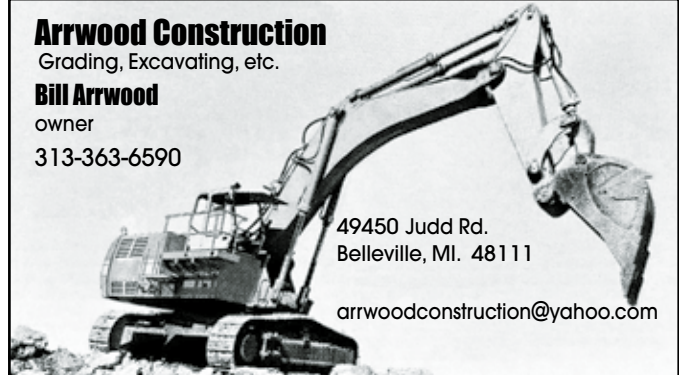
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Obituaries



Beulah Bell Crow

BEULAH BELL CROW

(August 19, 1931 – February 16, 2024)

Beulah Bell Crow, age 92, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away Friday, February 16, 2024, at her home. She was born August 19, 1931, in Decatur, Alabama, daughter of Oates Edwin & Jennie Ora (Stell) Johnson. She retired from Ford Motor Company, Rawsonville Plant, after more than 30 years of loyal service. She enjoyed gardening, flowers, and taking care of her home. She loved to meet friends and talk on the phone. She was a very active member of Bethany Bible Church, Belleville. She loved bowling at Lodge Lanes, Belleville, and did so until about a year ago when she decided she'd better just go and watch.

Mrs. Crow is survived by five children, Susan (Marty) Von of Atlanta, Georgia, Marsha (Greg) Gierlack of Brighton, MI, Robert Crow of Romulus, MI, Cathy (Perry) Dingman of Saline, MI, and Karen (Mike) Glotfelty of Romulus, MI; 11 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; a brother James (Delores) Johnson of Trinity, Alabama; also numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, extended family, church family and friends.

Beulah was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Robert P. Crow on June 18, 1997, daughter Vicky Kelly on March 30, 2022, a brother Roy Johnson, also four sisters Doris Pitman, Louise Allen, Martha Sparkman, and Bertha Holtzclaw.

Visitation was Thursday, February 22, 2024 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Funeral Services were Friday, February 23, 2024, at Bethany Bible Church, 810 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, with Dr. Marty Von officiating. Interment followed in Knollwood Memorial Park, Canton, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bethany Bible Church and would be appreciated. www.davidcbrownfh.com



Gayle Vernatt

GAYLE VERNATT

(January 2, 1943 – February 23, 2024)

Gayle Vernatt, age 81, of Allen Park, Michigan, formerly of Belleville, Michigan. Passed away Friday, February 23, 2024 at her home after a short illness, surrounded by her family. She was born on January 2, 1943 in Huntington, West Virginia, daughter of John Harmon & Ella "Florine" (Chapman) Hudson.

She graduated from Barbourville High School, Class of 1961. She was an Accountant for Michigan Pneumatic Tool Company for many loyal years until she retired. She and her husband of 62 years Thomas G. Vernatt enjoyed traveling, especially to Las Vegas and Daytona Beach, Florida. She was a former member of the Van Buren Eagles and a long-time member of the Belleville Moose Lodge #934. She enjoyed cooking, hosting family and holidays, and cherished time with her grandkids.

Gayle is survived by her devoted husband Tom; daughter Michele Walker of Brownstown, MI; two sons Thomas "Guinn" (Mary Marz) Vernatt of Oscoda, MI, and Michael "Sean" Vernatt of Belleville, MI; Tiffany (Kacy) Hall of Dearborn, MI; 7 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; two brothers Roger Hudson of South Carolina and Dale (Debbie) Hudson of North Carolina; a sister Judy Cremeans of Crown City, Ohio; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and many friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, also a brother Donald Duck Hudson.

Please join the family for a Celebration of Life on Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. at the Romulus Progressive Hall, 11580 Ozga, Romulus, MI 48174. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI (734) 697-4500.

Memorial contributions may be made in her honor to the Karmanos Cancer Institute and would be greatly appreciated.

RICKY EDWARD HAWKINS

(September 19, 1963 – February 7, 2024)

Age 60, of Washington State and formerly of Belleville. BHS graduate. Survived by siblings Jimmie, Larry, Brenda, and Vada. Graveside service at Hillside Cemetery was Feb. 26. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home. www.davidcbrownfh.com

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School Board approves amendments to current budget for 2023-24

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At Monday's regular meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, the board approved the 2023-24 budget amendment which turned out to be \$6 million more than planned for.

Finance Director Priya Nayak said this is the first amendment since the budget was put together last spring and at that time it was a guess because the number of students for that fall's classes weren't known and the per-student state foundation allowance wasn't finally determined, among other items.

The school district has a July 1-June 30 fiscal year and the state's fiscal year begins in October and runs to the next September, making the finances a little confusing.

The original budget was based on a possible student count of 4,250 and it turned out to be 4,292.02, which was 42 more than was funded. The foundation allowance was set at \$9,450 per student and turned out to be \$9,608. Staffing increased from 522 to 540, she said.

Also, the federal ESSER funding grew from \$3.5 million to \$4.2 million. She explained other revenue changes in state grants and RESA programs that grew the original \$66.5 million expected total revenue to \$73,963,686, an increase of \$6 million.

Expenses went from the original \$69.5 million to a final total of \$77,139,343, among the expenses, athletics went from \$881,951 to \$992,163.

Board president Amy Pearce pointed out that spending more than the money taken in wasn't the reality, although it looked that way, and some of the funds were in different fiscal years.

Niyak said the original fund balance expected to be available on June 30, 2024, was \$6.6 million, which was 9.58% of the budget. The amended fund balance now is \$9,461,672, which is 12.26% of the budget. She said they like to have the fund balance near 15% so there won't have to be any borrowing.

Niyak said now she is working on the new budget which will be presented to the board in June.

In other business at Monday's one-hour-and-seven-minute meeting, the board:

- Voted to approve the candidacy of incumbent Birgit McQuiston for the open seat to represent Region 8 on the Michigan Association of School Boards Board of

Directors;

- Heard Director of Instruction Jeff Moore give the required, mid-year Extended Learning Goal report, a part of the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan. To measure the progress made by students, the district is now using iReady, a K-8 benchmark to see if students in math and reading are on target to meet a year's worth of growth. He said last year their scores were in the upper-40s midyear and this year they are in the mid-50s. He said the reports are posted on the district web site;

- Approved the resignation of teacher Mary Ellen Vago of Rawsonville Elementary School, after 25 years of service, as of June 30; and the resignation of teacher Matthew deHaan of Belleville High School after 13 years of service as of Feb. 24;

- Approved the hiring of Sara Guajardo as a first-grade teacher at Edgemont Elementary School as of Feb. 26 and Marisa Kolomitz as a social worker at Edgemont as of Feb. 28;

- Approved the resignation of Spencer McCourt as a non-instructional employee at Belleville High School after less than a year of service as of Feb. 10;

- Approved the hiring of paraprofessionals Shirley Dushane at Edgemont Elementary School as of Feb. 20, Dianna Delucca at Rawsonville Elementary as of Feb. 26, LaLanea Duryea at Edgemont as of Feb. 15, Amoria Tolbert at Rawsonville as of Feb. 15, and Madison Abel at McBride Middle School as of Feb. 15;

- Heard parent Racquel Bean again speak on the sex education program, which she said needs to be abstinence only for those under the age of 16, the legal age of consent. She said only HIV and other sexual diseases are required to be taught, as far as sex education. She said the district's Sex Education Advisory Board does not have the required members, with half of the ten supposed to be parents with students in the district. She said there are only two parents on the board, one employed by the district and one with no student in the district. She referred to a letter she got from the district and said she agrees she had inappropriate language at the last meeting, but accusing her of having a "threatening manner" is vague. "Why can't I talk to teachers? This is very uncomfortable for me," she said;

- Heard school district resident O'Shei Robinson explain the state program to help students injured by COVID. He offered to tutor students in math and he was told the

district would get in contact with him;

- Heard Human Resources Director John Leroy say negotiations start this week with the VBEST union and the negotiated calendar will be ready in the next couple of weeks. School Supt. Pete Kudlak said the first day of school has been determined as Sept. 3, the day after Labor Day;

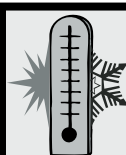
- Heard Special Education Director Julien Frazier say this is the last week of the Hygiene Kit Drive that is sponsored by the Belleville Rotary Club. The buckets at the library, where items are collected, have been filled and more buckets put out. These kits are to give to less privileged and families deemed homeless, he said;

- Heard BHS senior Natalya Payne report she just got back from the Michigan Association of Student Councils and Honor Societies conference. She said this

year, 27 students from BHS attended, plus six advisors. Students from the class of 2025 did presentations in two showcases yesterday. Board president Pearce said students had to fundraise the \$300 apiece it took to go on the trip and she had them come out to the University of Michigan and work concessions to earn the money. She said she had 15 students and they were hard workers;

- Heard Supt. Kudlak praise the work of Margo Delibera who was chairperson of this year's Van Buren Education Foundation fundraising event at the Belleville Yacht Club on Feb. 24. More people attended than ever before and more funds were raised than ever before, he said. He also said the BYC donated the food

(continued on page 9)



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Six charges dropped at preliminary exam for Nganongo-Mbosso

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At a preliminary exam at 34th District Court on Feb. 22, six serious charges were dropped against Vivaldy Morel Nganongo-Mbosso, 35, of Ypsilanti and the case closed.

Nganongo-Mbosso was charged with two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct (weapon used), one count of third-degree CSC (force or coercion), one assault with intent to inflict great bodily harm less than murder/strangulation, one assault with a dangerous weapon, three felony

firearms, and one domestic violence. This was on March 1, 2022 in Van Buren Township. Personal bond is \$10,000.

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

The preliminary exam was set for Dec. 8, 2023 and the victim was to need a French interpreter to testify. The defendant was

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

On Jan. 16, a new attorney was hired by the defendant and so the exam was rescheduled for Feb. 9. On Feb. 9 the exam was reset for Feb. 15, along with the French language interpreter.

On Feb. 22, the examination was continued before Judge Lisa Martin and an order of *nolle prosequi* entered, meaning the prosecutors were unwilling to pursue the matter. Case closed.

The entry of a *nolle prosequi* is not an acquittal. Since the principle of double jeopardy therefore does not apply, the defendant may later be indicted on the same charge again.

Christopher Joshua Westphal

Christopher Joshua Westphal, 41, of Dearborn Heights, was supposed to be brought to the court on Nov. 29 for his probable cause conference, but Wayne County Jail officials said Livingston County Sheriffs came to the Wayne County Jail and took him back to their jail. His probable cause conference was adjourned until Dec. 13. He is charged with possession of Methamphetamine / Ecstasy

and fleeing a police officer-third degree on Nov. 16 in Van Buren Township. Personal bond is \$50,000.

On Dec. 13 he called the court and said he just got out of jail and had no transportation. Then, he called and said he would be 30 minutes. He was told his probable cause conference was adjourned until Jan. 17. On Jan. 16, he called and said can only leave his house at 9 a.m., due to house arrest. On Jan. 17, his preliminary exam was set for Feb. 21.

On Jan. 30, Wayne County Sheriff's Department alerted the court to a tether violation.

On Feb. 21 his examination was rescheduled for 12:30 p.m. April 4. The defendant is labeled a habitual offender – 4th-degree notice.

VBPS

(continued from page 8)

and the space and the group's generosity amazes him;

• Learned a committee from the district, along with Belleville Area District Library Director Mary Jo Suchy, are visiting other school libraries to make a recommendation on how the BHS library, now closed, should be used. Students will be brought in as well to give ideas on how to use the space differently and purposefully, Supt. Kudlak said; and

• Heard Pearce remind everyone that the annual Jazz Band Spaghetti Dinner is 5-8 p.m. on March 2 at \$12 per plate. She said students from the William D. Ford culinary arts classes will help with preparation of the meals. Also, she said, the Robotics competition at the high school is the following week and on March 12, all the BHS bands will perform in a preview concert starting at 7 p.m. at the BHS auditorium. This is instead of the annual concert at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor, which could not be scheduled this year.

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Musings

By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director



Well, here we go leaving February behind and welcoming March and Spring! Such a busy month we have ahead of us.

March brings back the Annual Quilt Show at the Belleville Area Museum. If you have never attended, you have no idea how many beautiful quilts will be on display. It is truly amazing, and I urge you to find the time to visit the museum and marvel at the talented hands that brought these quilts for your enjoyment. See their ad for days and times.

I suppose it isn't too early to mark your calendars for the Yankee Museum Air Show! Join them for a full day of Air Show Fun on Saturday, July 20 and Sunday, July 21. Tickets are available, and kids 15 and under are free. Looks like they have gone back to per-person tickets plus parking. But there is a choice of Drive Up Tailgate Parking for one fee. Check it out at thunderovermichigan.org.

Guiding Harbor has many families interested in Foster Care. If you have been thinking about opening your home to a child, please take advantage of its

upcoming training classes. There will be two sessions in March at the office at 525 E. Huron River Dr. -- Tuesday, March 12, 6-8 p.m. and Friday, March 22, 1-3 p.m. Call (734) 412-7962 to register.

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

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Independent photo by James Otzman
Last Thursday, Feb. 22, this bucket of fresh roses was put in front of the former CVS store on Main Street in downtown Belleville with its message. Since the store was closed, there was plenty of room to park and people drove up, took a rose, and then drove off, making room for another car. Garden Fantasy on Main florist shop said that the roses could have come from their store, but they didn't put them out. A person who wanted to spread positive vibrations obviously put them out, the florist said.

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Friday, March 1** -- 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, March 1** -- Fish Fry at 5 p.m. at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township, with music bingo/DJ at 7:30 p.m. Public welcome
- **Saturday, March 2** -- Find your next great read with the help of the Belleville Area District Library. Join the 3:30 p.m. hands-on workshop at the Sumpter Media Center and learn how to use Novelist Plus, an online tool made available by the Michigan Library. Search for fiction and non-fiction by genre, topic, mood, and more. You can even search for author, title, and series read-alikes.
- **Saturday, March 2** -- Soup & Sandwich Supper, \$10, from 4-6 p.m. at the Pvt. James D. Donovan/Romulus VFW Post 78, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus, (734) 941-3030. Proceeds go to the building fund.
- **Sunday, March 3** -- Third-annual Huron High School Music Mattress Fundraiser, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. Help the high school music programs and save money on new

mattresses. Information: tyler.millard@cfsbeds.com

• **Sunday, March 3** -- Bugles Across America at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial in Horizon Park on Belleville Lake. Monthly public ceremony includes Pledge to the Flag, National Anthem, Taps, and brief comments. This honors our military both alive and passed. Put on by Belleville's VFW Post.

• **Wednesday, March 6** -- The public is invited to Meet the Judge at the 34th District Courthouse in Romulus from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Hosting the event are Chief Judge Brian Oakley, Judges Tina Brooks Green and Lisa Martin, and Magistrate Al Hindman.

• **Thursday, March 7, to Saturday, March 9** -- FIRST in Michigan district competition at Belleville High School, presented by the Belleville Yacht Club. About 40 teams expected including the Belleville High School team, the Bellevillains. Open to the public without charge.

• **Friday, March 8** -- 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, March 8** -- Fish Fry at 5 p.m. at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township, with meat raffle at 6:30 p.m., Red Cup Party (Toby Keith Tribute) at 7:30 p.m. Public welcome

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Independent photo by James Otzman

Belleville Mayor Ken Voigt told city council at its Feb. 20 meeting that the city needs to thank State Rep. Reggie Miller, D-Van Buren Township, for solving the city's problem with the vacant CVS store on Main Street. "We had issues with CVS being vacant and she managed to get CVS in her office and talk to them," Mayor Voigt said. Now there is a new sign up at CVS, which has agreed to sublet the final five years of its lease with a California owner.



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 5, 2024 - 7:30 pm

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

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

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Beebe	Present
Council Member Kissel	Present
Council Member Priest	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Present
Mayor Voigt	Absent

3. PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS

A. Presentations

- None.

B. Council Follow Up List

- Council Member Bates asked about the status of an accessible crosswalk on N. Liberty as well as obtaining a grant writer.

C. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

- No comments.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Beebe to approve the agenda as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Kissel	Aye
Council Member Priest	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye

Motion Carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 16, 2024, Regular Meeting of the City Council

MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Kissel approving the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting, held on January 16, 2024.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Kissel	Aye
Council Member Priest	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. None.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

A. 2nd Reading - Ordinance #24-001 – Amendment to Section 5.5 of the Zoning Code.

- Clerk Hootman performed the second reading of Ordinance #24-001 to the Council and attendees.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

A. Ordinance # 240001 – Amendment to Section 5.5

of the Zoning Code

MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Beebe approving Ordinance # 24-001 as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Kissel	Aye
Council Member Priest	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye

Motion Carried.

B. Special Event Application – Girl Scout Cookie Booths

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Beebe approving the Special Event Application allowing the Girl Scouts to sell cookies within the city.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Kissel	Aye
Council Member Priest	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye

Motion Carried.

C. Resolution # 24-004 – Sergeant's Pay and Benefits Agreement

MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Kissel approving the Sergeant's Pay and Benefits Agreement, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Kissel	Aye
Council Member Priest	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye

Motion Carried.

D. Resolution # 24 - 005 – Update to the Title VI Complaint Procedures

- Council elected to defer this item to the February 20, 2024 Regular Meeting

E. Police Chief's Update

- Chief Faull stated that a new Police officer, Marc Boudreau, has been hired, and she plans to hire an additional Officer in the next couple of weeks

F. Consent Agenda Discussion

- City Manager Smith presented the idea of utilizing a consent agenda for future Council meetings. Council stated that they would like to have the next meeting's agenda set up in this format to get a feel for how it would operate.

G. Resolution # 24-006 – City Full Faith and Credit Pledge

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Beebe approving a full faith and credit pledge on behalf of the city to support the purchase of property by the DDA.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Kissel	Aye
Council Member Priest	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye

Motion Carried.

H. WDIV Sky Camera Agreement

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Priest to approve the agreement with WDIV to place a Sky Camera at City Hall.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Kissel	Aye
Council Member Priest	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye

Motion Carried.

I. Digital Media Policy

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Priest to approve the Digital Media Policy, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Kissel	Aye
Council Member Priest	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye

Motion Carried.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Kissel to approve Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures in excess of \$500, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Kissel	Aye
Council Member Priest	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye

Motion Carried.

10. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

- Thanked Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara for negotiating repairs to the intersection of Main St./Denton/N. Liberty as part of the project to replace the Denton Rd. bridge.

- A technician from the Wayne County Road Commission stated that the box controlling the traffic lights at the five points intersection is antiquated and needs to be updated or replaced.

- Checked with a local company that is an authorized dealer for Mueller Systems, and the cost of products through them is considerably more than going through Mueller directly.

- Asked for Council's permission to generate an RFP seeking a new water reading/metering company.

- Noted that the general counsel RFP is ready to go.

- Would like to explore applying for a SAW grant to complete sewer and water mapping throughout the city.

- Stated that there will be a public hearing at the next regular meeting regarding past due water bills being added on to those households' tax bills.

- Noted that a job posting seeking a DPS employee has been posted.

- Stated that the onboarding with the new I.T. company is underway.

- Said that the interview with WDIV went well.

- Still waiting on the city attorney to complete a review of the city's tentative Injury Policy.

- Met with Representative Miller and Senator Camilleri pertaining to obtaining funding for various things in the city.

- Initiated conversations with Priority Waste about holding a community clean-up day.

- Attended the Michigan Municipal Executives Conference last week, noting that it was very informative and a lot of fun.

- Will be attending CapCon in March.

- The BS&A Cloud transition will begin on Friday, February 9th, and as a result, City Hall will be closed on that date.

- There is a problem with the digital sign at Main St. and High St., and therefore the city is unable to update the information on it. The city is looking in to upgrade options, such as grants to purchase informational kiosks for 4th Street Square and Horizon Park.

11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- Council Member Beebe

- Thanked DPS Supervisor Rutherford for repairing various reported potholes throughout the city.

- Looks forward to hearing about potential water main mapping.

- Council Member Kissel

- Congratulated the city regarding the spotlight piece done by WDIV.

- Would like to see the frequent power outages in a portion of the city addressed.

- Council Member Priest

- Inquired about the status of Wheels for Independence.

12. MAYOR PRO-TEM'S COMMENTS

- Thought the interview with WDIV was great.

- Thanked DPS for clearing snow in the city.

- Noted that Fire Chief Loranger and Rosemary Otzman from the Independent have birthdays coming up.

- Hopes that Mayor Voigt is having a relaxing vacation.

13. CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Fire Fighter Kissel stated that the department had a record number of runs in 2023, with a total of 812. He also noted that there were 39 runs in January of 2024.

14. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

- None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Beebe to adjourn at 8:47 PM.

No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Submitted by Briana Hootman,
City Clerk/Treasurer

Published: 02/29/24

More Letters

Michigan needs to treat Michiganders better

To the editor:

How to grow Michigan is a constant concern. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is so worried about the state's stagnating population that she put together an advisory board to root around for answers.

The most obvious answer, treating the 10 million people who already live here better, has not been tried. It should be.

Right now, at the urging of Attorney General Dana Nessel and State Superintendent Michael Rice, lawmakers are considering whether Michigan needs a homeschool registry. Michigan is a top state for homeschool freedom.

The state's hands-off homeschool law is a feature, not a bug.

There are no "missing" children in Michigan, not the way that's been claimed in Lansing. There are simply families who realized, at great personal sacrifice, that they should take a greater role in educating their children. Some people have left jobs, others have cut or adjusted their hours. All believe that there's no place like home, and chose specifically to leave the state system.

What do parents get for this investment in their child's life? A knock on the door someday from the Michigan homeschool police, there to examine curricula and decide if the parents are good enough educators.

Michigan should look for ways to help and support families who take on the educational burden of homeschool, not accuse them of being abusive until proven otherwise or gainsay their curriculum choices.

Want to attract people to Michigan? Start by taking a hands-off approach to people who choose to step away from the public school system.

Yours in School Choice,
James David Dickson
Michigan Capitol Confidential

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NOTICE is hereby given that on MARCH 16, 2024 at 12:00 P.M., Full House Self Storage at 7886 Belleville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 is holding a public auction. Unit(s) may or may not include the following: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, misc.

G458, Jazmene Long; E216 & I418, Devona Johnson; T981, Chandler Cuts and Snow LLC; H368, L525, L538 & O723, Anthony M. Davis; F275, Danielle E. Knopp; I419 & J616, Cornell Fox; E210, Lakita Holton; P772 & P773, Penny Hiner; M569, Adam McNabb; K651, Aafrika Poole; O724, Michael Riley; F264, Mookie Dillard Jr.

Publish: February 29, 2024 and March 7, 2024

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



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out for a time, but it ain't goin' away."
- Elvis Presley

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Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 1)

contingent on getting site plan approval.

Trustee Peggy Morgan cast the only no vote after pointing out this was the property that Corey Blue and his neighbors wanted to buy and was told by the township the sale had to be through a bidding process.

The Feb. 13 meeting, with only a bare

quorum present, was chaired by Trustee Tim Rush in the absence of Supervisor Tim Bowman, who was absent and excused, along with Trustee Matt Oddy who was reportedly in Florida on a family emergency, and Trustee Don LaPorte who was recovering from his second knee-replacement surgery.

Trustee Morgan said her concern is that there is a policy when property is sold,

everybody bids.

"I do not agree with doing it this way," she said. "Everyone should have the same crack at it." She said her opinion had nothing to do with the name [LaPorte].

She said years ago, a group of neighbors wanted to buy this property that was attached to their properties, but they were told no, it has to go out for bids. She said this property really should be added to a

new list of properties the township wants to sell. She said selling the property this way is opening Pandora's Box.

Treasurer Bart Patterson said this is an unsolicited offer on property that had been out for bids and both bidders withdrew their offers, including this bidder.

However, he recommended refusing Robin LaPorte's second, last-minute offer on the medical center because it is with a Realtor.

He said Multi-List has a history on the property and this is "not in a back-door way."

Morgan asked how many properties the township is selling in this manner?

Patterson said it is a landlocked property with an easement and everyone knows it's been up for sale.

"I don't know that everyone knows," Morgan replied, and Patterson insisted that everyone knows and it's on his phone on the Multi-Listing site, like Craig's List.

Morgan asked township attorney Rob Young how often the township has done unsolicited sales.

Young said this is not tax-reverted property, but it was given to the township, "sold to us," when the county no longer wanted to run the medical center. He said there was a request by Supervisor Bowman to do this differently and use real estate agents and there was some success in this and two or three applied to rebid on this one and then both withdrew their bids.

"This property has been across the cycle quite a bit," Young said.

"Is this the same property, many years ago, Corey Blue tried to purchase?" she asked.

Young said Corey Blue and neighbors heard that an outside storage facility was planned. He said LaPorte met with some of those guys and they suggested the township sell it to them and cut it up. There were issues with four-wheelers. Nobody made an offer, Young said.

Patterson said if it is sold by a real estate agent on Multi-List there are commissions of \$3,000 or so. He said the site plan process is not done.

He made a motion to accept Robin LaPorte's unsolicited offer on the property and reject a second offer on the medical center. This was seconded by Clerk Esther Hurst and passed on a 3-1 vote.

The sold property was listed as #81-016-99-0014-715.

In other business at the 47-minute meeting, the board:

- Learned that Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke and Police Lt. Patrick Gannon had given 60-month notice (5 years) of their retirement as part of a MERA DROP program to allow employees and employers time to plan for the transition;
- Set a 6 p.m. public hearing on the 2024-25 budget for March 12;
- Approved the recommendation by the Cemetery Committee for revised cemetery fees;
- Approved the reappointment of Maria Beaudrie to the Zoning Board of Appeals

(continued on page 16)

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Charter Township of Van Buren Annual Cemetery Cleaning Notice

The Department of Public Services will be conducting its annual spring cleaning at all Township cemeteries.

**2024 Cemetery Spring cleaning will begin
Monday, March 11th and end Friday, March 22nd**

Receptacles placed on graves such as flowerpots, religious items and similar objects will be discarded if not removed by Easter Sunday

New items may be displayed beginning April 1st.

Van Buren Township provides maintenance for the following cemeteries:

Denton - 49780 Cross St. (Michigan Avenue and Denton Road)

Soop - 49250 Denton Road (South I-94 Service Drive and Denton Road)

Tyler - 39820 Tyler Road (Tyler and Hannan Roads)

Otisville - 41875 Riggs Road

For additional information contact
The Department of Public Services 734.699.8925

Leon Wright
Township Clerk

Published: February 29, 2024

Published: March 7, 2024

Posted: February 22, 2024

Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 15)

with a term to expire March 10, 2027;

- Approved the recommendation from the Election Commission to set the election workers hourly wages at \$18 for chairperson, \$17 for co-chairperson, and \$16 for workers;

- Approved hiring Rachel Scott for the DPW seasonal, temporary, part-time position at a pay of \$16.04 per hour, expiring April 24;

- Approved using federal ARPA funds for a \$74,985 payment for the BS&A Cloud and Dashboard Modules Agreement;

- Approve the contract with SenCy Inc. to assist the township in developing and implementing a cyberhealth plan and the monitoring of its cybersecurity-related activities at an annual cost of \$10,800. A final sentence in the agreement that extends the agreement for another year, each year,

was removed with agreement from a SenCy representative who was present at the meeting;

- Approved posting a notice that resumes will be accepted for a part-time clerk position for up to 29 hours a week;

- Received no oral reports from the supervisor's office, attorney, police/ordinance, fire, or building department following a "receive and file" motion for all reports; and

- Heard resident Mary Ban report that her road finally got graded by the county so her husband could get to his doctor's appointments. She said his neck is fragile and can't be jarred. Besides his doctor's appointments, he was unable to attend a VFW meeting. Ban said Sumpter residents pay the same county taxes as other residents, but, "They neglect us in Sumpter." She also said she is praying for Deputy Clerk Karen Armatis who broke her ankle.

VBT

(continued from page 3)

by the last day of December and the township received a check for that amount;

- Heard Treasurer Sharry Budd announce that Feb. 29 is the last day for residents to pay their property taxes in her local office at township hall;

- Heard Clerk Wright say he has been a Van Buren Township clerk for 16 years and interacting with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) and Van Buren now is getting a lot of accolades for its police department, with just one case that's dragging along. He said the chief and assistant chief are doing a

great job. "I don't hear the things I used to hear," Wright said; and

- Heard Supervisor McNamara say the township is going to miss "Chip" Bazzy, who just retired as police lieutenant. Supervisor McNamara said Bazzy told him that cops don't like to write tickets that are so hard on these people. Now they get warnings and a chance before enforcement takes place. "Lt. Bazzy made a huge change in our community on that," he said.

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734-699-9020**

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP

OF VAN BUREN

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 20, 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 Human Resources Sumpter, DDA Director Coburn, Director of Planning and Economic Development Power, Director of Public Services Luckett, Director of Parks Locke, Deputy Police Chief Monte, Director of Municipal Services Akers and an audience of six.

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Martin moved, Wright seconded to approve the amended agenda adding New Business Item #3: To consider approval of the First Reading of Ordinance 02-20-24(2) to discuss an approval of the amendment of Article VIII (Offenses Concerning Underage Persons) of Chapter 58 (Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions) to amend Sec. 58-361 to 58-363. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA: Budd moved, Boynton seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2024, Prepaid List of February 8, 2024, Prepaid List of February 15, 2024, Voucher List of February 20, 2024 and Approval of the reappointments of Joe Baskins and Victor Delibera to the DDA Board, with terms to expire March 9, 2028. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

Early voting takes place from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Township Hall for all Van Buren Township voters until February 25th, February 29th is the last day to pay taxes at the Treasurer's Office, the Township saw a savings of \$249,514 in employee health care costs in 2023 by using

its current healthcare plan, a resident wrote a letter to compliment Officer Champagne's professionalism during a recent encounter, and Clerk Wright complimented our police force on the improvements he has seen under the leadership of Chief Wright and Deputy Chief Monte.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Boynton moved, Frazier seconded to approve Stephan Harvey's Personal Service Agreement and to authorize Supervisor McNamara and Clerk Wright to execute the agreement. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Boynton seconded to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2-20-24(1) to discuss an approval of the amendment of Article I (In General) of Chapter 6 (Alcoholic Liquors) to amend Sec. 6-7. Motion Carried.

Martin moved, Budd seconded to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 02-20-24(2) to discuss an approval of the amendment of Article VIII (Offenses Concerning Underage Persons) of Chapter 58 (Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions) to amend Sec. 58-361 to 58-363. Motion Carried.

Kelley moved, Boynton to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between Wayne County and Van Buren Township for the Denton Road Replacement with the additional request that the Township's name be corrected at the bottom of each page from Belleville Township to Van Buren Township. Motion Carried.

Boynton moved, Frazier seconded to approve Amendment No. 2 to the Plante Moran Realpoint Contract and Amendment No. 7 to the Newmann/Smith Architecture Contract for the VBC. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Boynton moved; Kelley seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Published: February 29, 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 Council

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taxes and if they pay the property tax and not the water bill, the property can be sold for back taxes.

The water bill goes to the owner of the property plus the late fee.

Jones said it is not a surprise, because bills are sent out *ad nauseum*, and this would be for at minimum of six months past due.

Discussed by the council was the idea of water cutoffs and Smith suggested cutoffs after one billing cycle past due. He said under COVID the city stopped cutoffs. He asked what was the policy the council wanted: one cycle past due, two cycles past

due?

Nothing has been done for three to four years, he said.

Jones said the city offered a payment plan, but if you missed a payment you forfeited the plan.

Smith said 120 days is two billing cycles.

Councilman Jeremiah Beebe said the problem with water bills is that some people live paycheck to paycheck.

Smith said the city is trying to have a more accurate water-billing system. He said one of the city's churches ended up with a \$45,000 bill and the city investigated and fixed it.

He said he would check with colleagues in other communities on policies.

He said \$25 has been the reconnect fee.

Mayor Voigt asked Smith to come back with a recommendation.

"Everyone else is paying their bills," said Mayor Voigt, adding \$125,000 for a small community is a lot. "We want to make it fair. People need water to live, but you need to pay something."

Smith said the city gets the water bill from the Detroit Utilities Water Authority and those not paying are being subsidized by those that do.

Councilman Priest said there needs to be a program for poor people and Jones said the city gives information and several have qualified for a Wayne County program and the city gets checks on them.

Smith said there are a lot of different programs available and he'll put them together to discuss at the second meeting in March.

Councilman Beebe said it should be at least two cycles before the city gets aggressive. He said if the landlord doesn't pay, the cutoff notice should be posted on the door for the tenant.

Smith said that would be a landlord-tenant issue and the rent could be put in escrow.

Jones said they could put the door hanger tag on the door a few days before shutoff and give the tenant time to call the property owner.

Councilman Beebe said to have the whole trailer park shut off would be a train wreck.

Fire Chief 2 Chris Zweng said property he used to own on Church Street is on the list and it is now owned by the church next door and rented. He said the church doesn't have a clue that \$2,000 will be added to its tax bill.

Mayor Voigt pointed out there are quite a few rentals in the city.

He asked Smith to come back in a month with a recommendation.

In other action at the 93-minute meeting at the library, the council:

- Tried out its first consent agenda, by which several items were approved without comment on one motion: Minutes of Feb. 5, accounts payable and departmental expenditures, MMRMA monthly acknowledgement, January police department stats, and Egan's Pub Car Show, from 6-8 p.m., on Mondays, June 3 to Sept. 30;

- Approved representatives to the Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority, with Department of Public Services Director Rick Rutherford as primary and City Manager Jason Smith as secondary;

- Approved the police chief's contract at \$90,000 annual salary that had been removed from the last agenda to wait for a full council;

- Discussed a proposed Priority Waste Curbside Junk Pickup Day and decided the city couldn't afford it at this time. It was noted that people can already call for pickup of large items;

- Approved signing of the Category B Grant;

- Received the 2023 annual police report;
- Discussed the complaints about food trucks and noted there is nothing on

the city's books on the issue. Mayor Voigt asked Smith to check with the Michigan Municipal League for a model ordinance. There have been complaints from a restaurant about one near it, plus complaints on loud generators and flashing lights. "We should have some rule," Beebe said;

- Heard Smith report on proposals for funds he has made to State Senator Darrin Camilleri's office; proposal to Council of Western Wayne for funds for police radios for reserve officers; a proposal to SEMCOG for a pedestrian safety grant; plans to meet with a grant writer the next day; asked State Rep. Reggie Millier for a grant for lake bank stabilization at Horizon Park; obtaining software for the DPS to catch work orders that slipped through the cracks; interviewing five people out of 82 who applied for Steven Adams' DPS job for when he retires in May; and reported now using Bidnet-MI a purchasing system for Requests for Proposals;

- Was reminded that there will be a Michigan Municipal League training session at 6 p.m. on March 4 before the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.; and

- Learned the veterans banners that had hung on lamp poles in the city are available for pick up at city hall. Mayor Voigt said some have been lost.

Fentanyl charges dropped against Harris for the third time

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Feb. 21, charges were dropped against Christian Devon Harris for the third time when the city of Belleville decided to dismiss the case "in the interest of justice."

Harris, 22, formerly of Van Buren Township and now of Southfield, had been charged with delivering / manufacturing narcotics and possessing a controlled substance when 56 fentanyl tablets were found in the borrowed car he was driving on May 2, 2021 near the corner of North Liberty and Third streets in the city of Belleville. He also was charged with driving while license suspended.

On Dec. 6, an exam was held at 34th District Court and the drug charges were dismissed. At his pretrial on Dec. 20 on the DWLS charge, that charge also was dismissed through a motion of the prosecuting attorney. Case was closed.

The court then advised the city of Belleville to return the \$2,700 in cash taken from Harris during his arrest and it did.

The case was refiled on Jan. 4 and Harris was arraigned on Jan. 17 by Judge Lisa Martin. Defense attorney Kevin Martin objected, saying the charges already had been dismissed, most recently by Judge Martin herself.

Judge Martin set the next probable cause conference on the charges for Feb. 21 and at that time the charges were dismissed.

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

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 284 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, Feb. 18:

0002 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0019 – welfare check, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0117 – animal complaint, Denton Rd.
0132 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0245 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Oak Ln.
0308 – vehicle lockout, Rawsonville Rd.
0701 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0749 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0826 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0936 – intrusion alarm, Hanover Dr.
0958 – family trouble, Daniel Dr.
1146 – welfare check, Victoria St.
1209 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1257 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
1303 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Lohr Rd.
1317 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton
1417 – threat, Sumpter Rd.
1454 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1512 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Taylor Rd.
1525 – animal complaint, Tyler Rd.
1642 – hospice death, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1725 – trespassing, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1838 – 911 welfare check, Ecorse Rd.
1917 – welfare check, Village Green Ln.
1926 – larceny, Riggs Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Oak Ln.
2113 – harassment call, S. Woodbury Dr.
2104 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2117 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

Monday, Feb. 19:

0034 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Fay Dr.
0321 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr./Jackson Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1127 – parking complaint, Walden Ct.
1451 – abandoned auto, N. Timberview Dr. / Stonebridge Dr.
1505 – welfare check, Hannan Rd./Huron River
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Alba Ct.
1535 – road hazard, Alba Ct.
1547 – all 4100 MICR Codes/Liquor, Belleville Rd.
1629 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1714 – mental subject, Huron River Dr.
xxxx – welfare check, Lauren Ct.
1823 – misc. complaint, Savage Rd.
1909 – fraud, Fairfield Dr.
1918 – mental subject, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1935 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
2021 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
2202 – domestic, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2329 – fraud, Belleville Rd.

Tuesday, Feb. 20:

0025 – threat, Prairie Ct.
0041 – welfare check, S. Bellridge Dr.
0117 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Tyler Wiard N./Wiard Rd.
0256 – domestic, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0410 – intrusion alarm, Winding Pond Dr.
0843 – road hazard, Ecorse/Morton Taylor Rd.
0954 – welfare check, Victoria St.
1006 – malicious destruction of property, Denton
1034 – malicious destruction of property, Denton
1116 – vehicle lockout, McBride Ave.
1159 – civil matter, Rose Blvd.
1255 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
1348 – fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
1341 – threat, Denton Rd.
1513 – malicious destruction of property, Old Denton Rd.
1531 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
1627 – malicious destruction of property, Denton
1655 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.
1638 – misc. complaint, Edison Lake
1834 – threat, Brandi Dr.
1750 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Old Michigan Rd.
2024 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Presidential Dr./Liberty Ln.

2113 – traffic offense, Rolan Meadows Dr.
2120 – mental subject, Hull Rd.
2201 – assist fire dept., Bog Rd.
2207 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd./Hannan Rd.
2307 – breaking & entering, Ecorse Rd.
Wednesday, Feb. 21:
0020 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
xxxx – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
0414 – noise complaint, Victoria St.
0726 – domestic, Lauren Court
0845 – assist fire dept., Maple Dr.
0904 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1010 – assist citizen, Andover Dr.
1010 – parking complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1117 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ecorse Rd.
1159 – mental subject, Bemis Rd.
1231 – misc. complaint, Rose Blvd.
1308 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
1310 – unattended death, Denton Rd.
1342 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1353 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
1402 – welfare check, Beckley Rd.
1405 – misc. complaint, Belleville Rd.
1427 – misc. complaint, McBride Ave.
1503 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Alden Ave.
xxxx – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
1606 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1703 – welfare check, Lake Point Blvd.
1619 – larceny from auto, Westlake Cir.
1644 – misc. complaint, Old Michigan Rd.
1652 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1836 – civil matter, Ecorse Rd.
1841 – road hazard, Rawsonville Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
1834 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1839 – suicidal person, Bog Rd.
1839 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1925 – motorist assist, W. Huron River Dr./Rawsonville Rd.
1951 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
2021 – traffic offense, Denton Rd./Michigan Ave.
2253 – animal complaint, Borgman Ave./McBride
2344 – welfare check, Denton Rd.

Thursday, Feb. 22:
0401 – misc. complaint, Belleville Rd.
0442 – property check, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Parkwood Dr.
0707 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Dewitt Rd.
0707 – vehicle lockout, Lake Pointe Blvd.
0737 – larceny, Ecorse Rd.
0738 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0802 – animal complaint, Martinsville/Savage
0921 – traffic offense, Rawsonville Rd.
1012 – intrusion alarm, Belle Pointe Dr.
1014 – road hazard, Haggerty Rd./Riggs Rd.
1020 – property damage accident, Tyler/Belleville
1130 – PPO violation, Denton Rd.
1223 – family trouble, Water's Edge Ln.
1251 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1256 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1447 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr./Edison Lake Rd.
1625 – welfare check, Jackson St.
xxxx – animal complaint, Bramblewood Ct.
1528 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr./Tyler Rd.
1603 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Birch Dr.
1731 – family trouble, Birch Dr.
1808 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rawsonville Rd.
1829 – family trouble, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1851 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
1856 – intrusion alarm, Hanover Dr.
1900 – welfare check, Oak Ln.
2049 – threat, Tyler Rd.
xxxx – vehicle lockout, Haggerty Rd.
2056 – welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
2142 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.

Friday, Feb. 23:

0312 – assist fire dept., McBride Ave.
0331 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Reene Dr./Elwell Rd.
0712 – welfare check, N. Ponderosa Trl./Belleville Rd.
0735 – vehicle lockout, Haggerty Rd.
0829 – misc. complaint, Robson Rd.
0908 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
0937 – family trouble, Sheldon Rd.
1049 – civil matter, Van Buren Estates
1159 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1209 – welfare check, Westlake Cir.
1223 – assault & battery, Hannan Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Outer Dr.
1358 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belle Pointe Dr.
1452 – parking complaint, Belleville
1554 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service/Alden
1543 – civil matter, Tallgrass Ct.
1626 – private property impound, Denton Rd.
1705 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./I-94 N. Service Dr.
1900 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1938 – welfare check, Martinsville Rd.
2100 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
2129 – family trouble, Marina Dr.
2230 – 911 welfare check, Marina Dr.
2301 – noise complaint, Winchester St.
Saturday, Feb. 24:
0238 – parking complaint, Wheeler St.
xxxx – repossession, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0631 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0631 – road hazard, Hannan Rd./Huron River Dr.
0906 – 911 welfare check, Reedgrass Ln.
0940 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1043 – assist fire dept., Oak Ln.
1201 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belleville Rd.
1336 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1344 – mental subject, Belleville Rd.
1404 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1534 – juvenile complaint, Belleville Rd.
1608 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Oak Ln.
1700 – fraud, Kennedy St.
1825 – malicious destruction of property, Presidential Estates
1902 – animal complaint, W. Huron River Dr.
1906 – assist citizen, Harmony Ln.
2034 – assist fire dept., Parkwood Dr.
2149 – breaking & entering, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2218 – noise complaint, W. Adams
2318 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Alden Ave.

Also, on this week's log are 95 traffic stops, 14 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 18:

0303 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Liberty St.
1029 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
1052 – domestic, Carmell St.
1532 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Main St.
1643 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR Codes, Bedell St.
2213 – welfare check, W. Wabash Ave.
2319 – property check, Hull Rd.

Monday, Feb. 19:

0539 – property check, Fourth St.
1149 – neighbor trouble, Carmell St.
1701 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.
1732 – property check, Sumpter Rd.
1734 – property check, Butzin Lumber Yard
1748 – property check, city municipal lot/Fourth St. Square
1750 – property check, Main St.
1802 – property check, Clarence St.
1808 – property check, Pirate Puppies
1817 – property check, Gene & Sons Used Tires/Brown Family Center
1822 – property check, E. Huron River Dr.
1845 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
2001 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Victorian Ln.
2042 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.
2121 – traffic stop, Henry St./South St.
2132 – traffic stop, Main St./N. Liberty St.
2158 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.
Tuesday, Feb. 20:
0126 – assist other dept., Tyler Wiard N./Wiard Rd.
0258 – assist fire dept., Estrada Dr.
0555 – welfare check, Estrada Dr.
0949 – misc. complaint, Main St.
1120 – property check, E. Huron River Dr.

1141 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./Madelon
1153 – welfare check, Arlene/Savage
1203 – property check, Village Park
1206 – welfare check, S. Liberty St.
1554 – property damage accident, South/Wabash
1632 – disorderly, Main St.
1633 – fraud, Carmell St.
2031 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./Third St.

Wednesday, Feb. 21:

0103 – traffic stop, Water Works
0103 – traffic stop, Water Works
0143 – property check, Main St.
0258 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.
1028 – animal complaint, Sumpter Rd.
1124 – lost property/child, Clarence St.
1120 – lost property/child, Clarence St.
1154 – welfare check, Carmell St.
Thursday, Feb. 22:
0230 – assist fire dept., E. Columbia Ave.
0624 – motorist assist, Main St.
1206 – threat, E. Huron River Dr.
1617 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Owen St.

1841 – motorist assist, Main St./E. Huron River
2029 – property check, Owen St.
2058 – traffic stop, Main St./Roys St.
2244 – property damage accident, South St./E. Columbia Ave.

Friday, Feb. 23:

0817 – misc. complaint, Main St.
0839 – property check, Loza Ln.
0840 – property check, Edgemont Elementary School
0841 – property check, Clarence St.
1004 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1225 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Main St.
1756 – intrusion alarm, N. Aberdeen Ct.
1824 – property check, E. Columbia Ave.
1834 – property check, Liberty Gospel Church
1837 – traffic stop, N. Liberty/E. Huron River Dr.
1844 – property check, Lifepointe Church
1847 – property check, Owen St.
2039 – traffic stop, N. liberty/E. Huron River Dr.
Saturday, Feb. 24:
0729 – property check, Harbour Pointe sub.
0756 – property check, Lakeview Mobile Home Park

0803 – property check, Belleville Lake Dance Center
0810 – property check, Owen Intermediate School
0927 – property check, Davenport Industrial Pk.
0959 – property check, downtown Belleville
1133 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr.
1411 – property check, Randall Park subdivision
1413 – property check, the Highlands subdivision
1420 – property check, St. Anthony Academy
1430 – traffic stop, South St.
1440 – property check, R.W. Clark subdivision
1452 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1502 – property check, Henry P. Smith subdivision
1548 – property check, Sumpter corridor
1558 – traffic stop, Church St./W. Columbia Ave.
1643 – property check, Huron Park subdivision
1649 – property check, Clarence St.
1652 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Potter Dr.
1711 – property check, Victorian Commons
1721 – traffic stop, W. Wabash Ave./South St.
1811 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.
1824 – property check, Main St. condominiums
1956 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Main St.

There are 18 traffic stops on this week's log, along with 40 property checks.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 18:

1109 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1320 – citizen assist, 19000 bl Crandell Ave.
1528 – civil matter, Wyoming St.
1559 – 911 hang up, Arizona St.
2006 – suspicious circumstance, Rustic Ln.
2222 – motorist assist, Karr Rd./Willis Rd.
Monday, Feb. 19:
0305 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.
0308 – traffic complaint/hazard, 50000 bl. Willis
0901 – 911 hang up, Arizona St.
0936 – civil matter, 29000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

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Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

1017 – suspicious circumstance, Montana St.
1213 – alarm, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1324 – suspicious circumstance, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1421 – open burning, 21000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1444 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1514 – animal complaint, Karr Rd./Willow Rd.
1607 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2022 – fire dept. assist, Creekside Dr.

Tuesday, Feb. 20:

0112 – neighbor dispute, Knollwood Dr.
0131 – assist other agency, Sumpter Rd./Bemis
0726 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.

0958 – alarm, 43000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1004 – 911 hang up, Rustic Ln.
1124 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1351 – alarm, 21000 bl. Clemmons Ct.
1900 – citizen assist, Kansas St.
2043 – suspicious circumstance, Arizona St.
2058 – animal complaint, Rustic Ln.
2126 – assist other agency, Timberlane Dr.

Wednesday, Feb. 21:

0420 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
0938 – juvenile matter, Delaware St.
1025 – welfare check, Florida St.
1212 – 911 hang up, 51000 bl. Wear Rd.
1502 – suspicious vehicle, Martinsville/Mulberry
1504 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1847 – 911 hang up, 29000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1909 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
2006 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2032 – suspicious circumstance, 46000 bl. Wear
2108 – 911 hang up, Elwell Rd./Judd Rd.

2142 – mental health call, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2224 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.

Thursday, Feb. 22:

0003 – 911 hang up, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.
0713 – fire dept. assist, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0810 – fire dept. assist, Virginia St.
0816 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.
1720 – fire dept. assist, Sumpter Rd./Harris Rd.
1732 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1741 – suspicious circumstance, Carriage Ln. / Brookview Dr.
1824 – follow up investigation, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1835 – welfare check, Georgia St.
1835 – 911 hang up, Georgia St.
2300 – disorderly person, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Friday, Feb. 23:

0252 – 911 hang up, Oregon St.
0851 – motorist assist, Sumpter Rd./Judd Rd.
1100 – citizen assist, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
1123 – suspicious circumstance, 29000 bl. Elwell

1433 – follow-up investigation, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1441 – follow-up investigation, 45000 bl. Harris
1513 – neighbor dispute, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1717 – suspicious circumstance, Rustic Ln.
1753 – suspicious circumstance, Timberlane Dr. / Rustic Ln.

1933 – family trouble, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
2032 – 911 hang up, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2044 – fire dept. assist, 11000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2137 – 911 hang up, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
2153 – 911 hang up, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
2335 – family trouble, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, Feb. 24:

0027 – follow-up investigation, 21000 bl. Sumpter
0849 – 911 hang up, Washington St.
0856 – follow-up investigation, Washington St.
0950 – suspicious vehicle, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1103 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.
1121 – follow-up investigation, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1135 – suspicious person, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1312 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.
1359 – follow-up investigation, Mulberry Dr.
1431 – welfare check, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1550 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico St.
1656 – noise complaint, Second St.
1823 – traffic complaint/hazard, Lohr/Bemis
1824 – property damage accident, Willis/Elwell
2145 – citizen assist, Delaware St.

Also, on this week's log are 219 patrol checks, 109 traffic stops, and six misc. details.

WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY QUILTING GUILD & THE BELLEVILLE AREA MUSEUM PRESENTS

ANNUAL QUILT SHOW

Open Friday, March 1st through Thursday, March 28th

Tuesdays: 4pm - 7pm

Wednesdays - Saturdays: 12 - 4pm

Bed-turning Presentations March 2nd, 16th, and 23rd

At 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm

Youth Sewing Workshop at the

Belleville Area District Library

Saturday, March 9th



BELLEVILLE AREA
MUSEUM



TICKET

\$5

\$3 WITH STUDENT ID



WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY QUILT GUILD



AT THE BELLEVILLE AREA MUSEUM

405 MAIN ST, BELLEVILLE, MI 48111

(734) 697-1944

FACEBOOK.COM/THEBELLEVILLEAREAMUSEUM

vanburen-mi.org/community/belleville_area_museum

More Letters

Thank you, St. Jude

To the editor:

Here's a new St. Jude prayer. You say it seven days in a row and be specific in what miracles you are asking for.

Oh, Holy St. Jude, Apostle, and Martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near kinsman to Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor to those who invoke your prayer to you. I have come from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power, to come to my urgent need and petition.

Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Mary's, and three Glory B's. At this point ask St. Jude for the needed miracle. Now promise him to intercede by putting his prayer in print. It can be on the internet, newspaper, post card in a store, etc.

This prayer has come through for myself and family. I hope you try it and it comes through for you, too.

It really works.

TJC, Belleville

Upcoming Meetings

- Saturday, March 2 – Strategic planning session for Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 9:30 to 11 a.m., at the Belleville Area District Library. Open to the public. (This was originally set for Feb. 17.)

- Monday, March 4 – Belleville City Council, training session by Michigan Municipal League, 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 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



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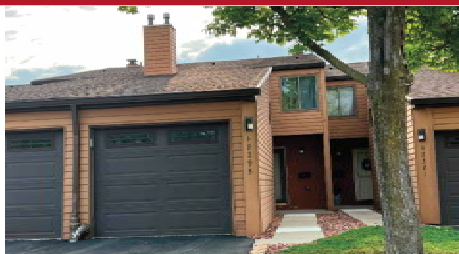
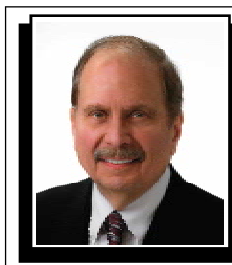
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Mayor City of Belleville
1987-1995



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



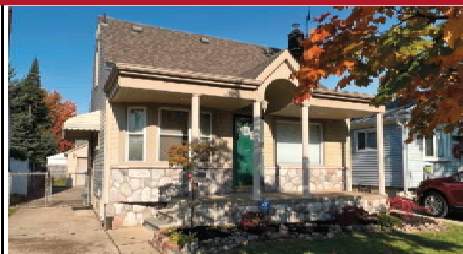
20330 MARTINSVILLE, SUMPTER TWP

COMING SOON - 4 Bedroom 2 Full & 2 Half Bath 2,900 sq ft home Attached indoor Greenhouse plus walkout to Deck & Pool. 4 Car Garage plus Barn. 16 Acres \$469,500



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



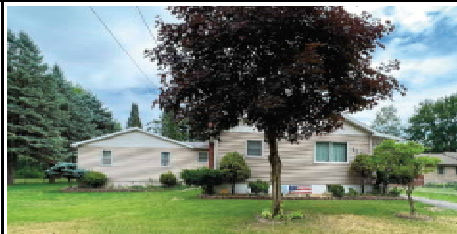
18275 HARMAN., MELVINDALE

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



209 MAIN STREET, BELLEVILLE

HUGE AND WELL MAINTAINED 7,000+ Square Foot Building on High Traffic Main Street. Large Rooms Everywhere plus Finished Basement and 6+ Car Garage. \$749,000

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

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

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

SUMPTER RD EXETER TWP 8 AC \$80,000

VACANT JUDD SUMPTER 2.1 AC \$39,500

VACANT JUDD 8.7 AC. PAVED RD \$75,000

HAGGERTY 1.5 AC VAN BUREN \$70,000

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

HURON TWP VAC CLARK .74 AC \$29,500

HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$29,900

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 and \$50,000 BUILDER SPECIAL for 3 LOTS

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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WELCOME,

JALEN ANKTON!