



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Group home worker bound over on 2 charges after death of resident

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Bruce Odell Williams, 34, of Detroit has been bound over for trial at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice on two charges arising from the death of a group home resident that he was supposed to be caring for.

On Monday, 34th District Court Judge Brian Oakley held a special exam on the case and lowered Williams' bond to \$10,000 or 10% and he bonded out. The Circuit Court arraignment on the evidence was set for Feb. 27.

Sumpter Township Police Detective John Toth said the charges approved by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office were Homicide/Involuntary Manslaughter, a 15-year felony, and Vulnerable Adult Abuse, which could bring four years in prison.

Detective Toth said Sumpter Police received a 911 call at 8:44 a.m. Oct. 2, 2010 for "a male down" who was unresponsive and cold in the hallway of Christ Centered Home in the 22000 block of Clark Road.

When Officers Roulo and Buccelato arrived they found Robert Egan, 38, of Monroe dead on the floor. Det. Toth said the "group" home was to care for just the one patient, who had severe mental issues, as well as being developmentally disabled.

Officer Buccelato found "something amiss" in the situation and called in Toth to take over the investigation. He interviewed all four workers that had been there for shift change and followed up with interviews of everybody involved.

"The person supposed to be providing care, unfortunately, went to bed," Toth reported.

Toth said Egan got up during the night, went to the refrigerator and ate a raw pork chop 3"x3" in size, which lodged in his throat, blocking his airway. He was found in the bathroom and, according to the

(continued on page 13)



On Saturday morning, the Belleville VFW/PLAV Honor Guard performed its 500th funeral service since it started ten years ago. The ritual for veterans includes folding the flag from the coffin and presenting it to the next of kin, and also a 21-gun salute. After the service, members gathered for lunch at Paula's restaurant in Belleville before heading off to funeral #501 at Michigan Memorial cemetery in the afternoon. From left are George Kennedy, Primitivo Gutierrez, Ross Medos, Jerry Delicato, Bob Thompson, Rick Dawson, Cornell Anton, Standley Scott, and Barney Ban. Others who take part in the Honor Guard, but were not present Saturday, are Ed Sobolewski, Robert Krouse, Jerry Asher, Ryan Anderson, and Frank Sobecki.



At noontime on Saturday a huge, shivering crowd waited in -10 degree wind chill on the snowy shores of frigid Belleville Lake at the Moose Lodge. They were there to witness

the annual Polar Plunge to earn funds for Special Olympics Michigan. This year there were about 150 people dressed up in silly costumes to dive into the cold water at the Belleville event and the pre-plunge parade in the lodge delayed the outside event by about a half hour, as the crowd grew restless, but staying in good spirits. Finally, out they came in a line and started jumping into the lake, some in groups. The Belleville event raised \$34,000 for Special Olympics Michigan.

Belleville woman dies after crash on I-275 Saturday morning

Frances McCoy, 58, of Belleville died Saturday at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital where she was taken following an accident on southbound I-275 in Canton.

According to Canton Police, she was traveling southbound on I-275 near Michigan Avenue at about 11:15 a.m. when she apparently lost control of her Lincoln sedan and hit the right cement guard rail. Then her vehicle spun across two lanes of traffic before being struck broadside by a small SUV.

The driver of the SUV, a 50-year-old man from West Bloomfield, was transported to Annapolis Hospital where he was treated and released.

The interstate was shut down for four hours, with a huge traffic tie-up, while police tried to recreate the accident.

Canton Police said they believed the weather and road conditions may have played a role in the crash, which continues under investigation.

Snow started falling in this area on Friday and by Saturday morning there were two to five inches on the ground causing multiple accidents throughout the area.

Mrs. McCoy was well-known in the Belleville community, having assisted her husband Pastor Tim McCoy in the church he led in Belleville.

She reportedly was on her way home from an appointment with an eye doctor in Canton when the crash occurred.

A celebration of her going home to be with the Lord will be held at 11 a.m. today, Thursday, Feb. 16, at First Baptist Church of Canton, on the corner of Cherry Hill and Sheldon roads. A gathering will begin at 10 a.m. See full obituary on page 7.

Chief Robert Metzger takes part in Polar Plunge in Washington

Former Huron Township Police Chief Robert Metzger took part in the Polar Plunge in Pasco, Washington, to earn money for Special Olympics.

Chief Metzger is now chief of the Pasco, Washington Police Department.

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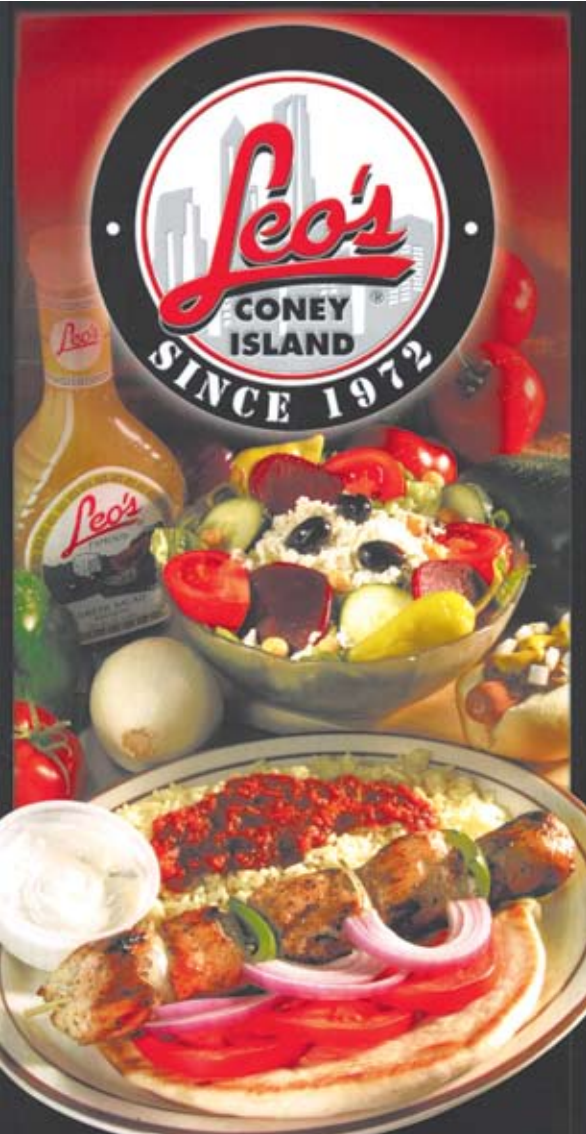
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

School Board's meeting at BHS Aud. to consider school closings

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

A large crowd is expected for the 7 p.m., Feb. 27, meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, so the meeting place has been changed from Rawsonville Elementary to the Belleville High School Auditorium, which seats 800.

The main item on that meeting's agenda is the final recommendation from the consultants studying the use of school buildings and the declining student population.

The recommendation is expected to include the closing of two elementary schools and, perhaps, one middle school, as well as reconfiguration of grades in the schools. The specific schools will be identified, as well as the financial and other background for the choices.

At Monday's regular school board meeting, Board President Martha Toth said she estimated 200 people attended the first public forum on the topic and more than 100 attended the second meeting, so the board wanted to make sure there was enough space to seat the estimated 300 or 400 who might attend the Feb. 27 session to learn which schools would be closing.

While most of the board members gave the impression a final decision would be made on Feb. 27, Trustee Scott Russell urged the board to proceed cautiously and not rush into a decision. Trustee Sherry Frazier agreed.

He said he talked to a board member from another district who likened closing a school to "a death in the community".

"Maybe it would be worthwhile to postpone a decision," Trustee Russell said.

Toth said the district has to start at once if it is closing a school because there are so many details to attend to.

Russell said members of the audience may stand up screaming over the closings and the board should proceed cautiously and may want to "mull over" the information.

"We want the public to know we may make a decision to close schools," Toth stated.

Board Vice President Brenda McClanahan urged the board not to take a negative view of the situation and to emphasize, instead, that the school closings will help the district to keep viable and move forward.

"If we prolong the decision, I can't execute what you decide," said School Supt. Michael Van Tassel. He warned that if the decision was put off until the end of March, there are a huge number of things that need to be done that he wouldn't have time to do.

"We have to avoid painting ourselves into a corner..." Russell said, adding that it's not a good idea to have to make such a big decision in a hurry.

Toth said the board chose to do this right

by having the professional study with a lot of information gathered and now it has to make a decision.

Treasurer Toni Hunt said a lot of things are going on this summer, including moving into the new high school.

With the construction under way on the new high school, it may be confusing for people to find their way to the auditorium entrance. Parking is at the back of the school and there will be signs to assist people to the meeting on Feb. 27, Toth said.

Toth also announced, in anticipation of a big crowd at the upcoming meeting, that she is changing the procedure for public comment until the new board policies can be adopted.

She said she found the board cannot limit the total time of public comment (due to an Attorney General's opinion), but speakers can be limited to 3-5 minutes each.

Toth said there will be two public comment periods at meetings, but she will no longer allow public comment during the agenda.

The first public comment allowed will be at the beginning of the meeting for comments on items that are on the agenda. The second public comment will be allowed at the end of the agenda for comments on topics that were not on the agenda.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the board:

- Hired John Cast, as of April 1, to a new position that will manage the scheduling, supervision, and use of the new pool as a part-time position, with no benefits, at a salary of \$15,000 per year. Van Tassel said Cast has been a district swim coach on and off for years;

- Hired Marcus Leon as a full-time accountant in the business office at a salary of \$50,000 (\$73,055 with benefits). The contract with Plante Moran (which cost \$24,000 per month since October) expired as of last Friday. Leon interned at the Brighton Public Schools and last worked at Bed Bath & Beyond. He has a bachelor's and a master's degree in accounting;

- Recalled five high school teachers to be paid with \$150,000 of 31A federal at-risk funds to assist students in the areas of reading and math as individuals or in small groups of 2-3. They are Laurie Hoffman, Kristy Hickson, Kimberly Glime, Heather Bell, and Erin Knotts. Toth said the MEAP test results will be released to the public soon and, "They are not where they should be." This move is to improve the situation;

- Approved the hiring of Caitlyn Hrbal (1/31/12) to intervene with at risk students in BHS English and Hilary Fenton for at risk students in BHS math (2/7/12);

- Approved requested terminations of teachers Norma Schropshire at Rawsonville Elementary for personal reasons and Kelli Crawford at Elwell for other employment;

- Approved the retirement of Brian Brice as Director of Plant Operations as of Feb. 10 and the requested termination of Lola Dailey as BHS Food Service worker as of Feb. 27 for personal reasons;

- Approved a short-term, state aid anticipation note from PNC Bank for \$6 million at interest of 1.42% and also approved a \$25,000 increase in the budget for the fees. There was \$35,000 in the budget and the fees are \$60,000. The loan will be from Feb. 24 to Oct. 22;

- Approved a resolution to look for ways to consolidate services with other districts and then passed a Best Practices Incentive Resolution, which both are aimed at getting the \$100 per pupil promised by the state for following best practices. The money is expected immediately;

- Heard the first reading of an Anti-Bullying Policy required by the state. The second reading and passage will be at an upcoming meeting;

- Heard an update on construction of the new BHS, noting the old BHS will be demolished in July/August, the cafeteria expansion will be in July/November, with the parking lot and retention pond going in during that time, as well. Paul Wills, of Plante Moran CRESA, said the school keystone/ cornerstones for 1921 and 1953 will be put in place in the outdoor area in the middle of the new school wings. He said trophies will be moved to the new building and they are allocating bricks from the old building for fund-raising opportunities for community groups. The graduation class composites will be taken out of the old school over spring break and will be placed in the new school;

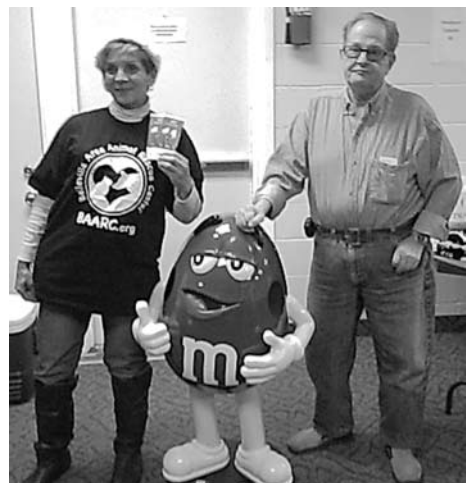
- Was informed of field change orders approved by Supt. Van Tassel including a raised glass handrail in the pool, added security sensors, band lamps and ballast, added white boards, structural support for the greenhouse, and fixed chemistry teacher stations;

- Approved spending some of the available bond money on 35 classroom sound enhancement systems (little microphones for teachers and speakers in the ceilings), adding electrical power for the overhead doors (which was inadvertently overlooked), auditorium sound upgrades, new auditorium dimmer rack, and added epoxy flooring;

- Approved adding a two-year conversational Spanish language and culture course as a way for students not going on to college to fulfill the state's requirement for foreign language;

- Approved use of school buses for summer programs for the Van Buren Township Recreation Department at established rates;

- Accepted Toth's explanation that she had made the decision to allow the Boys



On Saturday, Feb. 11, the Belleville Area Animal Rescue Center (BAARC) held an informational event for the public describing its goals. The event included a raffle for a donated 4-foot, Mars/ M&M figure and a drawing for a door prize of 2 suite tickets to a Red Wings game that were donated by Waste Management. The winner of the "M&M guy" was Tresa Territo and her father Pat accepted the prize for her. (Pat also is BAARC president.) The door prize winner was Gloria Richards, at left.

and Girls Club to use a bus on Feb. 10 to go to Bloomer Boys and Girls Club in Detroit and then brought it after the fact to the board for approval. She said while the request was made in plenty of time, a three-week gap in board meetings presented the problem and she thought a special meeting was not necessary for this;

- Received a State House Resolution honoring board members from State Rep. Dian Slavens, who marked School Board Appreciation Month, celebrated in January;

- Heard Toth announce that next Monday's meeting on Feb. 20 will be a study session to review the updated policies, starting at 7 p.m. at the Administration Building;

- Heard Toth announce that New Tech will be accepting enrollment applications from eighth graders beginning in early April for 125-150 spots that will be open next fall. The specific announcement will be put on the district website; and

- Was informed the Moose Lodge will again host the spaghetti dinner to raise money for the band beginning at 5 p.m., Feb. 25. Also, Kindergarten Roundup is beginning early, with the first session Feb. 22.

Historical Society sets general meeting, election

The Belleville Area Historical Society will hold its general meeting and election of new board members at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 16, at the Belleville Area Museum.

Museum Director Katie Dallos will give a synopsis of the upcoming Civil War Sesquicentennial Series.

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Dedicated veterans offer dignified service

On Saturday, a group of local veterans gathered at Paula's restaurant to have lunch together and to mark the 500th funeral that the group has done since it started 10 years ago.

Those raising their coffee cups to the project were members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Polish League of American Veterans who make up our local Honor Guard.

The group of retirees has been giving dignified, patriotic send-offs to veterans during the veterans' funerals. The members fold the American flag from the casket and present it to the family, they smartly salute their fallen comrade, they give a 21-gunshot salute, provide "Taps" played by a live bugler, and do other parts of the ritual that comfort the families.

They have buried some of their original Honor Guard members, including Leonard Rochon. They don't get paid for the service, but do accept donations to help cover the cost of fuel for their vehicles, blanks for their rifles, uniforms, and various other expenses that, otherwise, have them digging into their own pockets.

On Saturday, as they prepared for ceremony #501 that afternoon, they reminisced about the funerals of the past and joked about their own funerals to come. And, they wondered whether younger veterans will be there for them when they need to be buried. The men are all senior citizens, but Primitivo Gutierrez is the only WWII veteran and their hero.

Thank you all for your unselfish service to our community.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

A reader dropped by last week to ask us to look at the flag on the pole at the northeast corner of the North I-94 Service Drive and Belleville Road – where the gas station has been abandoned.

She said the big flag there is in shreds and someone should do something about it. I looked it over on my way to the VBT Hall and she is right. That flag used to be a landmark, since it was so big and the owners always took good care of it and changed it when it got worn.

I stopped by the VBT Building Department and Matt Forster said that others had pointed out the worn flag to them. He said that recently two different people had been at the site looking around. He said they may be thinking of doing something there.

Speaking of flags, the new Belle Tire store that was approved by VBT on Feb. 7 has a flag as part of its site plan. The architect representing Belle Tire said the company standard is a big flag that's 20'x30', but the new store on Belleville Road will have a flag half that size.

He said township officials recommended reducing the size of the flag. He didn't say they had to reduce the size to build, but, it's true that Belle Tire had to reduce the size of the flag if they wanted approval.

Consultant Sally Hodges said the DDA overlay zone has a limit on flag size and although there are a few "grandfathered" big flags on Belleville Road, they do not want any more.

There were a lot of questions last Wednesday afternoon (Feb. 8) about why a Channel 4 TV truck, with its broadcasting antenna

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



extended, was in downtown Belleville for hours, extending into the early evening.

I watched the 5 o'clock news to find out and saw news reporter Roger Weber telecasting live from downtown Belleville, with Higgeson & Neal Funeral Home and Jet's Pizza in the background, telling the story of the minister who got a parishioner to confess to raping a 9-year-old girl. And, then the minister went to police.

The question of confidentiality is what caused the story to go nationwide, with reports in U.S.A. Today, New York Times, Newsmax, Time, and other publications. The case went to the Appeals Court and likely will head on to the Michigan Supreme Court later.

The stories in the two Detroit daily papers and TV reports said the church and the police were in Belleville. Actually, this all took place in Van Buren Township and the police the minister went to see were in Van Buren Township.

You can understand how confusing this must be to the outside reporters. We are all Belleville, but the 48111 Belleville is divided up into the two townships and the city.

And, "Belleville" police, may turn out to really be in Van Buren or Sumpter.

The Free Press wanted a mug shot from Belleville PD, but Belleville had to tell the newspaper to ask VBT.

Ruth Kissell of Belleville attended last

week's meeting at September Days on safety for seniors. VBT Police Officer Adam Byrd reported on crime trends and gave safety tips.

The one that most struck Ruth was the suggestion to engrave valuables with a special number that you would recognize so stolen goods can be positively identified when recovered. I think she's going to do that.

She said there were 15 people there and Officer Byrd told them that fraud is the No. 1 crime against seniors, since thieves figure that seniors have nest eggs. He counseled them to be proactive and not to live in fear. He said not to be in a hurry and take the time to check things out. If someone calls and needs information about your credit card, tell them you'll call them back at the number on the back of your card.

She said that a lot of good information was given out in just an hour. She said Byrd told them to cooperate with an armed robber and give him what he wants, but be alert, so you can be a great witness when he is apprehended.

The man who reportedly got shot while chopping wood in VBT turned out to have a shard of metal from his maul embedded in his arm and it wasn't a bullet, after all.



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Letters

'You do not have right to make me pay for evil'

To the Editor: The following is an open letter to President Obama.

February 10, 2012
President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington D.C. 20500
Dear Mr. President:

Your "compromise" on the HHS mandate requiring all insurance companies to pay for "All Food and Drug Administration approved contraceptive methods, sterilization procedures, and patient education and counseling for all women with reproductive capacity" is NO improvement at all in protecting the religious freedom to object to paying for the ending of pre-born life.

Insurance companies simply pass on all costs of health care to the people who pay for insurance in the form of premiums.

Thus, it is still a requirement for all employers who provide health care to pay for abortifacients, with NO exceptions, whatsoever.

This issue is NOT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH VS. WOMEN'S HEALTH. It is about the federal government forcing anyone to buy products or services for other people that the payer believes to be

morally evil.

Our Creator has endowed us with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These rights are the foundation of our Constitution. These rights DO NOT include forcing one person to pay for the choices of another person just because that second person feels entitled.

The original HHS Mandate and today's proposed "compromise" are just as egregious violations of religious freedom as would be a requirement for all butchers, including Jewish or Muslim ones, to provide free pork for anyone who demanded it.

As I stated in my last letter, this issue will not go away quietly. You are simply providing a forum for people who believe that life begins at conception to be more urgent in informing neighbors about fertility, and the everyday ethical implications that affect each of us.

You do not have the right to make me pay for evil. I will continue to do my best to persuade friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers and strangers that life begins at conception and that you are hostile to pre-born life.

I write this letter on my mother's 82nd birthday. If abortion had been the law of the land in 1929 or 1930, I would most likely not be here today. Her birth-mother was a music student at the University of Michigan. My mother was adopted into a loving family.

My mother is now a great-grandmother. If her mother had followed the norms of today's society, the world would be missing my mother and 10 direct descendants, so far. One of her granddaughters is about to graduate from medical school. Another one is about to enter college as a piano performance major. I am grateful that my grandmother's choices were restricted to a point.

She was able to pass on the responsibility of her choice to a loving, willing family. My birth grandmother continued on in her life, and quite a number of us were able to begin life. Our society needs to return to embracing the sanctity of human life.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth A. Verde
Belleville

Note: In a previous letter to President Obama, I stated that most contraceptives have the back-up function of rendering the uterine lining hostile to a fertilized egg, and as such are, by definition, abortifacient. Some contraceptives rely on this function as their primary purpose. The information is available on package inserts.

"The price of democracy is constant vigilance"

--Edmond Burke



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Belleville Area Independent

More Letters

Thank you for help with Sunday's BACA dinner

To the Editor:

The weather was chilly and blowy outside, but inside the Masonic Lodge it was cozy and friendly. Thanks to the few people who ventured out on the chilly blowy day to support the Belleville Area Council for the Arts at the first dinner for the land/building fundraising project. Many thanks to Masonic Lodge for the use of the facility.

The dinner could not have happened without all the effort Grace Smith put forth towards the event. BACA members and friends who gave up their Sunday to help deserve a big thank you as well: Pam and Doug Dalton, Neil and Thelma Griffin, Jean Morris, Denise Partridge, Alicia Smith, Paul Atkins, Carol Betts, and Bob Mytych.

I want to give many thanks to Masonic Lodge for the use of the facility. Thanks to the Bayou Grill for their support. Donors for the Chinese Auction items to be thanked are Elizabeth Dobbs, Jean Morris, Denise Partridge, Grace Smith, Judy Donahue, Diana Adams, Judy Hendrix, Lasondra Smith, and Doug Rutoski.

If you didn't come I am told you missed a good meal and a fun afternoon. Maybe next month?

Kay Atkins, president

Belleville Area Council for the Arts

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Obituaries



Frances Dianne McCoy

FRANCES DIANNE McCOY

(October 1, 1953 - February 11, 2012)

Frances Dianne McCoy, age 58, of Belleville, went home to be with the Lord on February 11, 2012. Frances was the daughter of Virginia and Edward Scott. She was the loving wife of Pastor Tim McCoy; dear mother of James E. (Angela), Donald R. (Melanie) and Tia C. (Brad Schellenberger). Grandmother (Nana) of Cameron, Miranda, Donovan, Jordyn, Devin, Garrett and Shelby. Also survived by her mother, sister Geraldine Frye and brothers Edward, Robert, David, Sam, Larry and Al Scott. Preceded in death by her brother Jerry Wayne Scott and her father.

A Gathering will be held at 10 a.m., Thursday, February 16, at First Baptist Church of Canton, 44500 Cherry Hill (at Sheldon Rd.) until the 11 a.m. Celebration of Life.

Arrangements were by L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, Canton. Share a "memorial tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com.

LEONARD DAYMON, JR.

(June 19, 1928 - February 8, 2012)

Mr. Leonard Daymon, Jr. age 83, of Belleville, MI, passed away Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born June 19, 1928 in Dearborn, MI, son of the late Leonard Allen & Gladys Elizabeth (Palmer) Daymon.

Mr. Daymon proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force. He owned and operated his Sod Farm for numerous years and was a member of the NRA. He also prided himself on taking care of his son.

Leonard is survived by his son Lawrence Daymon of Belleville, MI, a sister Beverly (Jack) McLeoud of South Lyon, MI, brother-in-law Robert (Carole) Cronkrite of Elizabethtown, IL, also numerous nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Winona Sue (Cronkrite) Daymon on January 9, 2006, sisters Shirley Shingler, Aleine Nunnery, Carol Yarbrough, also brothers Glenn and Robert Daymon.

Visitation was 3-6 PM Saturday, February 11, 2012 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Graveside Services were in Peters Creek Cemetery, Elizabethtown, IL.

Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Brenda L. Cervelli

BRENDA L. CERVELLI

(May 1, 1952 - February 7, 2012)

Brenda Lee Cervelli, age 59, of Ypsilanti, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI, passed away Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at her home. She was born May 1, 1952 in Detroit, MI, daughter of the late Leslie Whitney & Jeanette Joan (Platter) Bloodworth.

Brenda was a Christian woman who was pursuing a degree in Social Work. She was a former member of the Ypsilanti Eagles Aerie. She enjoyed volunteer work, shopping for antiques, playing Bingo, reading, riding motorcycles, crafts and crocheting. Most of all, she loved time spent with her family, especially her grandchildren.

She is survived by her life partner and best friend Ronald Pagereski of Ypsilanti, a daughter Leslie (David) Dubin of Ypsilanti, a son Ronald (Carla) Pagereski of Ypsilanti, two step-children Donna (Tim Deines) Cervelli of Lansing, MI and Mark Cervelli of Wayne, MI, 5 grandchildren, 7 siblings Raymond (Carolyn) Bloodworth of River Rouge, MI, Linda (Gary) Lochner of Belleville, MI, Leslie Thomas (Karla) Bloodworth of Belleville, Sherry (Jim) Cicerelli of Sharpsburg, Georgia, Jettie Hagerman of Belleville, Henry Bloodworth of Sharpsburg, Georgia and Gerry Allen (Kim) Bloodworth of Ypsilanti, numerous nieces & nephews, cousins, friends, also her beloved dog, Sarah.

She was preceded in death by her parents, also her husband Frank Cervelli in 1999.

Visitation was Thursday, February 9, 1-8 PM and Friday, February 10, 11-1 PM with a 1 PM Funeral at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Pastor James Schenck officiated. Interment was in Knollwood Memorial Park, Canton, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to Heartland Hospice and would be greatly appreciated by the family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for them to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

WILLIAM PITYLAK, JR.

(March 1, 1924 - February 8, 2012)

William Pitylak, Jr., age 87, of Belleville, MI, passed away Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at his home. He was born March 1, 1924 in Lincoln Park, MI, son of the late William & Angeline (Smolarek) Pitylak, Sr.

He graduated from Flat Rock High School and went on to proudly serve his country in the U.S. Army during WWII and received a Purple Heart. He was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville. He was a long-time participant in the Wayne County Fair and 4H. He enjoyed photography and bird watching.

Mr. Pitylak is survived by two daughters, Cathie (Gerald) Gentz of Willis, MI and Colleen (James) Hegarty of Belleville, two sons, William Pitylak, III of Diamondale, MI and John (Valda) Pitylak of Belleville, 15 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and one on-the-way, two brothers Mitchell (Dorothy) Pitylak of Trenton, MI and Alexander Pitylak of Troy, MI, a sister Barbara Kadlec of Grawn, MI, a brother-in-law Walter Rakoczy of Dearborn Heights, MI, also numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Elmira Mildred "Millie" Pitylak in 1989, a son Joseph David Pitylak in 2004, a brother Stanley Pitylak, a sister Helen Rakoczy, also a sister-in-law, Mary Pitylak.

Visitation was 1-8 PM Sunday, February 12, with a 7 PM Prayer Service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. A Funeral Mass was held Monday, February 13, 2012 at 1:00 PM at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville with visitation Noon-1 PM. Father Thomas H. Cusick served as Celebrant. Interment was in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association or Legacy Children and would be greatly appreciated by the family. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a story for his family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

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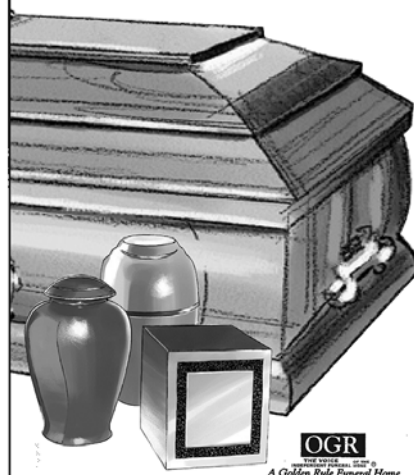
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Obituaries



Lillian Sylvester

LILLIAN A. SYLVESTER

(November 3, 1934 - February 11, 2012)

Lillian Ann Sylvester, age 77, of Monroe, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI, passed away Saturday, February 11, 2012 at Lutheran Home of Monroe. She was born November 3, 1934 in Huron Township, MI, daughter of the late Stanley Banas & Helen (Tokarz) Filipkowski. She was a former member of St. Michael Lutheran Church in Wayne, MI. She was also a member of a Farmer's Association and was a 4-H Leader for several years.

Lillian is survived by a son Earl E. Sylvester of Garden City, MI; four daughters Suzanne (Arthur) Brancheau of Newport, MI, Sallie (Rob) Sylvester of Clackamas, Oregon, Sandra (Scott) Heard of Fenton, MI and Sylvia (Brian) Render of Hartland, MI; 8 grandchildren Heather Sylvester, Brad (Lindsey) Sylvester, Mary, Melisa and Michael Brancheau, Jamie (Mike) Wilhelm, Kelly and Sarah Render; 11 great-grandchildren Eli, Noah, Seth, Savannah, Louie, Gabby, Lexie, Brooklyn, Carter, Joshua and Baby Brancheau; three brothers Stanley Banas of Belleville, Carl (Norma) Banas of Olive Hill, KY and Walter (Pat) Banas of New Boston, MI; a sister Josephine (Larry) Kalfayan of Newport; also numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, loving step-father Roman Filipkowski, her loving husband Embert "Sonny" Sylvester, also a sister-in-law Ethel Banas.

Visitation was 12-3 PM Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at the Lutheran Home, 1236 S. Monroe Street, Monroe, MI with a 3:00 PM Funeral Service. Interment followed in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Lutheran Home of Monroe or Promedica Erie West Hospice and would be appreciated by the family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

GriefShare to hold Wednesday sessions at Romulus Wesleyan

A series of 13 weekly sessions will be offered locally by the internationally recognized grief seminar/support group, GriefShare.

The sessions will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, Feb. 22-May 23, at Romulus Wesleyan Church, 37300 Goddard Road, at Huron River Drive in Romulus. For information, call the church at 734-941-1511 or see the web site at www.griefshare.org.

The \$15 registration fee includes the workbook/journal. GriefShare is a non-denominational, Christian-based program.

HAROLD E. BOBO

(July 6, 1928 - February 13, 2012)

Harold Eugene Bobo, age 83, of Belleville, MI, passed away Monday, February 13, 2012 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born July 6, 1928 in Tennessee, son of the late Charlie Justice & Lulla Belle (Baker) Bobo.

Mr. Bobo loved watching sports, especially the Detroit Tigers. He also enjoyed playing cards and loved drives to Tennessee.

He is survived by four children Ronald (Wendy) Bobo of Manchester, MI, Cathy (Wendell) Bolin of Lady Lake, Florida, Michael (Tami) Bobo of Ocala, Florida and Janice (Charles) Eaton of New Boston, MI, two step-children Vonda (Chris) Derryberry-Meyer of Granite Bay, California and Terry (Carla) Derryberry of Belleville, MI, ten grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, a brother, Rufus Bobo, and a sister, Dorothy Griffy, both of Columbia, Tennessee and a sister, Joyce Hutton, of McMinnville, Tennessee, also several nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Charlise Marie (Lock) Bobo, his second wife Mary Louise (Derryberry) Bobo, a daughter Peggy Louise Eichenhauer, also several siblings.

A gathering will be 3-5 PM Saturday, February 18, 2012 with a 5:00 PM Memorial Service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association or American Heart Association and would be appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to cherish.

Western Wayne County Genealogical Society to meet on Feb. 27

The Western Wayne County Genealogical Society will meet on Monday, Feb. 27, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, in Livonia.

The meeting, which begins at 6:30 p.m., is a joint meeting with the Farmington Genealogical Society.

Kathryn Lake Hogan will present two talks. She will give information on "Digging Your Canadian Roots," which will give techniques and tips for successfully researching Canadian roots.

Then, she will present "Mapping Your Ancestors' Footsteps," which will bring the use of maps, atlases, and gazetteers to the forefront of individuals' genealogical research.

The meetings are open to the public and guests are always welcome.

For more information, visit the website www.rootsweb.com/~miwwcgs/

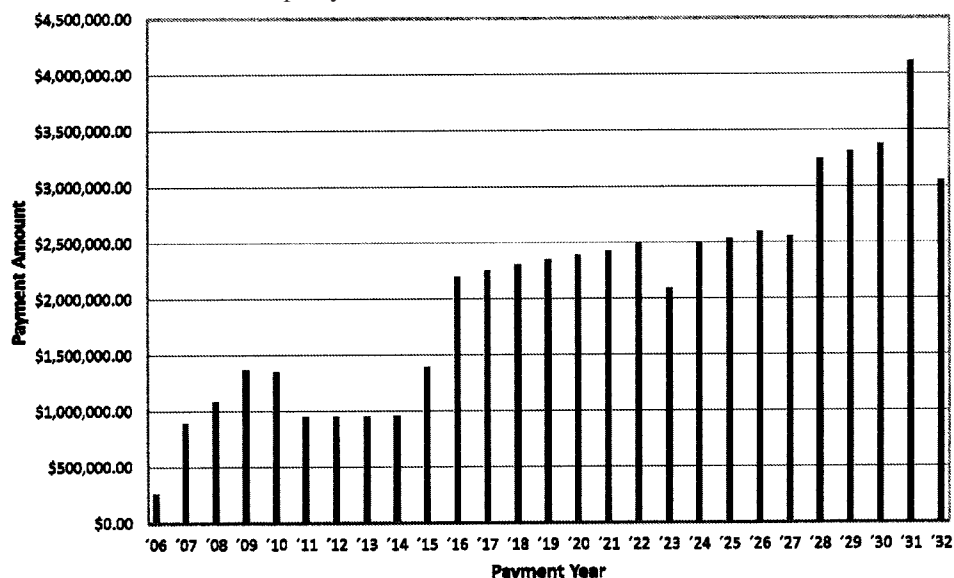
Girl Scout cookies will be available at Walmart on Feb. 18, March 24

Girl Scout cookies will be available for sale from a booth at Walmart on Belleville Road from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18, and Saturday, March 24.

More Letters

Visteon Bond Payment Schedule

Graph by Carl Johnson, with information from LDFA



A critical look at Van Buren Township's LDFA

To the Editor:

You may have heard about the bond issue in Allen Park, where the city purchased property at twice the appraised value, securing over \$20 million in bonds for a movie studio? The studio left the community, leaving the city with years of bond payments on a largely vacant building site. In 2011, the city of Allen Park rejected a 3.3-mill increase for debt retirement to pay off the movie studio bonds.

Our situation is similar and in many ways worse. We issued bonds in the amount of \$25.8 million for Visteon to build their Headquarters in VBT. **We don't own the property or even have a lien.** In 2032, by the time we pay off the bonds and the interest, we the taxpayers and our children will be paying \$56 million in principle and interest and **we don't own the property.**

At this time, the single responsibility for the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) is to administer the Visteon Village/Grace Lake Bonds.

The 2012 annual bond payment is \$953,752. The interest rates and payments increase in 2015. By the year 2016, the payment will double to \$2.2 million. By the year 2031 our annual payment will be \$4.1 million. Please keep in mind that per the bond agreement, the bond payments come first on every year's budget, putting Public Safety, and other township services in jeopardy.

The LDFA meetings are not televised. In 2011, the LDFA cancelled 9 meetings. Two of their 3 meetings were held at 2 p.m. while most taxpayers were at work. The LDFA is proposing bylaw changes which were copied from a nearby junior college. They have proposed that there will be no debate at their meetings, encourage 48-hour notice if you wish to speak, require signing your name and address, and encourage each speaker to provide written copies of their statements.

I believe these bylaw changes are overly restrictive. The LDFA should conduct their meetings identically to our other committees or board meetings.

After attending all the 2011 LDFA meetings, I found there is not a good representation of the Board of Trustees. Board comments and directives are not correctly reported to the LDFA by either the Supervisor or Planning Director.

The LDFA has discussions and come to decisions via e-mail, which is against Michigan's Open Meetings Act; writing minutes as if the votes were done in the public view.

I believe we need much better communication from government and to have a township finance expert on the LDFA. Our 2 school representatives need to become actively involved in LDFA matters.

The LDFA needs to work for us, the taxpayers. The members should be responsive to the taxpayers with meetings run no differently than any other meeting in the township.

Thanks for your time,
Diane Madigan, Van Buren Township

Why not consider old high school for library?

To the Editor:

I know there are four or five location sites to choose from for our new library. I'm in favor of rehabbing our existing library.

However, in the event that suggestion is dismissed, I'm wondering if saving a part of our not-so-old high school might be a possibility: Lots of square footage, good location, plenty of parking area. And, most of all, I think it would be the most cost-effective way to go.

I'm not sure when the wrecking ball is due to go to work, but I hope those on the selection committee will give our old high school a good, long, and hard look.

Thanks a lot,
Jim Graham, Belleville

Sumpter Township 2011 Employee Pay and Benefits

Employee Name	Wages	Health Care BCN	Dental	Life Insurance	STD/LTD	Fica Wages	Union Pension/457	Total Fringes
Leroy Campbell	\$ 70,392.94	\$ 5,499.22	\$ 453.00	\$ 472.68	\$ 786.96	\$ 4,364.36	\$ 5,603.41	\$ 92,854.49
Marvin Drews	\$ 64,196.42	\$ 4,900.84	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 275.76	\$ 764.88	\$ 4,911.12	\$ 5,123.72	\$ 87,868.46
Michael Karl	\$ 45,921.07	\$ 4,625.50	\$ 453.00	\$ 47.50	\$ 767.28	\$ 3,512.97	\$ 3,673.70	\$ 61,900.22
John Krushlin	\$ 70,707.56	\$ 4,900.84	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 84.96	\$ 781.32	\$ 5,409.11	\$ 5,628.60	\$ 94,247.15
Dawn Maynard	\$ 45,169.56	\$ 14,318.40	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 84.96	\$ 699.84	\$ 3,455.63	\$ 3,593.59	\$ 73,292.90
Alan Bates	\$ 7,408.50	\$ 5,151.20				\$ 107.40	\$ 107.42	\$ 12,774.52
William Hamm#	\$ 10,542.12	\$ 5,542.20				\$ 152.82	\$ 152.86	\$ 16,390.00
Linda Kennedy	\$ 10,542.12	\$ 5,542.20				\$ 152.82	\$ 152.82	\$ 16,389.96
Peggy Morgan	\$ 11,563.20	\$ 6,371.08				\$ 167.66	\$ 167.66	\$ 18,269.60
Denise Komora	\$ 43,900.17	\$ 12,653.24	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 84.96	\$ 699.84	\$ 3,358.36	\$ 3,491.98	\$ 70,253.55
Craig Moody	\$ 47,735.04	\$ 14,318.40	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 182.88	\$ 738.48	\$ 3,651.68	\$ 5,728.20	\$ 78,735.52
Johnny Vawters	\$ 20,800.49	\$ 5,542.20		\$ 78.84		\$ 1,591.29	\$ 301.60	\$ 28,314.42
Timothy Armstrong	\$ 4,935.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 71.56	\$ 71.55	\$ 5,078.11
Christopher Brown	\$ 423.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 6.14	\$ 6.13	\$ 435.27
Richard Brown	\$ 2,796.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 40.54	\$ 40.54	\$ 2,877.08
Ronald Brown	\$ 263.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 3.81	\$ 3.81	\$ 270.62
Josh Beaudrie	\$ 105.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 1.52	\$ 1.52	\$ 108.04
Dan Gonczy	\$ 669.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 9.73	\$ 9.73	\$ 688.46
Jamie Goode	\$ 7,755.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 112.45	\$ 112.45	\$ 7,979.90
Gregg Horn	\$ 381.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 5.52	\$ 5.52	\$ 392.04
William Hamm-Fire	\$ 2,343.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 33.98	\$ 33.98	\$ 2,410.96
Joseph Januzyk	\$ 2,595.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 37.62	\$ 37.62	\$ 2,670.24
Martin Kalasz	\$ 3,351.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 48.58	\$ 48.58	\$ 3,448.16
John Krushlin-Fire	\$ 5,811.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 84.29	\$ 84.29	\$ 5,979.58
Donald Laporte	\$ 4,164.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 60.39	\$ 60.39	\$ 4,284.78
Donald Laporte Jr	\$ 933.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 13.54	\$ 13.54	\$ 960.08
Collin Lynch	\$ 5,676.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 82.30	\$ 82.30	\$ 5,840.60
Michael Mchenry	\$ 2,640.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 38.29	\$ 38.29	\$ 2,716.58
Leslie Powell	\$ 24,088.04	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 349.27	\$ 349.27	\$ 24,786.58
Jason Reeves	\$ 657.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 9.54	\$ 9.54	\$ 676.08
Scott Rhodes	\$ 2,853.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 41.38	\$ 41.38	\$ 2,935.76
Jeremy Srock	\$ 708.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 10.26	\$ 10.26	\$ 728.52
Christopher Scott	\$ 2,448.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 35.51	\$ 35.51	\$ 2,519.02
Jennifer Scott	\$ 1,044.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 15.15	\$ 15.15	\$ 1,074.30
Kyle Simmons	\$ 1,224.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 17.75	\$ 17.75	\$ 1,259.50
William Simmons	\$ 4,473.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 64.89	\$ 64.89	\$ 4,602.78
Richard Sliwa	\$ 3,354.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 48.63	\$ 48.63	\$ 3,451.26
Anthony Spitznagel	\$ 1,782.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 25.85	\$ 25.85	\$ 1,833.70
Scott Spoonamore	\$ 1,149.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 16.67	\$ 16.67	\$ 1,182.34
Shauna Spoonamore	\$ 2,439.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 35.39	\$ 35.39	\$ 2,509.78
James Stumpf	\$ 3,746.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 55.78	\$ 55.78	\$ 3,857.56
Walter Thompson	\$ 1,752.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 25.41	\$ 25.41	\$ 1,802.82
Patricia Wasilewski	\$ 270.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 3.93	\$ 3.93	\$ 277.86
Mary Ann Watson-Fire	\$ 804.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 11.68	\$ 11.68	\$ 827.36
Rodney Wiley	\$ 3,699.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 53.65	\$ 53.65	\$ 3,806.30
Enida Winekoff	\$ 873.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 12.66	\$ 12.66	\$ 898.32
Christina Wirts	\$ 1,245.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 18.08	\$ 18.08	\$ 1,281.16
Edward Wisniewski	\$ 5,283.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 76.60	\$ 76.60	\$ 5,436.20
Michael Wisniewski	\$ 8,433.00	Paid on call firefighters-no benefits				\$ 122.32	\$ 122.32	\$ 8,677.64
Roxanne Bardell	\$ 43,114.20	\$ 15,322.00	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 123.12	\$ 720.00	\$ 3,298.24	\$ 3,429.10	\$ 72,071.66
Maria Beaudrie	\$ 45,344.80	\$ 12,653.24	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 182.88	\$ 727.44	\$ 3,468.89	\$ 3,599.56	\$ 72,187.41
Sybil Buchanan	\$ 44,518.54	\$ 5,571.72	\$ 453.00	\$ 182.88	\$ 722.16	\$ 3,405.63	\$ 3,541.55	\$ 63,260.76
James Glahn	\$ 70,954.00	\$ 14,318.40	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 275.76	\$ 876.96	\$ 5,427.93	\$ 8,514.48	\$ 108,603.09
Clarence Hoffman Jr	\$ 18,800.57	\$ 5,542.20		\$ 78.84		\$ 272.54	\$ 272.54	\$ 24,966.69
Esther Hurst	\$ 53,897.13	\$ 5,499.22		\$ 275.76	\$ 848.76	\$ 4,123.13	\$ 6,467.65	\$ 76,523.49
Brian Buntine	\$ 83.25	Part time no benefits				\$ 6.36		\$ 89.61
Jennifer Masel	\$ 707.76	Part time no benefits				\$ 54.13		\$ 761.89
Karen Armatis	\$ 50,905.36	\$ 12,653.24	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 182.88	\$ 759.60	\$ 3,894.20	\$ 6,108.64	\$ 80,884.76
John Morgan	\$ 18,800.57	\$ 5,542.20		\$ 177.72			\$ 272.6	\$ 24,793.09
John Ashby	\$ 32,377.89	\$ 4,900.84	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 57.00	\$ 849.36	\$ 2,476.86	\$ 2,690.63	\$ 54,061.02
Danielle Buccelato	\$ 67,814.83	\$ 14,318.40	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 102.60	\$ 776.16	\$ 5,187.82	\$ 5,635.42	\$ 104,265.27
Raymond Byrne	\$ 34,070.84	\$ 14,318.40	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 102.60	\$ 925.44	\$ 2,606.43	\$ 2,831.27	\$ 65,861.02
Colleen Carefelle	\$ 45,895.52	Part time no benefits				\$ 3,511.04		\$ 49,406.56
James Cayce	\$ 74,829.77	\$ 5,499.22	\$ 453.00	\$ 70.80	\$ 849.36	\$ 5,724.45	\$ 6,218.32	\$ 103,931.80

(continued on page 10)

Sumpter Township 2011 Employee Pay and Benefits

(continued from page 9)

Jerry Cox Jr	\$ 659.04	\$ 2,408.70	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 11.80	\$ 144.70	\$ 50.42	\$ 54.77	\$ 14,177.07
Michael Czinski	\$ 39,483.42	\$ 14,318.40	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 102.60	\$ 894.60	\$ 3,020.49	\$ 3,281.09	\$ 69,208.48
Elizabeth Egerer	\$ 62,582.93	\$ 14,318.40	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 57.00	\$ 826.68	\$ 4,787.58	\$ 5,200.70	\$ 98,203.33
Patrick Gannon	\$ 79,261.08	\$ 14,318.40	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 70.80	\$ 888.36	\$ 6,063.45	\$ 6,586.63	\$ 118,962.04
Lou Ann Hamblin	\$ 9,922.53	Part time no benefits				\$ 759.07		\$ 10,681.60
Philip Jablonksi	\$ 69,735.28	\$ 4,900.84		\$ 349.80	\$ 826.68	\$ 5,334.72	\$ 5,795.03	\$ 96,080.83
Chaim Kozak	\$ 7,578.19	Part time no benefits				\$ 579.73		\$ 8,157.92
Jewel Leonard	\$ 47,242.03	\$ 12,653.24	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 623.52	\$ 770.16	\$ 3,627.91	\$ 3,765.93	\$ 74,893.39
Eric Luke	\$ 74,595.08	\$ 14,318.40	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 57.00	\$ 888.36	\$ 5,706.54	\$ 6,198.86	\$ 113,648.92
Roger Mayfield	\$ 1,966.77	\$ 7,226.10	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 70.80	\$ 888.36	\$ 150.45	\$ 163.44	\$ 21,313.56
Christopher McGlynn	\$ 73,907.79	\$ 14,318.40	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 70.80	\$ 888.36	\$ 5,804.42	\$ 6,141.78	\$ 112,904.87
David Mckeon	\$ 2,869.37	Part time no benefits				\$ 219.51		\$ 3,088.88
Steven Michalek	\$ 2,508.57					\$ 191.90		\$ 2,700.47
James Pierce	\$ 63,861.90	\$ 5,542.20		\$ 349.80	\$ 895.68	\$ 4,885.52	\$ 7,663.42	\$ 89,244.28
Daniel Roulo	\$ 25,480.26	Part time no benefits				\$ 1,949.22		\$ 27,429.48
Brian Steffani	\$ 4,199.86	Part time no benefits				\$ 321.28		\$ 4,521.14
John Toth	\$ 68,568.15	\$ 14,318.40	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 57.00	\$ 849.36	\$ 5,245.46	\$ 5,698.02	\$ 105,444.83
Malissa Baker-Paulk	\$ 52,020.19	\$ 14,318.40	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 57.00	\$ 518.00	\$ 3,979.54	\$ 2,601.00	\$ 78,887.53
Susan Dufresne	\$ 42,173.53	\$ 12,653.24	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 229.80	\$ 518.52	\$ 3,226.25	\$ 2,108.67	\$ 65,988.05
John MacNicol	\$ 23,544.95	Part time no benefits				\$ 1,801.18		\$ 25,346.13
Jackie Poley	\$ 40,526.08	\$ 12,653.24	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 43.80	\$ 493.20	\$ 3,100.22	\$ 2,026.30	\$ 63,920.88
Lisa Pond-Wallace	\$ 32,777.32	\$ 14,318.40	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 70.80	\$ 493.08	\$ 2,507.46	\$ 1,638.86	\$ 56,883.96
Michael Dayne	\$ 1,528.54	Part time no benefits				\$ 116.92		\$ 3,151.58
Denise Droulliard	\$ 19,542.23	\$ 3,370.23	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 91.44	\$ 634.68	\$ 1,495.00	\$ 1,563.39	\$ 32,226.61
Mary Ann Watson	\$ 40,152.94	\$ 14,318.40	\$ 1,291.56	\$ 123.12	\$ 647.40	\$ 3,071.67	\$ 3,200.21	\$ 67,126.26

\$ 1,984,453.35 \$ 390,278.57 \$ 36,231.12 \$ 5,089.58 \$ 24,573.06 \$ 139,625.08 \$ 143,092.65 \$ 2,944,861.85

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Belleville DDA names John Hoops chairman in annual election

John Hoops is the new chairman of the Belleville Downtown Development Authority.

Hoops, who had served as DDA vice chairman, replaces Kerreen Conley in the chairman's position.

Conley, who has been elected the city's mayor, continues to serve on the DDA since the mayor is a member of the DDA. She moved a few chairs over and the leadership now is in Hoops' hands.

James Higgerson is vice-chairman,

Sabrina Richardson-Williams continues as treasurer, and Gary Snarski is the new secretary, taking over Higgerson's former position.

The annual election took place at the DDA's regular meeting Jan. 18.

The DDA agreed to continue meeting at 6 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month.

In other business on Jan. 18, the DDA:

- Heard Glenn Silvenis tell of his problems with his building that he said was damaged by contractors during the streetscape work on Main Street. He was directed to contact the contractor;

- Got volunteers Snarski and Ken Voigt to represent the DDA on a planning commission subcommittee to work on a city sign ordinance.

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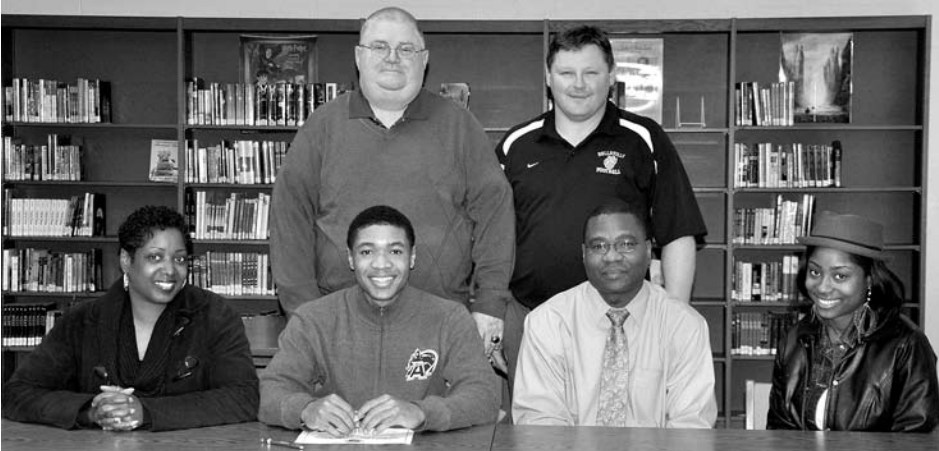


Photo courtesy Van Buren Public Schools

Belleville High School senior Jerome Roberson recently signed a letter of intent to play football at the United States Military Academy at West Point. In the photo from the left is his mother Lisa, Jerome, his father Jerome, Sr., and his sister Brittany. In back, from left, are BHS coaches Wes Wishart and Matt Davenport.

Belleville's Jerome Roberson signs to play football for West Point

Last week, Belleville High School Jerome Roberson signed a letter of intent to play football for the United States Military Academy, West Point, according to a news release from the Van Buren Public Schools.

Jerome had to decide between Central Michigan University, the University of New Mexico and West Point, and he chose West Point.

"It [West Point] offered the best choices

in the long run because all of the great benefits that came with the school," Jerome said.

Even though he won't choose a major until his junior year, Jerome is leaning in the direction of Foreign Area Studies because he has a great desire to travel the world.

His mother and father, Lisa and Jerome, Sr., a guidance counselor at BHS, are very proud and excited for him. Roberson says, "They know I looked ahead 10 to 15 years instead of just immediate gratification. They said I'm very mature for making this decision."

His sisters Brittany and Saybin are both fully supportive and pleased with the choice he made.

Jerome said that his football coach Matt Davenport is also always supportive and looking out for him.

For a young man who started playing football at 8 years old, playing for West Point seems like a natural choice, the news release said.

BHS Tigers bow to Truman Cougars, 69-63

Despite a nine-point lead with under five minutes remaining in regulation, the Belleville Tigers basketball team watched their lead diminish in the closing moments and ended up losing to Taylor Truman 69-63 on Feb. 8, played at Truman High School.

The loss put the Belleville's record to 8-6 for the year.

Trailing by two to start the final period, Belleville rallied to take the lead and built a nine-point cushion only to see it unravel with turnovers in the final minutes.

Already in foul trouble from a game plan of a full court press, the Tiger offense had to place their regular starters on the bench at times, as early as the second quarter.

With players Bryce Moon, Jay Roberson, and Marquis Patterson in foul trouble, Coach Don Hicks inserted Jamie Pearson, who rose to the task and tallied a game-high 33 points. Roberson and team-mate Roderick Walker each scored nine points in the losing effort.

Belleville's games this week included two tough home games with Dearborn on Tuesday and a rematch with rival Romulus on Friday night.

Belleville Area Museum has copies of 'Golden Snapshots'

The Belleville Area Museum announces that hardcover copies of "Golden Snapshots: Real Stories by Real People" is on sale in the museum gift shop.

"Golden Snapshots" was written by D'Angelo and Greene Askew, along with the Humanities Committee of the Wayne County Council for the Arts, History and Humanities.

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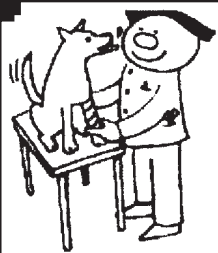
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Group home

(continued from page 1)

body position, had been dragged into the hallway. When police arrived, the body was in full rigor mortis, indicating he had died sometime during the night.

Toth said the prosecutor used the phrase, "but for the fact he was sleeping..." in the warrant.

But when Toth brought the warrants to court last year, "We lost all the key witnesses" who had relocated and Judge Oakley said they could not continue without the witnesses.

So, Toth obtained investigative subpoenas and went to the residences of the witnesses and roused them out of bed early in the morning to make sure they could be found. Then, Monday's exam was held and Williams was bound over.

Toth said the situation of mental health care in Michigan is terrible and, since many mental institutions closed, people are put in group homes where care givers have minimum training and are paid low wages with no insurance or benefits.

Toth said Williams didn't want to work the night shift, but he had no choice and no other job.

Toth said the prosecution of Williams is the first step in the case.

Belleville Area Museum looking for quilts to display during March

The Belleville Area Museum is looking for quilts to display during the month of March. Both contemporary and antique quilts are needed.

Area quilters are encouraged to loan quilts for display; vintage family quilts are also welcome. The Quilt Exhibit will run from March 1 through March 31 during museum hours.

Anyone wishing to loan quilts for the exhibit is asked to call the museum by Feb. 16 at 734-697-1944. The Belleville Area Museum is open Tuesdays from 3 to 7 p.m., and Wednesdays through Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m.

Pet of the Week

Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue

"TILLIE"



Hello my name is **Tillie**. I'm a shy little girl. You're probably wondering where I'm at - I'm the tiny little beagle cowering in the back of my kennel. You see I'm a little bit afraid of crowds. But once you get me home and I feel safe I promise to come out of my shell and love you with all my little heart. I get along with just about any other dog and when I was fostered with two bigger dogs my favorite pastime was to wrestle and chase both of them around the house. I also love my people friends, by the third week I was running to greet my foster family at the door to be pet and loved on. I do have to admit that when I first get into new environments it can take me awhile to get used to things and even normal things like doors or drawers opening, vacuuming and other loud noises can make me nervous. My foster mom said it's very important to not feel sorry for me and to just treat me like a regular dog. I love to go for walks and love to sniff everything - I am a beagle after all! If you have a fenced in yard, even better since I love to run around! I am a bit afraid of thunderstorms and want to sit as close to you as possible when they happen. I may need some extra care when it comes to potty time as I can have accidents if I get nervous or spooked. Please come meet me if you think a shy, sweet little beagle girl is just what you have been missing in your life. I'm spayed, vaccinated and micro-chipped. **734-461-9458**

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Public hearing set on rezoning for funeral home in Sumpter

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A public hearing has been set for 6:35 p.m., Thursday, March 8, before the Sumpter Township Planning Commission to hear input from the community on a requested rezoning to make way for a funeral home.

The request, by Chris and Sandy Janowiak, is to rezone the property at 19865 Sumpter Road from Residential-2 to Commercial-2.

The building is 4,000 square feet on less than two acres of land.

This building was last used as site of the Salem Romanian Apostolic Church. It is next to commercial zoning and is master planned for commercial use, so planning consultant Laura Kreps said the rezoning shouldn't present a problem.

The Janowiaks currently own and operate a funeral home in Ypsilanti and this would be their second location. They have been in the business for 35 years.

At the regular Sumpter Township Planning Commission on Feb. 9, the setting of the public hearing was the first order of business.

The commission then continued discussion of proposed ordinance changes as a part of a complete update of the document with the help of planning consultant Kreps of Carlisle Wortman.

At the previous meeting on Jan. 12, the commissioners discussed general provisions, such as distance between driveways and traffic studies.

"When the economy picks up, we'll be ready for development," Kreps said.

Commission Chairman Jane Stalmack said she compared the Sumpter draft to Van Buren Township's zoning ordinances and found them very similar.

They discussed accessory structures -- attached and detached -- and setbacks for lots on the road next to easements for driveways for rear parcels. Such situations have caused a lot of sessions for the Board of Zoning Appeals in the past.

The present zoning ordinances, and the updated zoning ordinances, are to be administered by the township "zoning administrator" and no one knew who that might be.

It is expected the administrator will be someone who will be appointed by the township supervisor for the task, which has been done by the building department and police department in the past.

Currently, Deputy Clerk Esther Hurst gives out preliminary applications to people and then refers projects to the planning consultant.

There was a new section on an additional single family home on a 10-acre minimum parcel to house farm workers.

"This is one of those Right to Farm things," Kreps said. "But, we can try to have standards ... at least for discussion purposes."

The commission also discussed Home Occupations (done inside the home) and a new category, Home Business in a detached accessory building.

At the Feb. 9 meeting, the commissioners discussed open space preservation, mixed uses, new section on vehicle storage (allowing one commercial tractor and trailer over one ton with special land use approval for a property owner with more than an acre), new section for animal rescues/shelters, new section for artisan/farmers'/flea markets, new section for bed and breakfasts, and others.

When discussing tractor/trailer parking, Kreps said, "If you think of something less restrictive for the township, it's OK with me. We had to start somewhere ... We can think about that a little more."

The March 8 meeting will be devoted to the public hearing on the proposed rezoning and so the next session to discuss proposed ordinance changes will be April 12. At that

meeting the commission will begin with the Extracting and Filling ordinance.

When the whole document is updated

and approved by the planning commission, it will be sent on to the township board for a public hearing and final action.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

This drawing shows how the new Belle Tire on Belleville Road is expected to look. It will be located across from Walmart and just north of Express Tire. The special land use was approved by the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees at its Feb. 7 meeting. Belle Tire stores usually have a huge flag, 30x60', but VBT officials required them to reduce that to about half that size.

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The community is invited to the grand-opening, ribbon-cutting event this Saturday, Feb. 18, 11 a.m. at the **Lunch Box Restaurant** on Main Street. Owner **Rodney Herald** will be serving up some of his delicious gourmet deli, free cake, and other goodies. Call (734) 391-8281.

The **Paczki** are ready at the **Bake Shoppe** on Savage at Bemis Roads, now through Feb. 21, which is **Paczki Day**. The shop will open at 5 a.m. that day serving up the authentic European flavors like apple, apricot, blueberry, custard, lemon, prune, raspberry, and strawberry, all made from scratch. They're \$1.35 each, 6 for \$7.50 and 12 for \$12. Get a Baker's Dozen (13) for the price of a dozen by presenting their ad coupon from today's paper. Call (734) 699-2236.

The **Bayou Grill** on Main Street in Belleville is gearing up for its **Mardi Gras** celebration on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 21 with all-day specials on food and drink. The **Island Guys** will be performing in the evening, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Call (734) 697-2300.

There's still time to make plans to attend the **Bottle to Throttle** fundraiser for the

Yankee Air Museum this Saturday, at 6 p.m. at the museum on D Street at Willow Run Airport. Call **Tracey Frink** at (248) 840-2502 for information. The annual beer- and wine-tasting event will feature gaming tables such as craps, roulette, Texas Hold 'em Poker, Blackjack and other games.

Burhop's Collision on Davis Street in Belleville next to the railroad tracks has been serving the community since 1946 with state-certified technicians and friendly small-town service. Owners **Alan** and **Sam Arndt** will work with your insurance company to assist with deductibles and loaners. Burhop's also performs auto glass replacement and expert chip repair. Towing is available. They're open weekdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Call (734) 699-3641 or visit their website at www.burhopscollision.com.

Affordable Vet Clinic in the Secretary of State Plaza will be holding a Low-Cost Vaccine Clinic on Saturday, March 3, from 9 a.m. to noon. No exam is required and walk-ins are acceptable. For a list of vaccines available see their ad in today's paper or call **Dr. Melanie Dukes** at (734) 699-3800.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at 699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected runs for VBT Police.
For more detailed police logs, see www.bellevilleareaindependent.com.

Sunday, Feb. 5:

0113 – assault & battery, 14545 Elwell
0448 – disturbance, 63 Park Estates
0840 – assault & battery, 16560 Haggerty
1203 – private property accident, 15695 Haggerty
1426 – shots fired, 43777 Ecorse
1449 – disturbance, Walmart
1611 – assault & battery, 16560 Haggerty
2031 – disturbance, 48771 S. I-94 Service Dr.
2219 – weapons violation, 45193 Ecorse

Monday, Feb. 6:

0041 – operating while intoxicated, 10760 Belleville
0146 – assault & battery, 6233 W. Adams
0203 – assault & battery, 13042 Cumberland Ct.
0439 – private property accident, 13310 Barnwell
0737 – personal injury accident, Belleville/Tyler
0904 – intimidation threat, 5825 Vernon
1112 – disorderly conduct, 9555 Haggerty, WCCC
1123 – assault & battery, 6820 Haggerty
1234 – fraud all, 6304 Westlake
1307 – larceny, 1023 E. Huron River Dr.
1610 – fraud all, 8872 Parkwood
1930 – private property accident, 1304 Westlake
2051 – suspicious situation, 16560 Haggerty
2145 – assault & battery, 41473 McKinley
2148 – operating while intoxicated, Kmart

Tuesday, Feb. 7:

0554 – property damage accident, Haggerty School
1010 – disturbance, 94 N. Ponderosa
1043 – private property accident, 9900 Belleville
1331 – domestic violence, 94 N. Ponderosa
1347 – holdup alarm, 39670 Ecorse
1521 – assault & battery, 4102 Westlake Cir.
1617 – agency assist, EB I-94/Haggerty
1851 – fight, 16560 Haggerty
1941 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler
2120 – assault & battery, 46425 Tyler

Wednesday, Feb. 8:

0455 – suspicious person, Rawsonville/Martz
1116 – private property accident, Walmart
1204 – mental, 2035 Rawsonville
1209 – property damage accident, Michigan/Ridge
1305 – agency assist, 143 Wabash
1323 – fraud all, 8250 Hannan
1406 – harassment call, 8925 Parkwood Dr.
1442 – breaking & entering, 16560 Haggerty
1715 – property damage accident, KFC Rawsonville
1846 – fraud all, Meijer
2247 – operating while intoxicated, 2193 Rawsonville

Thursday, Feb. 9:

0107 – violation public health code/violation controlled substance act, 46425 Tyler
0847 – holdup alarm, 6720 Sadie Lane
1352 – fraud all, 6048 Victoria St.
1511 – missing person, 42901 Tyler
1528 – fraud all, Meijer
1651 – larceny from auto, 14227 Sheldon
1703 – personal injury accident, Michigan Service Dr./Denton

1703 – personal injury accident, Denton Rd./Michigan Ave.

1722 – weapons violation, 46870 Bemis
1744 – retail fraud, Meijer
1756 – shots fired, Kirkridge
1754 – disturbance, 9045 Parkwood
1831 – felony assault, 9083 Parkwood
2005 – mental, 11511 Belleville
2112 – breaking & entering, 9226 Parkwood

Friday, Feb. 10:

0356 – personal injury accident, 42915 Savage
0528 – malicious destruction of property, 9062 Parkwood
0649 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 48921 Denton
0921 – private property accident, 5910 Belleville
0944 – private property accident, 42350 Van Born
1032 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 9700 bl. Belleville
1327 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 9800 Belleville Rd.
1403 – intimidation threat, 13476 Country Walk

Blvd.

1433 – assault & battery, 10308 Westlake Cir.
1603 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler
1611 – larceny, Westlake Apartments
1618 – breaking & entering motor vehicle, 41472 E. Archwood Dr.

1637 – retail fraud, Walmart
1732 – missing person, 46000 Lake Villa Dr.
1838 – property damage accident, 41375 Van Born
1915 – property damage accident, Belle Square
2026 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton
2044 – missing person, 46000 Lake Villa Dr.
2108 – narcotics crime, 8837 Parkwood
2158 – assault & battery, 11175 Haggerty
2206 – ATV/ORV complaint, 16800 Lohr
2348 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Alden

Saturday, Feb. 11:

0134 – property damage accident, 8701 Belleville
0515 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Haggerty
1054 – civil matter, 16560 Haggerty
1156 – property damage accident, Belleville / Belleville Square
1248 – agency assist, 143 W. Wabash
1417 – intimidation threat, 10942 Buchanan
1453 – assault & battery, 6757 Belleville
1530 – mental, 6699 Rogers
2042 – larceny from auto, 14103 Westlake

Also on this week's log are 203 traffic stops, 23 of which were on the freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 5:

0349 -- suspicious person, Sumpter/Industrial Pk.
0817 – intrusion alarm, 265 Sumpter
1412 – intrusion alarm, 408 Lighttower
1417 – narcotics crime, 371 Church
1706 – suspicious situation, 224 N. Liberty
1749 – intrusion alarm, 300 Sumpter
1910 – intrusion alarm, 410 Harbour Pte. Dr.
2206 – suspicious vehicle, St. Anthony's
2219 – agency assist, 45193 Ecorse

Monday, Feb. 6:

0021 – fraud all, 6 Main
1324 – disorderly conduct, BHS
1433 – intrusion alarm, 410 Harbour Pte. Dr.
1927 – misc. complaint, 180 Clarence
1930 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 192 Clarence
2035 – suspicious situation, Lakeview
0818 – property check, 504 Main
1141 – vehicle lockout, Edgemont Early Childhood
1332 – disorderly conduct, BHS
1524 – intrusion alarm, 91 Belle Villa Blvd.
1621 – vehicle lockout, BHS
1907 – panic alarm, 201 Third

Wednesday, Feb. 8:

1139 – property damage accident, Estrada
1229 – domestic assault, 143 W. Wabash
1416 – assist fire dept. 275 W. Columbia Ave.,

Columbia Court

1517 – misc. complaint, 6 Main
1713 – background investigation, 285 Waterbury
1904 – warrant arrest, 6 Main
1914 – family trouble, 243 Anaheim
1938 – operating while intoxicated, Pine Creek
2124 – private property accident, 447 Victorian Ln

Thursday, Feb. 9:

0056 – misc. complaint, 6 Main
0142 – agency assist, N. Liberty/Fifth
0922 – assist fire dept., 316 Edison
0957 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave.
1006 – intrusion alarm, 573 Main
1037 – larceny, BHS
1423 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave.,

Columbia Court

1647 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville/I-94
1659 – fight, 167 Fourth St., library
1659 – fight, 167 Fourth St., library

Friday, Feb. 10:

0950 – background investigation, 160 Church
1006 – vehicle lockout, 509 N. Liberty
1043 – juvenile complaint, South Middle School
1104 – background investigation, 6 main
1214 – family trouble, 243 Church
1330 – found property, 38 Henry
1331 – private property accident, 105 Main
1526 – disturbance, BHS

1533 – suicide or attempt, 50 Clarence
1605 – assist fire dept., 795 Sumpter
1649 – agency assist, Walmart
1920 – disturbance, Lakeview
1950 – assist citizen, 250 N. Liberty
2103 – assist fire dept., 182 Dos Rios St.
2113 – breaking & entering, 400 N. Liberty
2153 – intimidation threat, 400 N. Liberty
2227 – larceny, 161 Church
2239 – intrusion alarm, South Middle School

Saturday, Feb. 11:

0033 – property check, Main/High
0247 – vehicle lockout, 231 Main
0548 – motorist assist, E. Huron River Dr./Main
1039 – misc. complaint, 185 Main
1124 – intrusion alarm, South Middle School
1201 – agency assist, 519 Victorian Ln.
1221 – civil matter, 143 W. Wabash
1346 – assist fire dept., 75 S. Liberty
1616 – information, 6 Main
1722 – information, 6 Main
1955 – assist fire dept., 492 Robbe
2058 – intrusion alarm, 562 Main
2203 – property check, BHS
2211 – assist fire dept., BHS

Also on this week's log are 36 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 5:

1039 – suspicious incident, 39000 bl. Willis
1124 – civil dispute, 43000 bl. Dunn
1414 – civil dispute, Pecan
1414 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico
1841 – animal complaint, 11000 bl. Rawsonville
2105 – assist other agency, Oakville Waltz / Sumpter

Monday, Feb. 6:

0044 – property damage accident, 9900 bl. Rawsonville
0429 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville
0957 – suspicious person, Willis/Karr
1120 – suspicious incident, Montana
1121 – ordinance violation, 47000 bl. Bemis
1551 – juvenile complaint, 51000 bl. Willis
1559 – larceny report, 20000 bl. Haggerty
1727 – juvenile complaint, 22000 bl. Fenster
1813 – missing person report, Rustic Lane
1910 – felonious assault, 45000 bl. Bemis
2007 – warrant arrest, 21000 bl. Karr
2109 – juvenile complaint, 41000 bl. Willow
2231 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter

Tuesday, Feb. 7:

0125 – suspicious person, Bohn/Bontekoe
0839 – larceny report, 21000 bl. Clark
0849 – suspicious incident, Martinsville/Judd
0926 – juvenile complaint, 41000 bl. Willow
0951 – larceny report, 21000 bl. Clark
1346 – civil dispute, 45000 bl. Willis
1607 – well-being check, 17000 bl. Sumpter
1650 – fraud complaint, 40000 bl. Harris
1808 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Harris
1854 – assist other agency, 16000 bl. Haggerty
2006 – suspicious incident, 25000 bl. Clark

Wednesday, Feb. 8:

0335 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville
0440 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville
0937 – threats complaint, 46000 bl. Thatcham Ln.
1020 – animal complaint, 25000 bl. Carleton West
1035 – identity theft report, 51000 bl. Willis
1138 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Wilmot
1336 – suspicious vehicle, 20000 bl. Haggerty
1440 – breaking & entering report, Iowa
1618 – suspicious incident, Sumpter/Willis
1754 – larceny report, 48000 bl. Judd
1821 – fire dept. assist, Creekside
1951 – identity theft report, 23000 bl. Elwell
1953 – suspicious vehicle, 50000 bl. Willis

Thursday, Feb. 9:

1209 – larceny report, 48000 bl. Willow
1339 – suspicious vehicle, 48000 bl. Willis
1449 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Bohn
1711 – larceny report, 17000 bl. Lohr
1725 – assist other agency, 46000 bl. Bemis
1750 – mental health commitment, Pecan
1826 – larceny report, Creekside
2036 – disorderly person, 25000 bl. Karr

Friday, Feb. 10:

0104 – warrant arrest, Carriage Lane

0930 – family dispute, 47000 bl. Bemis
1137 – property damage accident, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1349 – subpoena service, Pecan
1415 – animal complaint, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
1515 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Willis
1605 – well-being check, Redwood
1849 – civil dispute, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1920 – malicious destruction of property report, 18000 bl. Martinsville
2118 – animal complaint, 48000 bl. Willis
2142 – suspicious incident, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
2202 – well-being check, 17000 bl. Savage
2238 – suspicious vehicle, Rawsonville/Wear
2342 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Arkona
2348 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter

Saturday, Feb. 11:

0049 – family dispute, 46000 bl. Willis
0104 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz / Sumpter
0117 – 911 hangup investigation, Rustic Lane
0120 – suspicious incident, Hawaii
0324 – property damage accident, Willow/Clark
0750 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Utah
0921 – suspicious person, 24000 bl. Martinsville
1018 – property damage accident, 40000 bl. Harris
1654 – suspicious incident, Montana
1804 – property damage accident, 20000 bl. Sherwood
1939 – assist other agency, Rawsonville/Willow
2320 – property damage accident, Willis/Sumpter
Also on this week's log are 16 details, five miscellaneous duties, 110 patrol checks, 97 traffic stops, 11 citizen assists, and 13 follow-up investigations.

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WANTED

WANTED - SMALL CONTAINERS of Shampoo, Toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladex's, 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

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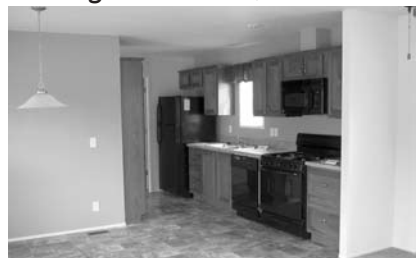
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One Call Does It All At the Independent 699-9020

VBT Board sends proposed LDFA bylaw changes back to LDFA

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

For the second time since October the proposed changes to the Local Development Finance Authority bylaws were removed from the agenda of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees and sent back to the LDFA for action.

Once the LDFA approves the revised bylaws, it can send them back to the VBT Board for ratification.

Board members wanted the changes run by the township attorney first to make sure there were no violations of the Open Meetings Act.

The bylaws item was removed from the Feb. 7 township board agenda after a lengthy discussion during the work/study session on Feb. 6.

Besides making changes to comply with state law on authority membership, the bylaw changes aim to tighten up control over audience members who want to ask questions during meetings.

For years, the LDFA met without any audience at all, or just a few people from time to time.

Last May, Charles Tackett asked the authority about payment by the township for onsite construction of Visteon Village, which he said his lawyer said was inappropriate.

Then, John Delaney started attending meetings and asking a lot of questions.

That’s when authority chairman Michael Dotson, president of Wayne County Community College District’s VBT campus, brought over a sample from WCCCD on audience participation.

The bylaws then were proposed to be tightened up to cut short audience participation.

The original changes presented to the board on Oct. 18 included a 30-minute limit on all public discussions at each LDFA meeting. The board asked the LDFA to rethink that time limit, and the LDFA eliminated that limit completely.

The LDFA also changed its original requirement that members of the public wishing to address the board must submit their name and subject 48 hours before meeting time. Now, it is only “encouraged”.

The public also is “encouraged” to provide written copies of their comments.

Now the public must sign in at the meeting if they wish to address the LDFA. Also, speakers are limited to five minutes.

Also, “there shall be no debate.”

At the Feb. 6 workshop session, Trustee Denise Partridge asked that the LDFA strike the part that says there shall be no debate.

Supervisor Paul White said if a member of the public asks a question, the director doesn’t have to answer.

“You’re supposed to be transparent,” Delaney said to White, accusing him of using this cloak to hide behind.

“This is their choice, presented to the board,” said White, who also is a voting member of the LDFA.

Trustee Al Ostrowski also questioned the part saying there shall be no debate.

Trustee Jeff Jahr said often response degenerates into a debate, and “This says anyone can ask a question, but they’re not entitled to get an answer.”

Jahr said the Open Meeting Act gives the public a right to be there and to address the body, but not to participate in the meeting of an official body.

White said it was his opinion that the 30-minute limitation didn’t comply with the Open Meetings Act.

Treasurer Sharry Budd said she would like to see the LDFA minutes accompany

the bylaws when it comes back before the board.

“This is taken right out of the Wayne County Community College meetings procedures,” said Economic Development Director Terry Carroll, after the meetings were disrupted by members of the LDFA audience. Carroll said the changes were not initiated by White or himself.

Jahr said the next step was for the LDFA to implement the bylaws, noting they have been doing it backwards. They should adopt the changes first and then send it to the township board for ratification.

Jahr said under the Open Meetings Act you can’t require a person to give a name. He suggested the document be reviewed by the township attorney before being sent

back to the LDFA.

Diane Madigan said that the LDFA is in charge of watching over the bonds sold by the township to build parts of Visteon Village. She said the \$25 million will grow to \$50 million by 2032. The township’s full faith and credit guarantees the bonds.

She said that the LDFA cancelled nine of the 12 monthly meetings in 2011. She said the authority never voted on the wording given to the township board.

Madigan said that Carroll told the authority he would work on the wording and they emailed around and never voted.

Carroll said they asked him to put the wording together to reflect what they voted upon.

(continued on page 19)

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

On February 29th, 2012, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:30am, at **J&T Towing** and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1997	FORD	2D	KNJLT05H0V6234529	11-29925
1992	PLYMOUTH	4D	1P3XA4638NF222360	11-31200
1999	CHEVROLET	4D	1G1ND52T9XY156301	11-31200
1995	HONDA	4D	1HGED5567SA105497	11-32485
1997	SATURN	4D	1G8ZK5271VZ383436	11-33063
2001	PONTIAC	4D	1G2WK52J21F263553	11-34842
1983	TOYOTA	4D	JT2AE72E9D2080862	11-35154
2000	FORD	PU	2FMZA5148YBA29884	11-35165
1997	FORD	2D	1FALP6245VH116689	11-35314
1994	FORD	PU	1FTEX15N4RKB49962	12-1128
2002	PONTIAC	4D	1G2WR52122F196403	12-2052
1997	FORD	SW	1FMDU34E0VZA99298	12-2196
1973	FORD	2D	3F04H233093	12-2944

At 11:30pm, the auction will move to **Great Lakes Towing** and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1994	BUICK	4D	1G4AG55M2R6456788	11-28627
1997	PONTIAC	2D	1G2JB1240V7539399	11-30934
1996	DODGE	PU	1B7HC16X8TS599114	11-31080
2000	FORD	4D	1FAFP56SXYA186542	11-31334
2000	CHRYSLER	SW	1C4GP54L1YB708480	11-31606
2001	PONTIAC	4D	3G7DA03E81S511678	11-31825
1997	NISSAN	4D	1N4AB41D9VC772449	11-33349
1996	BUICK	4D	1G4CU521XTH619595	11-33398
1999	FORD	SW	3FAFP15PXXR183862	11-33808
1999	FORD	SW	2FMZA5249XBB63171	11-34438
1992	ACURA	2D	JH4KA8276NC006095	11-34738
1993	SATURN	2D	1G8ZF159XPZ308473	11-34738
2000	GMC	SW	1GKFG15R5Y1192898	11-33414
1993	OLDSMOBILE	4D	1G3WH54T8PD368773	12-138
1998	CADILLAC	4D	W06VR52R0WR186925	12-366
1990	OLDSMOBILE	4D	1G3HN54C0L1844818	12-841
1997	FORD	4D	1FALP13PXVW306902	12-1220
1999	NISSAN	4D	1N4DL01D6XC205007	12-1571
1998	MERCURY	4D	1MEFM50U8WG603369	12-2072
1993	FORD	4D	1FALP52U7PA307407	12-2084

All vehicles are sold in “as is condition.” Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Leon Wright,
Van Buren Township Clerk
Published: February 16, 2012

VBT Board

(continued from page 18)

Jahr asked whether they had this document in front of them and Carroll said they had the “parent” document and now there are changes.

Carroll said to Delaney that he is the reason the changes are before the board.

At the Feb. 7 regular meeting of the township board, the board:

- Approved special land use for Belle Tire to build a commercial garage at 10595 Belleville Road, as recommended by the planning commission. A discussion was held on curb cuts on Belleville Road and cross-easements between the properties on the east side of Belleville Road;
- Approved appointment of Harry Roesch to fill the unexpired vacancy, created by the death of Tom Kryza, on the Board of Review with a term to expire Dec. 31,

2012;

• Approved the first reading of an ordinance amendment, adopting by reference a Wayne County Sewer Use ordinance update to comply with the Clean Water Act;

• Heard Supervisor White read a proclamation on behalf of the board making February Black History Month in Van Buren Township;

• Heard Mary Ban announce that she has been informed by a Washtenaw County engineer that a major overhaul of the Rawsonville/Martz intersection will be taking place which will include left turn lanes and a traffic light. A federal grant needs to be used by Sept. 30, but a 20% match is needed, she said;

• Heard John Herman thank Ban for her work to get traffic lights on Rawsonville. She already has been responsible for traffic signals installed at Willis and Bemis roads;

• Heard Herman announce that the Democrat leadership met the previous Saturday and voted to allow people to vote in both the Feb. 28 election and the caucuses on May 5. He said some people said they are proud of their voting records and wanted to vote on Feb. 28. He said as a Democrat you have to vote in the caucus. He said Sumpter and Belleville already have their caucus locations and there are a couple of options for VBT;

• Heard Madigan asked if the burned barn on Martz Road, with 15 dead roosters and five dead horses, has been ruled out as a crime scene and Public Safety Director Carl McClanahan replied, “There is no evidence of illegal activity.” She asked that a light be installed at the entrance to the township hall parking area since it is so hard to see the entrance at night. She also asked about the amendment to the 2011 budget by the planning/building department and was told

it was for grass cutting services;

• Heard Reggie Miller ask about the cancellation of the February meeting of the Public Safety Committee due to the lack of a secretary. McClanahan gave his word there would be a meeting in March. He said they are working through issues to get a union employee to act as recording secretary;

• Heard Scott Brooks report there has been another break-in in Denton and with the recent store robbery, bank robbery (just over the line in Washtenaw County), “I don’t know how you can feel safe.” He urged the board to replace the officers who have left the force;

• Heard Karen LaMothe lecture White about her definition of “legacy” costs;

• Heard AFSCME local union steward Jennifer Price complain about the way the recording secretary vacancy was handled. Then Clerk Leon Wright responded that the board is not there to violate any contract. “We have requested a union secretary, but no one wants to do it,” he said. McClanahan said a grievance on the situation was issued earlier that day and he answered it. He said it is not correct to discuss this in a public forum and Wright agreed; and

• Heard Herman suggest the township and union sit in a locked room together and he’ll mediate and, “Nobody leaves until this is settled.”

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
2012 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 meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, on the following dates:

March 6, Tuesday
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
(Organizational Meeting)

No Appeals Heard at this Meeting

March 12, Monday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

March 14, Wednesday
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 15, Thursday
3:00 p.m. to 8:00 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 on or before MARCH 16, 2012.

Appointments to appeal in person may be scheduled by calling the Assessing Office at 734-699-8946 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. by MARCH 13, 2012.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers are as follows:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Ratio</u>	<u>Multiplier</u>
Commercial	50%	1.0000
Industrial	50%	1.0000
Residential	50%	1.0000
Developmental	50%	1.0000
Personal	50%	1.0000

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: Thursday, February 16, 2012
Thursday, February 23, 2012
Thursday, March 1, 2012

Rotary Club sets 4th-annual Fat Tuesday Italian Buffet Feb. 21

The Belleville Rotary Club will again host its popular Italian Dinner Buffet on “Fat Tuesday”, Feb. 21, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Road.

The Rotarians again are cooking up a Mediterranean menu for their guests. The pre-Lenten meal will feature Italian Wedding soup, salads, a pasta bar with four sauces including meat and vegetarian, plus Chicken Piccata, and Marsala.

Soda and paczki will also be available – sold separately. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased from any Rotarian or at the door. Carry-outs will be available.

Proceeds from the dinner and fun raffles support local Rotary Club projects to benefit the Belleville, Sumpter, Van Buren tri-community, Van Buren Public Schools, scholarships for graduating Belleville High School students, and The Salvation Army.

Author of ‘Detroit Metro Airport’ book to speak in Romulus

Daniel W. Mason, author of the book “Detroit Metro Airport,” will speak and sign copies of his book at 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Romulus Public Library.

The library is located at 11121 Wayne Road, near Goddard and next door to the 34th District Court and Romulus City Hall.

For more information, call the library at 734-942-7589.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 7, 2012

Supervisor White called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor White, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee Ostrowski and Trustee Partridge. Absent: None. Others in attendance: Parks and Recreation Director Wright, Public Safety Director McClanahan, Planning and Economic Development Services Director Carroll, DPW Director MacDonald, Chief Loyer, Executive Assistant/Assistant Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, Secretary Cline and an audience of twenty-three (23).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jahr moved, Wright seconded to approve the agenda as amended. To remove Unfinished Business Item #1 "To consider changes to the By-Laws of the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA)." from the agenda. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Hart moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes January 9, 2012; Closed Session Minutes January 9, 2012; Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 10, 2012; Appointment of Harry Roesch to fill an unexpired vacancy on the Board of Review with term to expire December 31, 2012.] Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mary Ban's letter requesting safety road improvements at Rawsonville Road and Martz Road intersection and a letter from Washtenaw County Board of County Road Commissioners stating the county has begun gathering survey information regarding improvements including a left turn lane and traffic signal at the intersection.

Supervisor White read a Proclamation on behalf of the Van Buren Board of Trustees proclaiming February as Black History month in Van Buren Township.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Budd moved, Jahr seconded to approve the first reading of General Ordinance 02-07-2012, an ordinance to amend the General Code of Ordinances, Charter Township of Van Buren by repealing and replacing Section 86-710 through Section 86-745, Ordinance Number 7-20-99 dated 8-3-99 and adopting by reference Ordinance Number 2010-682 Wayne County, Michigan Code of Ordinances, Title V Environment and Drains, Chapter 101 entitled Sewer Use, Containing Section 101-1 through Section 101-194. Carried.

*(A copy of the Ordinance 02-07-12 follows the minutes.)

Partridge moved, Wright seconded to grant Special Land Use to Belle Tire for the proposed facility to be located at 10595 Belleville Road and to approve Resolution

2012-03 Special Land Use Approval for Belle Tire. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Budd moved, Partridge seconded to approve the February 7, 2012 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor White ordered the November 2011 Budgetary Report received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Trustee Partridge announced Belleville Area Council for the Arts fund raising dinner on Sunday, February 12th at the Masonic Temple located at the corner of High Street and Main Street in the City of Belleville from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Also, announced the Belleville Area Museum has the book *Golden Snapshots: Real Stories by Real People*, for sale at the Museum gift shop. Lastly, the Museum is looking for quilts for their annual quilt show held in March.

Clerk Wright stated the Township administrative offices will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2012 in honor of Presidents Day and due to this closure the next Work Study Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21st at 4:00 p.m. with the Board of Trustees Meeting to follow at 7:30 p.m. Also on Tuesday, February 28th the Presidential Primary Election will be held.

Treasurer Budd reminded residents the collection of the winter tax bills has been extended to February 29, 2012 noting there is a drop slot in the Public Safety Department and a mail drop box in the front of Township Hall for payments.

Director Wright announced the Van Buren

Recreation Department 17th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance on Friday, February 10th and on Saturday February 11th are both sold out; however, a waiting list has been created. Also, a new ZUMBA fitness class is being offered beginning February 8th. Director Wright stated the community garden plots at Van Buren Park are available for renting; plots are \$25 for the season which runs May 15th through October 15th. Finally, thanked Keystone Academy sixth graders Janessa Franklin and Reynaldo Martell who volunteered in the Recreation Department last month as part of their requirement to perform volunteer work.

John Herman thanked Mary Ban for her efforts in getting safety improvements including traffic signals on Rawsonville Road. Mr. Herman also announced the Democratic Party has passed a Resolution to allow Democrat's to vote in the Presidential Primary and the May 5th Democratic Caucus.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Comments were made from 8:03 p.m. to 8:48 p.m. by the Board and audience regarding the following topics: Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) bylaws, public safety concerns, improved lighting for entrance of Township Hall, Developmental Services Budget, Supervisor White, Public Safety Committee meetings and cancellations, break-ins and robberies in the township, filling vacancies in the Public Safety Department, Trustee Partridge, legacy cost, Public Safety

Reports, illegal dumping on Morton-Taylor and Van Born Roads, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) union regarding committee secretaries, transparency and management of Township and unsettled union contracts.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Partridge moved, Wright seconded to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Leon Wright
Township Clerk

Paul D. White
Township Supervisor
Published: February 16, 2012

February Birthdays

Feb. 15 – Taylor Wadsworth;
Rosemary Otzman
Feb. 19 – Joseph Lake
Feb. 20 – Julie Orris
Feb. 22 – Jennifer Kirby
Feb. 23 – Ashton Richardson
Feb. 27 – Michelle Dennis
Feb. 29 – Cheyenne Nicole Johnson

Do you have a birthday in February? Does anyone you know have a February birthday? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.



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Animals Rescue

Belleville Police catch two men seen casing homes in VBT

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Belleville Police Cpl. Todd Schrecengost heard the police radio traffic about men who were casing homes on Savage Road just outside the city limits and so he was ready and waiting when the men tried a getaway right into the city.

At about 9:30 a.m. Feb. 2, a Savage Road resident informed Van Buren Township police that two men were knocking on neighborhood doors and if someone came to the door, they asked for directions.

VBT Police Officer Adam Byrd was dispatched on the call and chased the suspect car into the city. Cpl. Schrecengost caught the car at Five Points and got it pulled over at Sumpter Auto Repair/Veterans Lube on

South Street.

While Schrecengost was backing up Byrd, Schrecengost made the arrests since they were in his city. The driver had a suspended license and warrants for his arrest. The second suspect, who refused to give his correct name at first, also had outstanding warrants and was arrested.

A woman from the West Coast was also in the vehicle, but she was released because she had no warrants, said Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor.

Chief Taylor said Belleville Police confiscated the car.

A downtown Belleville merchant reported to the *Independent* that on Feb. 2 a woman, who said she was from Oregon, came to her store with a man and they asked for money for a cab to get back to Dearborn. The woman told the clerk their car had been damaged in an accident at Five Points and police were mean to them.

When money was denied, they asked

the clerk to drive them home after work or get one of her friends to drive them home. That also was denied. The clerk said she was afraid she was going to be robbed, but didn't think to contact police.

Public Service Credit Union helps low-income with free tax service

Public Service Credit Union, with branches in Detroit, Romulus and Sumpter Township, is helping lower-income families prepare their own 2011 tax returns free using software called *Just File It!*, *We'll Help*, and *I-CAN E File*.

This web-based program allows families and individuals to file for state and federal tax credits that might otherwise be overlooked. The program is free for both federal and state tax returns.

At the Sumpter Township branch, 23501 Sumpter Road in the community center,

members are given access to computers, printers and one-on-one help.

Mary Foster, PSCU Sumpter Branch Manager, is also offering free seminars on Thursday, Feb. 16 with a morning session from 9:30 to 11 and an evening session from 6 to 7:30.

The *Just file it!* Program returned over \$13.8 million to individuals and families last year.

"The need for a program like *Just File It* is greater than ever," said Dean Trudeau, PSCU President/CEO. "Which is why Public Service Credit Union is proud to join the network of credit unions and other nonprofits offering *Just file it!* to help families put food on the table, move into better housing, invest in education or save for the future."

All that is required to use *Just file it!* is a computer, Internet access, a Web browser and a printer. The program uses free, Web-based software that poses questions to users and offers assistance via online chat. It is available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Public Service Credit Union and a link to *Just file it!* can be accessed by visiting www.pscunow.com.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE 02-07-2012

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 86 – UTILITIES – ARTICLE XI COUNTY SEWER USE

First Reading of Ordinance 02-07-12, Second reading for adoption will be held at the 7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 to be held in the Board Room, in the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan 48111.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ORDAINS:

CHAPTER 86 ARTICLE XI – COUNTY SEWER USE

- Ordinance No. 2010-682 Wayne County, Michigan Code of Ordinances, Title V Environment and Drains, Chapter 101 entitled Sewer Use, Containing Section 101-1 through Section 101-194 is hereby adopted by reference as the County Sewer Use Ordinance of the Township repealing and replacing in its entirety current Section 86-701 through Section 86-745, Ordinance No. 7-20-99 dated 8/3/99 of the Township Code of Ordinances.
- Conflicts. If any provision of the Code of Ordinances conflicts with this amendment to the Code of Ordinances, the most restrictive provision shall apply.
- Severability. This Ordinance and the various parts, sentences, paragraphs, sections, and clauses thereof are hereby declared to be severable. Should any part, sentence, paragraph, section, or clause be declared unconstitutional, null, or void by a court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not have any effect on the validity of the remaining parts, sentences, paragraphs, sections, and clauses of this Ordinance.
- Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township.

This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting, called and held on the _____, 2012.

YEAS: White, Wright, Budd, Hart, Jahr, Ostrowski and Partridge.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAINED: None.

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Paul D. White, Township Supervisor

Adopted:
Published: 2-16-12
Effective:

Sumpter adopts FEMA resolution for National Flood Insurance

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At a special meeting at 11 a.m. Jan. 25, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees passed a resolution to enforce floodplain management regulations as part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program.

The board then passed an ordinance supporting the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program by designating the Sumpter Building Official as the enforcing agency of the State Construction Code Act concerning flood hazards.

In other business at the five-minute meeting, a bare quorum of the board, also:

- Approved hiring Randy Lynch and Michael Petrowski as part-time employees for the Water/Sewer/DPW. Both said they are willing to work toward state certification;

- Approved the final, signed, five-year interlocal agreement with Huron Township for dispatch services to Sumpter Township, which will go into effect in middle or late February, with Sumpter beginning payment on the day the service is first provided by Huron. Either party can terminate the agreement with 120 days written notice, following the first full year of service. Sumpter will pay \$155,000 for year one; \$175,000 for years two and three, with years four and five negotiated. Yearly payments are made in 12 equal monthly payments. Also, Sumpter agreed to pay Huron \$35 per day, or portion of a day, for each individual locked up at the request of Sumpter; and

- Approved paying half of the arbitrator's bill in the Jerry Cox case. The township's share is \$1,572 and the police union will pay the other half.



Sumpter Township Public Notice



TOWNSHIP OF SUMPTER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing for the community Development Block Grant Program is scheduled for February 21, 2012 at the Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111 at 12:00 pm. For the purpose of:

Receiving comments and suggestions regarding the 2012-2013 Community Development Block Grant program. These suggestions must identify and benefit community development or housing needs of low and moderate income residents.

The following is the estimate allocation for 2012-2013 funds:

Administration	\$ 8,640.00
Senior Service	\$ 62,121.00
Senior Center Improvements	\$ 11,639.00
County Wide Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 24,000.00

Total 2012-2013 CDBG Projects (Estimate) \$106,400.00

Further information is available by contacting the Supervisor of the Township of Sumpter at 734-461-6201.

Published in the Belleville Area Independent News Paper on February 16, 2012.

Tentative Belleville City Council Agenda Regular Meeting Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence
2. Roll Call
3. Presentations, Follow-Up List, Citizen Comments
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes
6. Public Hearing
 - A. 2012 CDBG Funds Allocation
7. Introduction of Ordinances
8. General Business
 - A. 2012 CDBG Funds Allocation
 - B. Mayor's Appointments to Boards and Commissions
 - C. Zoning Ordinance – City Code Chapter 106 – Section 15.19 “Storage”
9. Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures
- 10.-13. Comments
14. Action items for next meeting
15. Executive Session to discuss pending union negotiations
16. Adjournment

This is a tentative regular meeting agenda based on information which was available as of Tuesday before the meeting. Items may be added or deleted prior to the official agenda being distributed. This is not an official meeting notice.

Published as a public service

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION – FEBRUARY 28, 2012

In accordance with Michigan Election Law, Act 116 of 1954 Section 168.653 (a), notice is hereby given to the registered voters of the Charter Township of Van Buren that the Presidential Election will be held TUESDAY, February 28, 2012.

Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST. Polling place locations for Van Buren Township:

Precinct #1	North Middle School	47097 McBride
Precinct #2	Fire Station #2	7981 Belleville
Precinct #3	Van Buren Township Hall (Board Room)	46425 Tyler Rd.
Precinct #4	Van Buren Township Hall (Gym)	46425 Tyler Rd
Precinct #5	Tyler Elementary School	42299 Tyler Rd.
Precinct #6	Fire Station #1	45400 Hull Rd
Precinct #7	Belleville High	501 W. Columbia
Precinct #8	Haggerty School	13770 Haggerty Rd
Precinct #9	Savage Elementary School	42975 Savage Rd
Precinct #10	South Middle School	45201 Owen St.

All polling place locations are handicap accessible. To obtain election instructions in an alternative format (audio or Braille), contact the Clerk's Office prior to Election Day.

For the purpose of nominating candidates for the Office of President of the United States.

Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk's Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, MI 48111, 734-699-8909. Deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the February 28, 2012 Presidential Primary Election for Van Buren Township is Saturday, February 25, 2012 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Township Clerk's Office.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

In compliance with State Election Law 168 Section 798, a Public Hearing will be conducted on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, Michigan for the purpose of certifying the program to be used in the counting device which will be utilized to process voter ballots in the Presidential Primary Election to be held Tuesday, February 28, 2012. Said meeting is open to the public and any concerned citizens may attend. The Charter Township of Van Buren will provide, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations with advance notice to the Clerk's Office, 734.699.8909.

Leon Wright
Township Clerk

Publish: 2-16-12

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS Request for Bid

The Van Buren Public School District is soliciting bids for the purchase and installation of various Classroom Technology.

Bid documents will be available on the Convergent Technology Partners website on February 29, 2012, at: <http://vlbp.com/launch/ctpartners/home.php>.

All bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope and clearly marked “Van Buren Public Schools, Classroom Technology” and submitted to Attention Mike VanTassel, Superintendent Van Buren Public Schools, 555 West Columbia Ave. Belleville MI 48111. To be considered, bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationships that exists between the owner or any employee of the firm bidding and any member of the Board of Education or Superintendent. All bids must be accompanied by a certified check or bid bond of not less than 5% of the total bid.

Bids shall be delivered no later than 3:00 p.m. April 4, 2012 and will not be considered or accepted after that time. Bids will be publicly opened and read on April 4, at 3:00 p.m.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, or portions thereof, when determined to be in the best interest of the district.

Publish: February 16, 2012

Upcoming Events

- Monday, Feb. 20 – Presidents' Day. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education work/study, 7 p.m., Administration Building
- Tuesday, Feb. 21 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study, 4 p.m., followed by VBT Board of Trustees meeting at 7:30 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 22 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 23 – Van Buren Township Cultural Advisory Committee, 11 a.m.

Washtenaw Sherriff's Dept. seeks man who robbed PNC Bank

At 2:40 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, a man who indicated he had a weapon robbed the PNC Bank at 2140 Rawsonville Road in Ypsilanti Township, just north of Grove Road.

The suspect passed a note to the teller that alluded to a weapon. The suspect was then given an undisclosed amount of money and fled the scene on foot. No one was injured

during the incident.

The suspect is described as a white male, 5'5" tall, thin, wearing a black hat, long black winter coat, jeans, and athletic shoes. He was last seen on foot heading towards the Rawsonville/Grove area.

The bank surveillance cameras have two pictures of the suspect.

Those with any information on this incident are asked to contact the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office confidential tip line at 734-973-7711 or through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-Speak-UP.

Sumpter Township Public Notice

TOWNSHIP OF SUMPTER NOTICE OF ACCURACY TEST

A public accuracy test will be conducted on the following date and time for the purpose of testing the accuracy of the tabulation equipment and programs which will be used to tabulate voted ballots for the Presidential Primary Election to be held on February 28, 2012 in Sumpter Township, Wayne County.

**The Public Accuracy Test will be held on February 21, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.
23480 Sumpter Road
Belleville, MI 48111**

The Township of Sumpter will provide in accordance with the Disabilities Act a reasonable accommodation with advanced notice to the Clerk's Office. Candidates and other interested parties are invited to attend. For further information contact: Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk at 734-461-6201.

Publish: February 16, 2012

Sumpter Township Public Notice

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SUMPTER WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Notice is hereby given, that a Presidential Primary Election will be held in this county Tuesday, February 28, 2012, at which time the following will be voted upon:

Republican and Democrats running for office of President of the United States.

ABSENTEE VOTER'S BALLOTS are now available and may be obtained from the Clerk's Office, for electors who expect to be absent from the community, physically disabled, cannot attend the polls because of tenets of their religion, or are 60 years of age or older. Notice is further given that the office will be opened on Saturday February 25, 2012 from 8 am to 2 pm the deadline for acceptance of Absentee Ballot Application in accordance with Section 168.759 of the Michigan Compiled Laws of 1948 as amended.

EMERGENCY ABSENT VOTER APPLICATIONS will be issued to any registered elector at any time prior to 4 pm on Election Day if he/she shall have become physically disabled or shall be absent from the Township because of sickness or death in the family, which has occurred at a time which has made it impossible to apply for Absent Voter's Ballots by the statutory deadline.

Each person voting in the election must be:

- (a) A citizen of the United States of America over eighteen (18) years of age;
- (b) A registered elector of the city or township in which he or she resides.

Precinct Locations are as follows:

Precinct 1 & 3	Sumpter Community Center	23501 Sumpter (Corner of Dunn)
Precinct 2,	Elwell School	17601 Elwell
Precinct 4 & 6	Fire Station #1	20550 Sumpter
Precinct 5	Bessie Hoffman School	50700 Willow

The polls of said Special Election will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on the day of election.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr.
Clerk
Sumpter Township

Publish: February 16, 2012

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- FRONT END
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- POWER STEERING
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- TUNE-UPS
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Absolute Auto Care Coupon • Limit 1 coupon per person.*

**15% OFF
LABOR FOR
SENIORS**

City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

In compliance with State Election Law 168, Section 798, a test will be conducted on Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. at City Hall, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI for the purpose of certifying the program to be used in the counting device which will be utilized to process voter ballots in the Election to be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012. Test will be open to the public and any concerned citizens may attend.

The City of Belleville will provide, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations with advance notice to the Clerk's Office, 734-697-9323.

Lisa Long
City Clerk

Publish: February 16, 2012

City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE NOTICE OF PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION – FEBRUARY 28, 2012

In accordance with Michigan Election Law, Act 116 of 1954 Section 168.653(a); notice is hereby given to the registered voters of the City of Belleville that the PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION will be held TUESDAY, February 28, 2012.

Polls are open from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. EST. Polling place locations for the City of Belleville:

Precinct #1 and Precinct #2 are located at St. Anthony's Church (Father Folta Building), 409 W. Columbia

Polling place location is handicap accessible. To obtain election instructions in an alternative format (audio or Braille), contact the Clerk's Office prior to Election Day.

For the purpose of nominating candidates for the Office of President of the United States.

Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the City Clerk's Office, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111. Deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the February 28, 2012 Presidential Primary Election is Saturday, February 25, 2012 from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Lisa Long,
City Clerk

Publish: February 16, 2012

BUDWEISER BOTTLES - \$2, ALL WINE \$2.50 GLASS!

CHINA KING

45915 S. I-94 Service Dr., Belleville

Near the Belleville Post Office

(734) 699-1550

DOUBLE COMBINATION PLATES - \$9.00

SINGLE COMBINATION PLATES - \$6.50 - \$7.00

10% OFF

Any Entree (Includes Carry Out Orders)
or Buffet Purchase Per Person

**DINE-IN OR CARRY OUT
Chinese & American Food**

CHINA KING COUPON
COUPON EXPIRES 2-29-12

HOURS
MON.-THURS. 11AM-10PM
FRI. 11AM - 11PM
SAT. 12PM-11PM
SUN. 12PM-10PM



**SUMPTER
PET
CARE
PLLC**

Monday - Tuesday - Thursday 8am-7pm
Wednesday - Friday - Saturday 8am-1pm
19435 Sumpter Road, #3 (near Tinpan Restaurant)

"Veterinary Care With Heart"
Yvonne E. Craig, DVM
734-697-4700
Visit us at our website!
www.sumpterpetcare.com

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL DENTAL HEALTH MONTH!
20% OFF DENTAL CLEANING FOR DOGS & CATS THROUGH FEBRUARY 29TH, 2012

Register Now for "Belleville Basketball @ Bethany"

Kid's Basketball Clinic (Ages 5-11)
Saturday mornings 2/25 - 3/31
\$30 for 6 sessions

For registration forms, times and more information
visit www.bethanybiblechurch.com

**BIG
Goat and
Pot Belly Pig
Sale!**

Come on in and see for yourself. We carry a wide variety of:

- Dog and Cat Food
- Wild Bird Seed, Squirrel Food
- Horse and Livestock Feed
- Hay and Straw
- Country Crafts
- Critters such as Goats, Rabbits, Chicks Etc.

NEW HOURS:
Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm
Sat. 9am-5pm
Sun. 12pm-4pm

Willis Feed & Country Store
10200 Railroad Street, Willis, Michigan
(South end of Meridian St, off Willis Rd, Between Rawsonville and Bunton)
We look forward to seeing you soon. **(734) 461-1111** willisfeed@att.net

WINTER MIGHT BE COLD, BUT THESE DEALS ARE HOT!

2012 FIESTA SE
Auto, Sync

\$145 PER MONTH*
24 month lease.
Buy for \$15,466**

2012 FUSION SEL
Auto, Leather, Sync, Moonroof, & Rear Camera

\$173 PER MONTH*
24 month lease.
Buy for \$22,484**

2012 EDGE SE
Sync, Sirius Radio

\$227 PER MONTH*
24 month lease.
Buy for \$24,947**

2012 F-150 SUPERCAB XLT
4x4, Sync, Tow Pkg, Chrome Pkg.

\$299 PER MONTH*
24 month lease.
UP TO \$5,750 IN REBATES

2012 FOCUS SE
Auto

\$137 PER MONTH*
24 month lease.
Buy for \$16,387**

2012 ESCAPE LIMITED
Leather, Moonroof, Sync, Rear Camera

\$163 PER MONTH*
24 month lease.
Buy for \$23,759**

2012 EXPLORER
Sirius Radio

\$256 PER MONTH*
24 month lease.
Buy for \$26,244**

FORD CERTIFIED 2008 FORD EDGE SEL
With Leather and Rear DVD

\$17,995

*A/Z Plan Pricing. 10,500 miles per year. Includes Factory and Renewal Rebate. Requires \$2000 due at signing plus taxes and plates. With Approved Credit. **A/Z Plan Pricing. All rebates to dealer. May require Ford Credit Financing. Plus taxes and fees.



Atchinson Ford Sales, Inc.

9800 Belleville Rd.

Belleville, MI 48111

OPEN SATURDAYS 10AM - 3PM!

734-697-9161

Atchinsonford.net

