



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 19.1 Thursday, January 3, 2013

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

VBT man arrested for B&E of Tin Pan Saloon

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Charles Clifford Craig, 20, of Van Buren Township was arrested early Saturday morning after breaking into the Tin Pan Saloon in Sumpter Township.

Sumpter Township Police Detective John Toth said Sgt. Jim Cayce was on random patrol and was able to get to the scene in just 18 seconds after dispatch told him the alarm had been activated at Tin Pan.

Sgt. Cayce had just passed Sumpter Road while driving on Willis and turned around to hurry to Tin Pan.

Det. Toth said Cayce saw the side door had been penetrated and he entered the building and was joined by Sgt. Chris McGlynn. After searching the business, they found Craig wedged between a Budweiser display wagon and the wall.

Craig had a backpack with a crowbar and one of the Tin Pan's money drawers.

Toth said Craig was taken into custody and confessed to all he had done.

Toth said Craig is a former Tin Pan employee who found himself in a horrible position and didn't know what to do. He has a job that requires him to have a car and the car had broken down. He needed to get it fixed and had nowhere to turn. His father is out of state and his mother wouldn't help him, Toth said.

Craig's child was born in August and he bought a mobile home at Van Buren Estates on Lohr Road in October.

Toth said Craig was very well-spoken and wrote the best statement he has ever seen.

Craig didn't have a gun, but he wore a bullet-proof vest. He also had on two to three layers of clothing since he walked from his home to Tin Pan.

Craig said he contemplated robbing a gas station, but he didn't want anyone to get hurt, so he went for a place that was closed.

(continued on page 12)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

There was a cold wind blowing and the temperature was 27 degrees at 2 p.m. Sunday when these snow lovers enjoyed sliding down the hill at Van Buren Park. There wasn't much snow last year and so this year's snowfall brought out lots of children with all kinds of sliding gear. One family visiting from Myrtle Beach, SC was especially thrilled by the snowfall, although they had no snowsuits to keep out the icy winds.

Former VBT Public Safety Director Elg named chief in Tequesta

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Saturday, the Village of Tequesta, FL issued a press release announcing it had chosen Christopher Elg as its next police chief and after the council votes on his employment agreement at its January meeting, Elg would begin work Feb. 4.

Elg, who served as Van Buren Township Public Safety Director from 2001 to 2003, currently is police chief in West Monroe, LA.

He made front page news in three states in December by being a finalist in three police chief job openings. Tequesta was his fourth finalist position, which was not widely publicized.

Elg has been police chief in West Monroe, LA since 2004 and has worked as a police chief or public safety director for the past 17 years. He has 28 years of law enforcement experience, beginning as a New York state trooper.

"We are lucky to have been selected to be a part of their community," Elg said of Tequesta. "The kids are excited because we are five minutes from the Atlantic Ocean and only two hours from Walt Disney World.

"My family and what we will be able to do as a family in south Florida was one of the biggest factors in our decision to relocate," Elg said on Sunday.

"Additionally, it is 45 degrees here today and 67 there so we seem to have done well on a number of counts!" Elg said from his West Monroe home.



Chris Elg

Tequesta in a 2.2-square-mile incorporated village in Palm Beach County, FL, with 21% of that water. Population was 5,629 in the 2010 census. Officials had conducted a nationwide search for its new police chief.

Football great Joe Namath is among Tequesta's notable residents.

On Dec. 18, Elg was offered the job of police chief for Bismarck, ND, which he declined.

Meanwhile that same week, he was named one of three finalists for the job of police chief of South Bend, IN and was already one of six top candidates for chief of Bellingham, WA. On Dec. 20, Bellingham chose a candidate from Vancouver, WA.

After getting word he was being chosen in Tequesta, he withdrew from South Bend consideration.

Elg and his wife Roseanne have three children. Their son Eric is 13 and the twins, Langley and Isabella, are 8.

(continued on page 12)

*Postal Regulations Require
This Space On The Front Page.*

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US Postage Paid
Belleville, MI
48111
Permit No. 26

VISIT WWW.BURHOPSCOLLISION.COM

Burhop's COLLISION & AUTO GLASS

734-699-3641

Weekdays 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Serving the Local Area Since 1946

- Loaner Vehicles Available
- State Certified Technicians
- Deductible Assistance Available
- We Work With All Insurance Co.
- Limited Lifetime Guarantee
- Glass Replacement/Chip Repair
- Towing Available



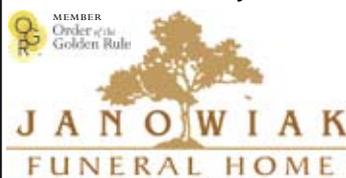
112 Davis Street, Belleville

South of 5-Points parallel with railroad tracks

NOW OPEN IN SUMPTER TOWNSHIP!

We're not new in business, but we are new to your community. With over 70 years experience, we're very excited to provide you with service that goes above and beyond. Our newly renovated chapel, which seats over 200 family & friends, is just part of what we offer. Our respect and commitment is immeasurable.

Let us show you.



JANOWIAK FUNERAL HOME

Where Families Come First

www.janowiafuneralhome.com



19865 Sumpter Rd. • Belleville • (734) 699-6000

Scott R. Beard- Manager

Affordable Funeral & Cremation Services



LET OUR FAMILY LOOK AFTER YOURS!

- ✓ Bankruptcy
- ✓ Auto Accidents
- ✓ Divorce
- ✓ Drunk Driving

WWW.KELAWPC.COM



Speak To Our Attorneys Now!
(734) 397-4540

FREE CONSULTATION! (734) 397-4540



CUSTOM EMBROIDERY PERSONALIZED GIFTS

Your Photo on Almost Anything!

A Design Line Embroidery
10669 Belleville Rd. (behind Big Boy)
734-697-3545

LOY'S CONSTRUCTION & Home Repairs

REMODELING SPECIALS

- Basement — \$4,500 & Up
- Kitchen — \$2,500 & Up
- Bathroom — \$1,500 & Up
- Garages — \$750 & Up
- Decks Re-stained — 69¢ per sq.ft.

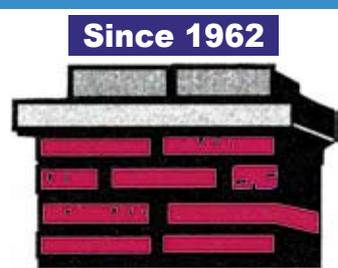
NO JOB TOO SMALL!

LICENSED/INSURED FREE ESTIMATES
25 Yrs. Exp. 24 Hour Emergency Service
Mark **(734) 434-6946**

**One Call Does It All...
...At The Independent
734-699-9020**

BEST CHIMNEY & ROOFING CO.

- ★ CHIMNEYS BUILT - REPAIRED & CLEANED
- ★ SCREENS INSTALLED
- ★ TUCK POINTING
- ★ ROOFING & GUTTERS
- ★ RESIDENTIAL
- ★ COMMERCIAL
- ★ VIOLATIONS CORRECTED



WORKERS COMPENSATION & GENERAL LIABILITY TO PROTECT HOME OWNER

FREE ESTIMATES LICENSED • INSURED
STATE LIC # 40800



SERVING BELLEVILLE & SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN
www.bestchimneyandroofing.com

313-292-7722

Belleville Basketball @ Bethany

Register Now for

"Belleville Basketball @ Bethany"
Kid's Basketball League (1/12 - 3/16)
Ages 5-11 Cost \$30 (\$40 after 1/9)

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

Quality, Non-profit Housing for Seniors 62+

Belleville

575 Sumpter Road
Belleville, MI 48111

Leasing Phone: 734-699-8676
Join Our Waitlist: 1-800-593-3052
Monday - Friday 8:30am-5:30pm

TTD Phone: 1-800-348-7011

Email: seniorhousing@csi.coop
Website: www.csi.coop

Belleville Co-Op Apts.
is 100% Smoke Free

"Camaraderie and serenity of mind make ours a happy home!"

SECOND FRONT PAGE

District Library Board member asks for reply letter to Sumpter

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

Belleville Area District Library treasurer Elaine Gutierrez asked the library board to send a letter thanking Sumpter Township for its recent letter and resolution for the possible use of Elwell School as the main library site.

She finished the thought of George Chedraue, who was asking the board for a reply to Sumpter.

Gutierrez's request of fellow board members was during the library board's regular meeting Dec. 11.

The board agreed that the library agreement states that the main library needs to be in a central location and cannot be in Sumpter Township. Also in the agreement, Sumpter needs to provide the building for a satellite site.

Board members agreed this is a moot point since the school board's decision on Dec. 10 to demolish the Elwell building.

Library Board chairman Mary Jane Dawson said the library agreement contains specific obligations that the main library building must be sited within a specific geographic area: South of I-94 and north of Bemis.

She said the board is looking at a central location of population density and under those parameters, the board welcomes all suggestions for a site.

Board member Mike Boelter said he gets asked all the time on the location of the new district library and was asked about a possible traffic problem at the DNR site, which is the site now under consideration.

He said he contacted the road commission and MDOT.

"This is a long and tedious process and we're just trying to get it right," Boelter said of the search for a library site. "There are guidelines in the agreement that we didn't write, but we have to follow."

Mary Ban of Sumpter Township offered her thoughts on Elwell School and her disappointment with the Van Buren Schools' decision to tear it down as it was the taxpayers that paid for the building that sits on 37 acres.

Chairman Dawson gave a history of the forming of the Belleville Area District Library and the agreement hammered out between representatives from the three municipalities over a two-year period that took effect in April 2012. Copies of the agreement are available at the library and in the offices of Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter.

Dawson emphasized that just like the school board, the library board represents all residents of Sumpter, Belleville, and

Van Buren Township in one 72-square-mile district.

Dawson said the library board has met with local property owners, state, county, local elected officials and consulted with experts who are proficient in various aspects of library building and design.

During public comments, Chedraue asked if the library board has spoken with other elected officials in the tri-community.

Dawson said she has spoken with Paul White, Carol Thompson, Susan Ireland, and Jennifer Wright. From Sumpter she said she has spoken with Alan Bates, William Hamm, Don Swinson, and Supervisor Vawters.

In other business at the Dec. 11 meeting, the library board:

- Adjourned to a 20-minute executive session to consider the employee evaluation of Library Director Debra Green. The board went into regular session to approve her continuation as director until Dec. 10, 2013. A 2.5% raise was offered, but was turned down by Green;

- Learned attorney John Day has sent the appraisal of the Department of Natural Resources property to the DNR for review;

- Reviewed a budget report for the first quarter of the 2012-13 fiscal year (July-September). Consultant Ron Traskos said on the whole the library was running under budget by \$48,501. The long, hot summer attributed to the utilities being \$1,997 higher than expected, but they gained \$9,950 from the elimination of bank fees. Traskos suggested the tax dollars be prorated for each quarter instead of every six months. The annual audit and a six-month review of the current budget will be held at the Jan. 8 meeting;

- Learned four full-time librarians and head of circulation Michelle Wloch attended the Michigan Library Association annual conference and came back with a resolve to begin literacy training in the community; and

- Reviewed articles provided by Green about the possible elimination of personal property taxes by the state and the effect on the library. Currently the district library receives \$155,289 from personal property tax.

The three recently re-elected board members – Michael Boelter, Joy Cichewicz and John Juriga -- will be sworn in by 34th District Court Judge David Parrott just before the Jan. 8 meeting.



Photo courtesy Cornell Anton

Noel Searcy, a seventh grader, and her brother James Searcy, a 12th grader, received cash awards from Veterans of Foreign Wars Belleville Post 4434 Commander Robert Krouse, at right, on Nov. 26. Noel received her \$50 award for her VFW Patriots Pen Essay. James received his \$75 award for his Voice of Democracy Essay. They also received tickets to the VFW District 4 Awards Banquet for their entire family. Both students are home-schooled and reside in Hamtramck. The winning essays have been forwarded on to VFW District 4 competition. There are cash awards at that level and successful winners will compete at the Michigan State VFW. State winners go on, all expenses paid, to compete in Washington, D. C. at the National VFW Competition for prizes of \$148,000 including a grand prize of \$30,000. At left are the students' parents, Jay and Kristen Searcy.



Owen Intermediate sixth graders take learning to camp

More than 200 sixth grade students and faculty members from Owen Intermediate School ventured beyond their classrooms during the school's annual sixth grade camp trip in November.

During a five-day adventure Nov. 26- 30, Owen teachers, including Fred Abel and Karen Prydzial, guided their group to the

YMCA Storer Camp in Jackson.

There, campers participated in four daily classes that taught natural sciences, environmental issues, cultural history, and team building through active participation, writing, and direct observation.

When they weren't busy in classes, students participated in activities such as square dancing, campfire sing-alongs, and more. One special highlight was seeing Principal Jeff Moore showing off his horseback riding skills.

**One Call Does It All . . .
. . . At the Independent
699-9020**

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Local library needs to study AA plan

A recent annarbor.com article, headlined "Library Not Likely to Seek New Vote," has been pointed out to us.

The story said due to voters turning down the \$65 million in bonds for a new library, the leaders of the Ann Arbor Library District plan to take another look at the current building and look at what the community wants from the library.

When the library question was presented to voters, they apparently had no backup plan or even sketches.

All options, including renovation, are now on the table. It sounds like the district library board could be starting over.

This is of interest to local residents since the Belleville Area District Library Board is planning to come to voters for funds to build a new library building, probably on the DNR property on the lake north of the bridge, since that's where all the board's energies are being spent these days.

Maybe the Belleville Area District Library Board will look at Ann Arbor's situation and think about it, too.

The economy is tough now and seeking more money from taxpayers seems like a pursuit that will cost money to promote and lead nowhere. You may recall all of the unsuccessful school bond votes here before school officials finally agreed to build BHS on the property it already owned in the central location.

Whatever the future holds for the Belleville Area District Library, the plan to seek taxpayer support soon for a big library seems a little out of touch with reality.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor returned to work as chief today, Jan. 3. He said he has been informed that Davis Street can no longer be used to cut over St. Anthony Church property to get to BHS, except for buses and maintenance workers. He said drivers who cut through that area could get a ticket for driving on private property.

There was a piece of land in between the school transportation department area on Davis Street and BHS that had been rented from the church during school construction. That agreement is now over.

Chief Taylor also reminds us of the metal detectors he helped get for BHS when it was having problems with basketball games. He suggests they set them up again for use at events. The metal detectors are moveable and can be set up wherever the school wants them.

In mid-December, VBT Police Lt. Ken Floro reported, in his on-line newsletter, that coyote have been sighted in the north part of the township between Michigan Avenue and Ecorse Road. We've seen lots of coyote around the Huron Clinton Metropark in the south end over the years and even can hear their unmistakable calls at night. So, they have gone north?

Lt. Floro states that people are most likely to see coyotes during their breeding period which occurs in Michigan from mid January into March. The coyote usually have an 8-12-square-mile territory and mated pairs and their four to seven pups stay together during the spring and summer months.

As fall approaches, pups begin dispersing



from the den site to establish home ranges of their own. Coyotes are active day or night; however, peaks in activity occur at sunrise and sunset. Coyotes generally feed at night.

Speaking of coyote, last week Gov. Snyder signed Senate Bill 996, sponsored by State Sen. Tom Casperson, that requires the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to make indemnity payments to livestock producers for the death, injury, or loss of their livestock due to wolves, coyotes, or cougars. It is now Public Act 487.

Several residents of Columbia Court high rise in the City of Belleville have motorized scooters and chairs that they use to go to the pharmacy for prescriptions, restaurants for coffee and socializing, the library, and the party store at Five Points. Some of the residents are able to walk to these places.

But, I'm told, that was impossible after the snowstorm last week. While most of the sidewalks were shoveled, it was impossible to get across the street because of snow piles at the ends of the driveways. One lady got stuck in a chair trying to get to the minimart and people had to help her get unstuck.

Some of the snow has been pushed out into the street and the snowplow pushes it across the drives, creating a barrier. I've been asked to mention this so those shoveling snow will realize how important it is to clear the ends of the driveways into the street by lifting the

snow to the side.

One lady had a doctor's appointment she couldn't keep because of the snow that blocked her path.

Speaking of snow, I noticed on Sunday afternoon that the young man who uses his hands and arms to propel his vehicle to get around town, had to go out into the street on the bridge because none of the snow had been removed from the walkway. The walks were snow covered all the way over the bridge and north to the light at the South I-94 Service Drive, I think.

There should be a plan for snow removal along that stretch of Belleville Road. This isn't the first year the snow has covered those walkways.

I was talking with Ken Askew before Christmas and he said he wants to get a lifeguard for the beach at Van Buren Park because, over the years, too many young people have drowned there. He said he's been told there is no money, but that doesn't settle it for him. In the spring, he will be pushing for lifeguards. If you agree that the dropoff in that area is too dangerous to leave to a sign that says, "Swim at Your Own Risk" you can join Ken when he mounts his drive.



www.bellevilleareaindependent.com
 mail@bellevilleareaindependent.com

BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

152 Main St., Suite 9,
 Belleville, MI 48111
734-699-9020
 FAX 734-699-8962

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

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

Editor: Rosemary K. Otzman
 Home: 697-8290

Advertising Manager: Bob Mytych

Sports Editor: Bob Mytych

Bookkeeper: James Otzman

Production Manager: James Otzman

Office Manager: Jackie Garner

Business Manager: Gerald McKelvey

Editorial Cartoonist: Bob Mytych

Writers: Diane Madigan, Angela Netro

The Independent is owned and operated by a Michigan Limited Liability Company made up of members of this community.

Member: Michigan Press Association

Entire contents of this paper is Copyrighted © 2013 - All rights reserved.

This paper is available free at sites throughout the community. To get the Independent delivered by mail, cost is \$25 per year for postage, Outside of Michigan - \$30 per year, outside of the USA - call. Also available free to download on our website.

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

Belleville Area Independent™ is a Trademark and is registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Reg. No. 3,751,670
 Belleville Area Independent Holding Company, LLC (Michigan Limited Liability Company)

HALL RENTAL AVAILABLE



THE FAMILY FRATERNITY
Moose
Loyal Order of Moose • Women of the Moose • Moose Legion

Belleville Family Center # 934
831 E. Huron River Dr.
bellevillemoose.com

Weekday & Weekend Rates

Bartending Service Provided – Catering Available

Thursday Steak Night & Friday Fish Fry 5-8 pm

On Belleville Lake – Boat Slips Available

Free Wi-Fi Hotspot!

697-2111
Members & Qualified Guests

HALL & PAVILION RENTAL AVAILABLE

Fraternal Order of Eagles



9961 Beck Road
Belleville, MI

Weekday and Weekend Rate
Catering Available
Bartending Service Provided

699-8836 (after 12 noon)

Letters

The majority should get Freedom of Religion too

To the Editor:

So much fuss and ado about the same subject at the same time every year -- Christmas! Our elected officials are so busy and concerned about offending anyone or doing what is "politically correct," that they end up offending the largest percentage of people, the majority, of the citizens of Belleville.

There are 45 churches in Belleville, not one Synagogue, not one Mosque, and not one Church of Latter Day Saints. And I could not find one ACLU office in the near environs. We're lacking in MINORITY representation, and the MAJORITY cannot have a symbolic Christmas tree?

Let us see, the latest figures in the United States are:

Christians	33.32%
Muslims	21.01%
Hindus	13.26%
Buddhists	5.84%
Other religions	12.48%
Non-religious	14.09%

Now I am not sure where/or how these percentages are derived, for I do not recall anyone asking me or mine, did they you or yours?

Beside the point, there is no more Christmas Ball (but now a Holiday Ball), no more school Christmas Vacation (now called a winter break), no more Christmas Parade (now called a winter festival parade), mail is not delivered on Christmas Day (so I guess the Fed's still want a vacation day), unions still want the day -- or days -- off for Christmas, or is it holiday?

OK, that's it: Everybody back to school or back to work. Since there is no Christmas there is no holiday. Christians have been "turning the other cheek" (and getting it slapped and re-slapped) to these many past years when it comes to celebrating Christmas, and they are getting a little red, a little sore and they are getting a little tired of this same rhetoric every year. Christians do not believe they are perfect, just forgiven. This goes on and on and, oh, the games we play over semantics.

It is evident that our elected officials --

local, county, state and federal -- have not read our Declaration of Independence, The Constitution, or the Bill of Rights. They ignore the preamble to EVERY state constitution that honors God and acknowledges God. They ignore the engravings at the entrance to the Federal Supreme Court.

I marvel at the audacity of the ACLU wanting to ban crosses from federal lands that include federal military cemeteries, when the same final resting place for our honored dead have FIFTY-FOUR emblems of belief including the Islamic 5-pointed star and even one for Atheist!

I am a Christian and a Veteran of a Foreign War, and I firmly believe the old soldier's axiom, "There are no Atheists in fox-holes!" I guess I went to another country to fight for their freedom and their rights and unknowingly gave up my own somewhere along the way.

Thank you for all of the acknowledgements these past days, but right now they seem sort of hollow. Do you really want a Veterans' float in the "Winter Festival Parade"? Is there still a lighting of the Christmas tree at the Belleville Area Museum? Are they still having the Christmas tree display at the Belleville Area Museum? Does this concept belong in a museum -- it's that old, that far gone, that much in antiquity?

"We the people..." means just that! Freedom of religion, to practice what we all believe and not at the shackles of hindrance or modification and with impunity from others beliefs. I respect others right to celebrate their own religion or celebration: Kwanza -- Dec. 26 through Jan. 1; Eastern Orthodox Christmas, Jan. 7; Dec. 26 as Boxing Day for many countries - Canada or United Kingdom with its many countries - or Union of South Africa who refers to this date as Goodwill Day; or to the numerous countries in Europe as the Second Christmas Day!

And we Christians of a small community have to argue for a Christmas tree?

Sincerely
Cornell Anton, Jr., Belleville

"You can't shake hands with a clenched fist."

--Indira Gandhi



BARBARA ROGALLE MILLER
Attorney At Law
321 Main Street
Belleville, Michigan 48111
(734) 697-4455 - Fax (734) 697-7177

Belleville Tax & Accounting Service, Inc.

Criss, Wilmarth & Parr, PC
Certified Public Accountants



Denise W. Baker, MSA, CPA Gayl Parr, CPA

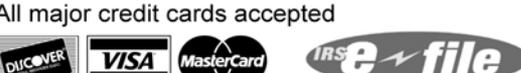
Providing Services to Small Business and Individuals

- Small Business Accounting & Financial Statements
- Payroll Services
- Business and Personal Tax Returns
- Small Business Advising and Start-Up Consultation
- Quickbooks Training and Support

Visit our website www.bellevilletaxservices.com

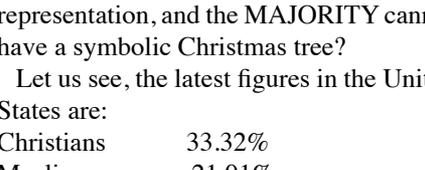
Call Us Today!
(734) 697-8000

All major credit cards accepted

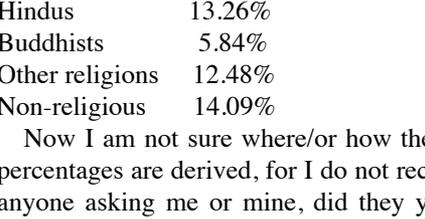


152 Main Street
(in The Professional Building)
Belleville, MI 48111

BODY WRAPS AVAILABLE
CALL FOR APPOINTMENT



Shellac Nails \$25



Louise, Nancy & Sue

WEDNESDAY SPECIAL ~ WITH AD
ALL MEN'S CUTS ~ \$12

BLADE3

STYLIST & NAIL TECH WANTED
601 E. Huron River Drive
Belleville, MI 48111
734-697-5600

Art's Appliance



- SALES
- SERVICE
- REPAIRS

♦ All Makes & Models
♦ Specialize: Kenmore, Whirlpool, G.E.

USED MACHINES FOR SALE WITH GUARANTEE!

(734) 697-7222
19636 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US AT

Columbia Court Apartments

275 W. Columbia • Belleville

Accepting Applications for Individuals 62 & Older
H.U.D. Guidelines Apply
A Senior Facility of National Church Residences
Affordable Housing • Sec 8-202

Minutes From Shopping, Freeways & Restaurants

734-697-8200

More Letters

Come visit us at Lincoln Golden Ages for change

To the Editor and Local Friends:

Are you 55 years old or older and looking for something NEW? Then the Lincoln Golden Ages Seniors are looking for YOU!

We are a group of area seniors who enjoy being social and LOVE to have fun!

Our center offers a variety of educational, social and physical activities such as yoga, fitness, cards, bingo, community resource speakers, computer classes, quilting and craft classes, monthly trips and intergenerational activities with our Lincoln students. We are also involved in community outreach projects.

The center is open Tuesday through Friday. Membership dues are \$15 per year. A hot lunch is also provided four days a week for a nominal fee.

If you are ready for a change, stop by anytime to receive a copy of our newsletter and take some time to visit with us. If you call two days in advance to schedule lunch, your first lunch is our treat to you!

Make us your "home away from home". We are located in Brick Elementary, west entrance. You may also contact us at (734) 483-8366 or (734) 484-7000 ext. 7557.

Nancy Fox
Lincoln Golden Ages Seniors



BELLEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11900 Belleville Rd., Belleville
Worship Service Sunday: 10:00 a.m.
Children Sunday School • Nursery Available
Rev. Gregory Zurakowski (Pastor)
(734) 697-8687 • www.bellevillepresbyterian.org

Would you like to have your Church listed in this directory? Call Advertising Manager Bob Mytych at 734-699-9020 today!

"Real Estate with Real Service"




Angela Netro & Co. Real Estate
734-697-6655
Fax: (734) 697-3531
152 Main St., Ste. 11, Belleville, MI 48111



Broker
E-Mail: nettroandco@comcast.net
<http://www.angelanetro.featuredwebsite.com>
Residential * Commercial * Vacant * Repos * Short Sales

Family Owned & Operated For 40 Years!



ROBSON BUILDERS
LICENSED & INSURED
BUILDING & HOME IMPROVEMENTS
(734) 699-3185

NEAL ROBSON FREE ESTIMATES

SUMPTER COLLISION
"A Family Tradition Since 1957"
James Chudzinski
Owner

21585 Sumpter Road
Belleville, MI 48111
734.699.7758
734.699.6723 fax
jim@sumptercollision.com • www.sumptercollision.com

FREE LOANER VEHICLES
Call For Details

Deductible Assist
Rental Car Assist
R.V. Repair
Auto Glass
Motorcycle & Watercraft



Accurate Transmission & Auto Repair
Transmission & Driveline Repair
General Auto Repair



ASE **734.699.9042**

41251 E. Huron River Dr.
Belleville, MI 48111

Chuck Jeffery
General Repair Manager



Belleville Child Care
is now accepting children ages 2 1/2 to 12 yrs. for enrollment.

We offer:
• Pre-School
• Experienced Staff
• Open Mon.-Fri - 6am - 6pm
34 Years Experience & Qualified Teachers.
734-697-4523
41505 S. I-94 Service Dr., Belleville 48111

Regency Kennels

Dog Boarding

(734) 699-7338
or visit us @
850 Savage Rd., Belleville



LICENSED & INSURED



Osier & Sons Electric, LLC
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
• FREE ESTIMATES •

BELLEVILLE, MI 48111
734-697-5300

WILLIAM OSIER
OWNER

734-699-2200
"THE BIG RED BARN"
Jacobs Boots & Saddles




WESTERN & ENGLISH
SADDLES • HATS • BOOTS

ALL BARGAIN PRICES

Mon., Tues, Thurs. & Fri. 10-1 2-6 – Sat. 10-4
11055 Quirk Rd. (N. of I-94) Belleville, MI.

Superior
Auto And Truck Services, Inc.
AUTO • TRUCK • RV REPAIRS
Oil Changes • Brakes • Engine Diagnostics
Tune Ups • DOT Inspections
Family Owned & Operated
superior307@gmail.com

OPEN
Mon.-Thurs. 8-6
Friday 8-5

(734) 697-5811 307 Davis St. Belleville

"Quality and Service you can depend on"
C.A.L. Plumbing & Heating
FREE ESTIMATES! 697-1777
Call Charles "Toby" Leis - anytime
Certified Back Flow Cross
Connection Inspector
& Testing
Licensed Master Plumber
#81-10257 "Insured"




Let Us Pamper Your Pet!



THE PET SPA 2
970 SUMPTER RD
BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111
734-697-4444

BUSINESS HOURS
Sunday & Monday - closed
Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat - 10AM
Thurs 12PM - 8PM

Where you are paws-itivity special to us!
With This Ad - Full Grooms 10% OFF!
For First Time Clients

VISIT OUR PET ADOPTION EVENT JAN. 19, 11AM-3PM AT PETCO - WESTLAND!

Where Pets and People Meet. **734-461-9458**
Visit us @ fmar1.org and on 

Promoting a Healthy and Safe Environment for All.

Friends of Michigan **Animals Rescue**





Obituaries



Naomi Murray

NAOMI B. MURRAY

(October 27, 1928 - December 27, 2012)

Naomi Barbara Murray, age 84, of Belleville, MI, passed away Thursday, December 27, 2012 at her home. She was born October 27, 1928 in Pontiac, MI, daughter of the late Edward & Doris (Agar) Smaltz.

She proudly served her country in the U.S. Air Force. She obtained a teaching degree and enjoyed teaching for many years. She was a member of the Belleville Presbyterian Church and enjoyed reading.

She is survived her husband of 60 years, Robert Charles Murray; two daughters Cathy Ann Berger of Colorado and Carol Lee Buelow of Oakland Township, MI; 5 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; also, two sisters Janice Freeland of Howell, MI and Mary McVicar of Waterford, MI; also, numerous nieces, nephews and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, also a brother Gustave.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Memorial contributions may be made in her name to the Belleville Presbyterian Church and would be appreciated by her family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for them to treasure.



LEONARD HUGH BORGENDORF

(October 10, 1964 - December 23, 2012)

Age 48, of Belleville died of accidental injuries. Survived by wife Marcia; Olivia, Sonta, Noah, and Jean Marc; parents; brother and sisters. U.S. Naval Academy; Submarine Commander. Service Dec. 31, Brown Funerals

VIRGINIA MAE ROBERTSON

(July 20, 1925 - December 27, 2012)

Age 87, of Belleville. Survived by 4 children Jerry Housewright, Marilyn A. Bara, Robert C. Robertson and step-son George Robertson; 11 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren. DC Brown FH.

HERMELINDA A. VILLA

(November 8, 2012 - December 26, 2012)

Survived by four children: Ramon Garcia, Rosa Garcia, Antonio Garcia, and Juanita Germone; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brother Paul Alba. Service Dec. 29. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funerals



George F. Strasburg

GEORGE FRANK STRASBURG

(November 10, 1922 - December 30, 2012)

George F. Strasburg, age 90, passed away at his home in Dexter, MI on Sunday, December 30, 2012.

He was born November 10, 1922 in Merlin, Ontario, Canada to Edlore and Della (Gurien) Strasburg. He lived in Belleville for 50 years, then moved to Dexter.

Mr. Strasburg was constantly working at landscaping, farming, remodeling his farm and remodeling apartments in Brighton. He also worked at the Wayne Truck Plant for 15 years. He was in the Canadian armed forces during World War II.

George is survived by his brother Maxium (Barbara) Strasburg of Chatham, Ontario, two sisters Irene Dale of Chatham, Ontario and Agnes St. Dennis of Tilbury, Ontario, and a brother-in-law Frank Januszyk. He is also survived by his son George K. Strasburg of Dexter, MI, a daughter Norma Jean, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy Eva Huffman in 1998, his parents, and two sisters Marjorie and Louise.

Funeral services for Mr. Strasburg will be held Thursday, January 3, 2013 at 12:30 PM at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI. Visitation will take place Thursday from 10 AM until time of the service. Rev. Michael Wentzel of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor will officiate. Interment will be in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetic Association or the American Lung Association, and would be appreciated by the Strasburg family.

Please sign George's online guestbook and share a memory for his family to cherish.

THE BELLEVILLE INDEPENDENT NOW ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS!
(Minimum \$20 Purchase, Classified Ads Excluded)

Registration for Belleville Day in Florida is Friday, Jan. 25

Sam and Sandy Vicchy remind those heading to Florida or in Florida that they have until Friday, Jan. 25, to register for Belleville Day in Florida.

Belleville Day is set for Feb. 6 at 12:30 p.m., with a noon check in, and buffet luncheon at 1:30 p.m. at Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club, The Grille Restaurant in the Garden Room, 505 E. Hartford St., Hernando, FL 34442.

Cost per person is \$19.50, with tax and gratuity included. Send reservations, so they are received by Jan. 25, to: Sam and Sandy Vicchy, 4014 N. Ringwood Circle, Hernando, FL 34442 (telling your name and Michigan and Florida addresses, email address, number of people attending and total amount enclosed).

The buffet menu includes London Broil, Chicken Marsala, and Broiled Atlantic Salmon.

For more information, call the Vicchys at 352-726-9132 or 352-400-0069 or email them at sjvicchy@aol.com .

Beverly Jenkins to teach 'Writing 101' in one-day workshop at library

Top-selling Belleville novelist Beverly Jenkins will be teaching "Writing 101" in a one-day workshop from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Belleville Area District Library.

Cost is \$25 and the class is limited to 50 people. Deadline for registration is Jan. 12.

The workshop covers the basics from getting that first idea to getting published.

Jenkins has published more than 30 novels to date. Her forthcoming novel, "Destiny's Embrace," is due out on Jan. 29.

For more information, call the library at 734-699-3291. The library is at 167 Fourth Street, Belleville. See website at www.belleville.lib.mi.us .

David C. Brown Funeral Home

1982 *31th Anniversary* 2013

SELECTED Independent FUNERAL HOMES

MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN RULE

460 E. HURON RIVER DR., BELLEVILLE, MI 48111
(734) 697-4500

David C. Brown, Manager • Shelly A. Brown, Director • Richard L. Willick, Director
Complete Line of Monuments & Markers.
www.DAVIDCBROWNFH.com

HIGGERSON & NEAL
Funeral Home

Roberts Brothers Chapel
209 Main St. Belleville, MI 48111
(734) 697-9400
James L. Higginson / Manager

Professional, Affordable Full Service Funeral Home

See our Price List on our web site
www.hnfhome.com
Continuing a 81 year Belleville Tradition Since 1932

NOW OPEN IN SUMPTER TOWNSHIP!

At Janowiak Funeral Home, we've been serving the greater Ypsilanti area since 1939. Now we're in your neighborhood with the opening of our second location on Sumpter Road, minutes from Downtown Belleville, and with it comes our promise...

To provide you and your family with a level of service, commitment, and respect that is second to none. Anything less is not acceptable. Let us show you.

Simplified Burial & Cremation Packages to Select From.

OGR
THE VOICE OF THE BELLEVILLE AREA
A Golden Rule Funeral Home

JANOWIAK
Funeral Home Inc.
Geer - Logan Chapel

19865 Sumpter Rd. • Belleville • (734) 699-6000
Scott R. Beard- Manager

Affordable Funeral & Cremation Services.

www.janowiakfuneralhome.com

Sumpter Township hears report from Nature Conservancy on project

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At the Nov. 27 meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees Daniel Costello and Vernell Johnson of Arkona Road told the board about their problems with the Nature Conservancy project.

Nature Conservancy crews are clearing the land on Arkona between Martinsville and Sumpter roads as part of a genesis project to return the land to the way it should be naturally.

Costello said they have been told the crews will be using vegetation killer and controlled burns and neighbors are concerned about the respiratory affects on their horses and the people who live in the area.

Johnson said he is a geologist who has worked all over the world and he now is on dialysis three days a week. He is concerned.

They said that area has been used by ORVs and it is opened up now and used by them even more. They complained of blight on the site.

At the Dec. 11 meeting of the township board two representatives of the Nature Conservancy gave an illustrated report on the project, which they said was "to conserve lands and waters on which all life depends."

Sumpter is part of the Oak Openings Region, which runs from northwestern Ohio into southeastern Michigan. They

called Sumpter Township "a hotbed of biodiversity".

The Conservancy received a two-year grant from the "Sustain Our Great Lakes" program and 1,700 acres are enrolled, both private and public land.

They found four parcels, totaling 30 acres, owned by Sumpter township that are worth restoration and they have been cutting invasive shrubbery and plan burns as they "try to restore the life of the ecosystem".

Trustee Bill Hamm said after the residents came to the board meeting to complain, he and Deputy Supervisor Craig Moody walked the property.

"I've never seen such a great piece of property ..." Hamm said, adding he saw no blight.

Although the area is closed to ORVs, the Conservancy invites people to walk the property on foot, noting there are not many lakeplain prairies left.

The Conservancy representatives said they would give a list of the herbicides they will be using to the township to share with the neighbors. The neighbors can then take the list to their doctors or veterinarians for their opinions.

They said the herbicides are applied in certain small areas with the worker using a backpack. They said it won't be put in the water.

"We're not going to do anything to hurt your horses," said Supervisor Johnny Vawters

In other business at the Dec. 11 meeting, the board:

- Approved Supervisor Vawter's appointment of Sharon Claxton to the Planning Commission to replace Don Swinson who was elected to the township board;

- Approved regular township board meeting dates for 2013;

- Approved a proposal to hold fire officer classes at a cost not to exceed \$6,500 to the township. Thirteen Sumpter fire fighters have signed up and the class can accommodate 22, so it has been opened up to neighboring departments at a cost of \$450 each. Van Buren Township has committed to six. The outside fire fighters will reduce Sumpter's total cost; and

- Heard resident Mary Ban give a tearful report on her visit to the school board meeting the night before when they voted to demolish Elwell School. She said Elwell was neglected for many years, but it was still occupied six months ago. She said they will be paying \$200,000 to destroy it and, "That's our tax money, with no recovery or

profit of any kind." She explained, "They do not want a charter school to go in there, so they have to destroy it." Ban said she finds it appalling that Sumpter is losing this gem. "I feel very bad for parents who wanted a building there, for all the parents who wanted a neighborhood school." Supervisor Vawters told Ban, "We applaud what you're doing," before she headed off to the library board meeting to lobby for Elwell school as a satellite library site.

Dee Crowe to speak on trip to Australia to see total eclipse of the sun

Dee Crowe of Van Buren Township will present "Totality Down Under," an illustrated talk of her recent visit to Australia to see the total eclipse of the sun.

The presentation is sponsored by the Friends of the Belleville Area District Library at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at the library. Admittance is free.

The talk is a part of the Friends' ongoing Homegrown Knowledge Series.

Paid Advertisement

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD

Psalm 33:12a

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW YOU SHOULD SPEND YOUR INCOME TAX RETURN..... WELL, WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

We will match the tax return of anyone who purchases a New or Franklin Owned Home up to \$2,000.00!

Hurry, offer only available

December 17, 2012 through February 28, 2013!

*Home must close by February 28, 2013! It is just for homes purchased only!

Not ready to purchase? We have a lease to purchase option that might be right for you! Call for details.

\$1,000.00 FOR REFERRALS!

Do you know someone looking for a new place? Refer them to Franklin Homes and we will show our appreciation.



Franklin Homes at Belleville Manor

Contact Belinda at

734-699-7700

www.franklinhomesales.com/bm



Lodge Lanes



SHORT SEASON LEAGUE

Now FORMING IN JANUARY

For Info Visit

www.LodgeLanes.com

YOUTH BUMPER LEAGUE

AGES 4-8 10:00AM

SATURDAYS, STARTING JAN. 5TH

WEDNESDAY TRIO

ANY COMBINATION OF BOWLERS

STARTING JAN. 9 @ 7:15PM

BIRTHDAY PACKAGES AVAILABLE

**9 PIN NO TAP
DOUBLES AND
SINGLES**

**Friday 10:00pm &
Saturday 11:30pm**

**COSMIC
OPEN BOWLING**

**Fridays
7:00pm-Midnight
Saturdays
2:00pm-4:00pm**



734-697-9178

46255 I-94 S. Service Dr. • Belleville

25% OFF 1 ITEM IN THE STORE w/AD*

Marti's Gift Gallery

**668 E. Huron River Drive
Belleville, MI 48111 734-699-GIFT**



Where you'll find the most unique collection of gifts for your family and friends.

- ★ Cards
- ★ Home Decor
- ★ Heritage Lace
- ★ Baby
- ★ Inspirational Throws
- ★ Swan Creek Candles
- ★ Country Home Creations Dip Mixes
- ★ Remembrance Collection
- ★ Music Boxes
- ★ Porcelain Dolls
- ★ Baptism/Christening Gifts
- ★ Military/Armed Forces Decor

GIFT CERTIFICATES

HOURS:
Tues., Thurs. & Fri.
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday
Noon - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday
and Monday



*LIMIT 1 PER VISIT.

Belleville Young Life sets 5K Fun Run/Walk at Van Buren Park Jan. 5

Belleville Young Life will *Ring in the New Year!* with a 5K Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, Jan. 5 at Van Buren Park.

Belleville Young Life invites all runners and walkers to the group's first annual 5K Fun Run/Walk fundraiser to compete for prizes and support an organization that is making an impact on young people in the Belleville area.

Registration will begin at 10 a.m.

A 1K race for all kids will begin at 10:30 followed immediately by the 5K race.

The registration fee is \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. Proceeds from the event will go to benefit Belleville Young Life and the students being reached in the community.

For more information about the race or to register, go to www.bellevillyounglife.org or call Tabitha Pinter at (734)732-8857.

There are several opportunities for local businesses interested in sponsoring the event. For information on sponsorships call or email Susan Walker at (734)250-0485 or swalkerforjesus@gmail.com.

Young Life, a worldwide Christian outreach organization for teenagers, has been at work with young people in Belleville for the last two years — being available to middle-school and high-school students, providing fun, safe and comfortable gatherings, giving them the right to be heard, and communicating

God's love in terms these students can understand.

Young Life is mainly a volunteer-led organization worldwide, and Belleville Young Life is no exception. The organization wouldn't exist here if it weren't for caring adults in Belleville.

More than 20 Young Life volunteer leaders and committee members are currently reaching out to kids at Belleville High School, McBride Middle School, and Keystone Academy. Through weekly meetings called "club", small groups, summer camps, weekend excursions, and one-on-one time with kids, Young Life leaders build unconditional relationships with teenagers and model God's love.

Young Life has a long legacy of effective work with kids and a reputation for excellence among adults worldwide. Since 1941, Young Life has been making a difference in the lives of kids around the world, because the group is supported by adults who care about kids in their community.

The staff and leaders are trained in time-tested methods of relating with adolescents, and are equipped by a world-class organization for kids that is dedicated to making an impact on kids' lives.

This combination of local support, proven methods, and organizational strength allows Young Life to thrive locally in more than 75 countries, with more than 3,000 staff and 30,000 volunteers, and reaching more than a million kids each year with the life-changing message of God's love for them.

Belleville council gets audit of financial budget ending June 30, 2012

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At the Dec. 3 meeting of the Belleville City Council, Brian Camiler of Plante Moran in Ann Arbor helped give a presentation on the financial audit for the City of Belleville for the year ended June 30.

He said the audit by Alan C. Young & Associates showed the city did better than expected during the last fiscal year.

Total revenues were \$2,304,000 and total expenditures were \$2,153,000. The fund

balance is up to \$582,000.

He said the city has done a tremendous job over the last three to five years in "righting the ship".

He said the fund balance had been rebuilt and the unrestricted money in the water and sewer account has grown to \$906,000 and \$161,000 is there for restricted debt service.

"You're not out of the woods yet, but the fund balance is at a comfortable level," Camiler said.

He said the city still has a long way to go to cover long-term liabilities. He referred to the MERS retirement for employees that is about 60% funded.

He said there was 3.5% difference between what was budgeted and what was spent, which is very good.

Molly Goike, the Plante Moran consultant who works at the City of Belleville several times a week, presented the financial highlights.

- The current year General Fund operations resulted in revenue in excess of expenditures of approximately \$151,000;

- The total net assets related to the City's governmental activities increased by approximately \$388,000 and business-type activities increased by about \$372,000; and

- Governmental activity revenue saw decrease of about \$1.177 million from the prior year. This is due to a large street reconstruction project which was significantly completed within the City in the prior year. This project, which was facilitated through the Michigan Department of Transportation, was paid for with bond proceeds issued by the City's Downtown Development Authority and federal grants associated with the project. The DDA contributed these reconstructed roads and side streets to the City.

In other business at Monday's regular meeting, the council:

- Amended the meter installation contract with SLC Meter Service, Inc., to replace the Elster meter with the Badger meter. Elster cannot supply the 500 out of 1,085 meters needed to complete the meter replacement program approved in October 2011. DPW Director Boc said it is still the same company, same price, is supposed to be more accurate and they will supply a free re-programmer. George Chedraue said his water use doubled overnight in the apartment complex he owns with the new meters and when he called the company, they threatened to turn off his water;

- Approved the mayor's reappointment of Michael Loria to the Civil Service Commission with a term to expire May 31, 2018;

- Approved council meeting dates for 2013 at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays except for three held on Tuesdays: Jan. 22, Feb. 19, and Sept. 3;

- Approved the annual permits with Wayne County for maintenance special events, and pavement restoration;

- Approved extending membership

in the Joint Management Committee of the Downriver Wastewater Treatment System until the end of December 2013. DPW Director Keith Boc is official city representative and City Manager Diana Kollmeyer is alternate;

- Heard representatives of the Boys and Girls Club report there currently are 257 children in the club and a waiting list of more than 200 children. It is located at Edgemont School and serves children six and up after school. Cost is \$50 a year and there are educational activities along with other fun things for the children to do;

- Approved accounts payable of \$95,098.47, including a departmental expenditure over \$500 to Hennessey Engineers for DWSD Meetings/Contract Updates, out of the water budget, \$666;

- Heard Trustee Kim Tindall say the city officials who worked to make a special float for the parade felt they were slighted because they did not fit into any category and so were not judged. Trustee Brian

Blackburn said, "We got robbed." Tom Fielder said the city could take a picture of the float and give themselves an award. Mayor Pro-Tem Jack Loria said it was a shame the ice sculptures melted right away and maybe they should be part of another event in January or February. "An actual winter event in, say, Winter?" Tindall asked;

- Was informed next year's parade will be on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Day, so perhaps a military theme would be in order;

- Heard Fielder report that museum director Katie Dallos broke her ankle the previous Saturday and will come back to work after surgery. The museum will have odd hours because volunteers will be keeping the doors open in her absence; and

- Heard Fire Chief Brian Loranger thank the Sumpter Fire Department for bringing Santa to town in their beautifully decorated fire engine.

Pet of the Week

Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue

"HOBBS"



Give **Hobbs** a chance to help you start the New Year off right by letting him add a touch of his loving, friendly and fun personality to your family. He's a 3 year old Chocolate Labrador mix ready to add his chocolatey sweet self to a new forever family. Forget the New Year's resolutions, all you'll need to have a better year is this energetic, fling your cares away, lovable pup. True to his breed mix, **Hobbs** is loaded with energy and still has a great puppyish charm to him that's hard to not enjoy. He loves a good game of fetch and of course walks are a must so he can explore every nook and cranny of his surroundings. **Hobbs** seems to have some good doggie manners already but some more basic training wouldn't hurt this eager to please and smart boy. His lanky frame is in excellent shape and his chocolate brown coat is healthy and short making care easy as pie. Although we haven't seen him interact with too many other pups, our best guess is that with his easy-going, sociable personality he'll do great with doggie friends once proper introductions are made. Come meet **Hobbs** and take home the best gift you'll be able to give your family for the New Year! He's neutered, vaccinated and micro-chipped. **734-461-9458**

You work hard to stay fit.

Make sure your hearing is in great shape, too

...with a FREE Hearing Screening at Beltone.

Asking people to repeat themselves constantly can be incredibly frustrating. That's why your commitment to getting fit and fabulous for 2013 should include your hearing health.

So, make it a New Year's resolution to schedule your Free Hearing Screening. Call today.



FREE In-Office Trial
of the New Beltone Promise™
January 31, 2013
Hurry! Space is limited.
Beltone

FREE Hearing Screening
January 31, 2013
Don't wait - call today!
Beltone

Beltone
Helping the world hear better

**889 SUMPTER RD.
BELLEVILLE**

(734) 732-4394

HOURS: MON.-FRI. 9AM - 5PM

WWW.BELTONEHEARINGAID.COM

MOST INSURANCE &
HMO PLANS
ACCEPTED



Mary Ban chastises School Board for being against charter schools

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At the Dec. 10 meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, the board voted 5-2 to demolish the closed Elwell Elementary School, with School Supt. Michael Van Tassel, Trustee Toni Hunt, and Board President Martha Toth all speaking of the district's fear of Elwell being turned into a charter school.

They referred to pending legislation at the state level on a requirement to lease vacant education facilities.

Mary Ban of Sumpter Township was at the Dec. 10 meeting in hopes of heading off the demolition of Elwell School, which was built in 1958 and is 43,877 square feet at present. It was Sumpter's neighborhood school, she said.

She said it would cost \$18 million to build such a building today and the board is willing to spend \$200,000 to knock it down. She spoke about how other countries preserve old buildings and how, locally, old buildings are torn down.

Ban told of how in 1978 another Sumpter school was given to the township for \$1. Now that building is a community center, senior center, Head Start classroom, and police department, and used to have dispatch, as well.

At the end of the meeting, after the vote to tear down Elwell School, Ban gave the

board a tongue-lashing.

She asked about their hatred of charter schools, which she said are in the forefront of education.

"I cannot believe you are so against charters," Ban said, adding that charter schools teach morals, patriotism, and citizenship.

In the past, she said, board members have asked what is attracting parents to charters.

She said board president Toth runs her meetings as "a dictatorship" and she has a problem with that.

"Why did you not come to Sumpter Township?" Ban asked, noting Sumpter would have talked with them. "You had your minds made up."

She invited them to reexamine their attitudes on college educations and no longer teaching vocational studies locally.

Ban also said board members should examine their consciences on charter schools.

It is estimated that Keystone Charter Academy in Sumpter Township has taken more than 200 students from the Van Buren Public Schools since it opened in 2003. Keystone was started by two former Van Buren Public School board members who said they were frustrated at being unable to work within that system to cut costs for taxpayers and upgrade education

for students.

In other business at the two-hour-and-35-minute meeting, the board:

- Set the next meeting of the board, the organizational meeting, for 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 14, in the new Student Commons (the updated cafeteria), or if that wasn't ready, the mini-auditorium at Belleville High School. Enter at the main entrance;

- Approved the 2013 projects for the Sinking Fund, as recommended by Plante Moran CRESA;

- Heard an update on the BHS bond project from Plante Moran CRESA;

- Approved door and hardware changes to correspond to the increased sizes of classrooms in the BHS classroom towers;

- Approved summer tax collections;

- Approved offering Schools of Choice programs for the second semester, since there are openings in many schools;

- Heard the first reading of policy updates recommended by NEOLA, to be in accordance with new state laws;

- Approved the requested terminations of Mary Ivan of McBride after 25.5 years of service for retirement as of Nov. 30; and Tamara Mida of McBride for other employment after 2 years of service as of Dec. 14;

- Approved requested termination of bus driver Tammy Huziak for other employment as of Nov. 30;

- Approved minutes of a Nov. 26 closed-door disciplinary hearing that went into open session to permanently expel a McBride Middle School student for assaulting a school employee;

- Heard complaints about bus drivers by two mothers. Van Tassel was directed to look into the situations;

- Heard a proposal to use Haggerty School as a Warming Center for low income residents in Belleville, Van Buren and Sumpter. The speaker said the proposal has to go to Van Buren Township officials first before more information could be given;

- Heard former board member Brenda McClanahan give a fond farewell to Toni Hunt, who was attending her last meeting as a board member. Board President Toth also spelled out Hunt's courage as a board member. Hunt named those who had inspired her over the eight years she had been on the board. She urged the board to support Supt. Van Tassel and to keep the district going; and

- Went into a brief executive session to discuss pending litigation.

When the *Independent* asked if the next meeting in the new Student Commons would be shown on cable TV, the way meetings used to be shown before the BHS construction began, Toth said it wouldn't. School Supt. Van Tassel said he would present a recommendation on cable coverage of meetings at the Jan. 14 meeting.

VBT Planning Commission re-elects Thompson as chair

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Carol Thompson was reelected chairperson of the Van Buren Township Planning Commission at its regular meeting Nov. 28.

Don Boynton was re-elected vice chairman and Bryon Kelley was re-elected secretary.

The commission also agreed to keep its meetings for 2013 on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Trustees room at township hall.

There is one Thursday that was omitted from the schedule: Dec. 25, 2013, because Terry Carroll, director of planning and economic development, said he thought commissioners might have something better to do that evening.

Also during the 20-minute meeting, the commission:

- Approved the preliminary site plan for McDonald's, 2193 Rawsonville Road, to install a second drive-through lane. The commission also recommended approval for special land use and sent that on to the township board for the final decision. Wade Trim engineer Dave Nummer said for the first time the township is requiring catch basin inserts to filter the water. The township wants to study the performance of the inserts and to see if they will plug up. The existing non-conforming pylon sign will remain; and

- Heard John Delaney ask about who is responsible for enforcement of township ordinances. He was told enforcement is through the planning department, so he said he would go to the township board. Sally Hodges of McKenna Associates, the township planning consultants, said the planning commission is a recommending body and the township board is a legislative body that approves the ordinances, or not.



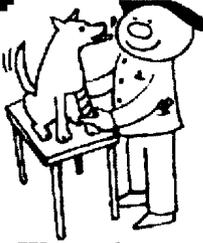
Dudek Heating & Cooling

Service and Installation

Licensed and Insured • Free Estimates • Furnaces • Boilers
Air Conditioning • Duct Work • Humidifiers • Water Heaters
Generators • Electrical • Plumbing

Keith Dudek : Owner
11681 Rawsonville
Belleville, MI 48111

Office: (734) 461-6165
Cell: (734) 730-9733



Low Cost Wellness/Vaccination Clinic

Vet: Dr. John Hermann, DVM (313) 686-5701

Fluff-N-Puff Pet Grooming

Clinics: Mondays 1p.m. - 4 p.m. • Fridays 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
36628 Goddard Rd., Romulus 734-229-0005

We understand tough times and we are here to help! Can't get time off work to make an appointment for the vet? Don't want to pay for an office visit? Check us out... Low prices, good people and fast service!

Dogs	Cats	Other Services
DHPP, Corona, BDT, Lepto \$39	RCP and Leukemia \$29	Extended Exams (ear, skin, etc.) \$18
Heartworm Test \$19	Rabies 1 yr. \$14	Pocket Pet Exam \$18
Rabies 1 yr. \$14	Rabies 3 yr. \$16	Anal Glands \$12
Rabies 3 yr. \$16	Heartworm Test \$25	Micro Chip \$30
*Discount rates for litters.		Fecal Check \$10
De-worming also available		Toe nail trim \$5

Mention this ad and receive a one time \$5 discount on grooming!

WE OFFER FRONTLINE PLUS!

*Cash or Check (with valid I.D.), Now Accepting  

NEW FLU VACCINE FOR DOGS AVAILABLE
DENTISTRY PACKAGES START @ \$115
CAT NEUTERS - \$35

Upcoming Clinics:
PET SPA, 5260 Willis Rd., YPSILANTI, Sun., Jan. 13th, 4:30-6 p.m.
WILLIS FEED MILL, 10200 Railroad St., WILLIS, Mon., Jan. 14th, 5-6 p.m.
PET SPA 2, 970 Sumpter Rd., BELLEVILLE, Sun., Jan. 20th, 4-6 p.m.
PET RESORT, 50425 Bemis Rd., BELLEVILLE, Sun., Jan. 27th, 3-6 p.m.



Ask Angela

By Angela Nettro

I am here to answer questions pertaining to buying or selling real estate. Send your questions to "Ask Angela", c/o *Belleville-Area Independent*, 152 Main Street, Ste. 9, Belleville 48111 or send me an email at nettroandco@comcast.net. I'll answer questions in this column.

Question from Steve in Wayne County: I recently put an offer on a bank-owned home. I offered a few hundred less than listed price. I received a counter from the bank, requesting I pay two years of the delinquent taxes and interest penalties, as well as the delinquent water bill and, of course, assume the C of O repairs.

The bank offered to sell the home for a lesser price than I offered on a Quit Claim

Chris Elg

(continued from page 1)

The Tequesta news release said, "Chief Elg is a highly sought-after candidate who has a proven record of extensive demonstrated leadership skills and management of law enforcement agencies.

"Additionally, Chief Elg serves as Special Agent in the US Coast Guard, holds two masters degrees, is an adjunct instructor for graduate courses in Homeland Security, emergency management, criminal justice and fire-science, and is involved with state and national police leadership associations."

Elg resigned from West Monroe on Friday and its news release listed Elg's accomplishments as chief, including the completion of 18 classes of the Citizens' Police Academy with over 400 citizens having graduated, three national reaccreditations of the department each one better than the last, and the department being recognized as a Best Practices agency in the use of social media.

Sumpter B&E

(continued from page 1)

"I'd have helped him if he only would have asked," said Tin Pin owner Steve Kovach.

Craig was arraigned Sunday on a charge of breaking and entering with intent, a 10-year felony, and larceny from a building, a 4-year felony. Bond was set at \$25,000, or 10%, and he was taken to the Wayne County Jail. His exam at 34th District Court is set for 1 p.m., Jan. 7.

"He didn't know what to do," Toth said, adding that Craig thought his family would get thrown out of their home if he missed a payment.

Toth said Craig's situation is reflective of the current economy and is very sad.

Toth also noted that an 18-second response time is just outstanding.

deed. But even with the Quit Claim deed lower sales price and the total costs with me paying all of the home's back taxes and water it is still more than the Listed Price of the home.

I also do not understand the Quit Claim deed, which was never mentioned on the listing, as well as the delinquent taxes and water. Can you explain the Quit Claim deed and your advice if I should agree to the banks' counter?

Answer: First concern in purchasing this home is the bank offering you a Quit Claim deed to the property for a much lesser sale price. The Quit Claim deed releases the bank's total interest to you and any future liability for the home. The Quit Claim deed does not guarantee a clean title to the property or that there are not other liens or owners named on the property. Also, most Title Insurance companies do not insure the sale with a Quit Claim deed. A warranty deed with Title Insurance will insure clear title ownership to you. The delinquent taxes, water and repairs for you to assume are your choice ... provided the sales price is low enough to reflect you paying for these additional costs ... AND that you get a Title Insured warranty deed to close.

I agree that the listing should have disclosed the Quit Claim sale as well as the delinquent costs the buyer was to assume. I would advise you NOT to accept the bank's counter offer. -- Angela

ANGELA NETTRO/Broker

Angela Nettro & Co.

(734)697-6655

Email: nettroandco@comcast.net

Bethany Bible Church starts youth basketball league this month

Bethany Bible Church in Belleville will hold Belleville Basketball @ Bethany, a kids' basketball league, from Jan. 12 to March 16 at their church location on East Huron River Drive.

The league is geared for boys and girls ages 5-11 and costs \$30 for early registration prior to Jan. 9, and \$40 after. For registration forms and other details, visit www.bethanybiblechurch.com.

Birthdays

Jan. 5 – Cathy Currier
Jan. 7 – Donald Currier, Jr.
Jan. 8 – Michael Chicoski
Jan. 11 – Tom Higgins
Jan. 13 – Enola Burns, Penny Burns

Do you have a birthday in January? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? 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.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Saturday, Jan. 5** -- The Young Life Ring in The New Year Fun Run/Walk at Van Buren Park, registration is at 10a.m. Compete for prizes. Register at www.bellevillyounglife.org

• **Thursday, Jan. 10** – "Totality Down Under" at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Dee Crowe tells about her recent trip to Australia to view the total solar eclipse. Free.

• **Thursday, Jan. 17** – The Belleville Area Museum presents Al and Dave Eicher on "The Early Days of Michigan Radio" at 7 p.m. Free event for Historical Society members; \$3 for non-members.

• **Saturday, Jan. 19** – Belleville's best-selling author Bev Jenkins will teach "Writing 101" at a one-day workshop from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the library. Deadline to register is Jan. 12. Cost: \$25. Information: 734-699-3291

Upcoming Meetings

• **Monday, Jan. 7** – Van Buren Township work-study, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• **Tuesday, Jan. 8** – VBT September Days Senior Center Endowment Committee, 11 a.m. Also, VBT LDFA, 2 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7 p.m. with swearing in of new members before meeting. Also, Van Buren Township board meeting, 7:30 p.m.

• **Wednesday, Jan. 9** – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

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



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

Daniel C. Besson
Fire Chief
O: 734-699-8916 C: 734-673-1019

Van Buren Fire Department
46425 Tyler Rd
Van Buren Twp., MI 48111



AUXILIARY FIREFIGHTER POSITION

The Charter Township of Van Buren and the Van Buren Township Fire Department are accepting applications for the position of Auxiliary Firefighter. The Van Buren Township Fire Department, situated in western Wayne County less than 30 miles from Downtown Detroit, is a combination department that responds to 2400 calls a year from two staffed fire stations. All applicants must be at least 21 years old, three years of firefighting experience (currently employed with a fire department preferred), be a U.S. Citizen, have a valid Michigan driver's license, no criminal history, and be capable of performing all the duties associated with the position of an Auxiliary Firefighter. Candidates must have and maintain (where applicable) Firefighter I & II and Haz-Mat Operations certifications as well as a Michigan Emergency Medical Technician License. Candidates are required to pass a background investigation, psychological, physical, and medical assessment. Applicants shall live within 25 miles of the nearest Van Buren Township border and will be required to work one 12 hour shift and attend three hours of training a month.

Auxiliary Firefighters are covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement and compensation is between \$12.40 (probationary period) and \$15.40/ hr.

Applications may be obtained and returned to the Van Buren Township Department of Public Safety Office, at 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, Michigan. Job description or additional information is available by emailing Fire Chief Dan Besson at dbesson@vanburen-mi.org. Please include with the completed application any applicable certifications and licenses (copies accepted). This application period will close on February 8, 2013.

Our Mission: The members of the Van Buren Fire Department shall work together in a professional and caring way to protect life and property from the adverse effects of fire, trauma, illness and dangerous conditions. Our services will be provided in a fair, honest, and ethical manner with the highest respect and dignity to all.

Publish: December 20, 2012; December 27, 2012; January 3, 2013; January 10, 2013

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

ANTIQUE CROSLEY Refrigerator, \$400.
(734) 697-8954 1/03

BEDROOM FURNITURE - Chest of
Drawers, Vanity w/mirror, Night stand,
Standard bed frame & Metal wall head
board. \$100 obo (734) 699-0832 1/03

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2000 DODGE DAKOTA. 4 WD,
Good condition. Needs small repair to
transmission. SOLD AS IS. \$2,450.
(734) 649-0909 1/17

1997 FORD F350. 4 WD w/snow plow.
(734) 461-9402 1/17

WANTED

WANTED: JUNK CARS

**Running or Not. Top \$
Paid. Call For Free
Pickup. Drive In For
Extra Dollars.**

734-282-1700

WE BUY JUNK CARS

**7 Days A Week For
\$300 & Up!
Cash Paid!
(734) 787-1444**

PRIVATE COLLECTOR

Pays Cash For Sports Cards
And Comic Books. I Prefer Items
1975 & Older, But Will Consider
Anything. Mike 697-3546 Eves.

WANTED - ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS
for the homeless. Please drop off at
Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive.
(734) 697-5600 TFN

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

FREE

SHARON BALDWIN BEMIS RD.
YOU'VE Won a dozen free roses. Pick
them up at Main St. Flower's downtown,
Belleville. (734) 697-7400 or [www.
mainstreetflowersbelleville.com](http://www.mainstreetflowersbelleville.com) TFN

FREE - MEN'S CLOTHING & China
Cabinet. (734) 697-8954 1/03

FREE TO GOOD HOME. (4) Adorable
kittens. All different. Perfect for New
Year. (734) 947-2572 1/03

FOUND

FORD CAR KEY (remote). Atchinson
Ford ring. Near Walgreen's and retention
pond by Walmart's. (734) 697-9446 1/03

LOST

Young big German Shepherd puppy.
Light blond w/black saddle. Very friendly
& Senior Citizen companion. Named
Smoky. Lost 12-09-12 in vicinity of
Elwell/Wear/Dunn Rds. REWARD
(734) 776-2248 1/03

FOR RENT

1 BR. APT. corner of 5th & Liberty St.
\$575/mo. plus security. Includes heat
& water. 1 yr. lease. Must have good
credit. No Pets. (734) 945-2409 TFN

NEW BOSTON - 1 BR. DUPLEX. C/A
& Heat. 1 mile from freeway. Available
December 1st. \$500/mo. Plus security.
(734) 740-3515 TFN

LAKEFRONT - 1 BR. APT. Newly
re-modeled. 91 Potter St. #1. No Pets,
No Smoking. \$675/mo. Includes heat.
(734) 287-6619 (Garner Properties) or
www.garnerproperty.com 1/31

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE

RAWSONVILLE WOODS

HANDYMAN BLOWOUT!

**HOMES FOR \$1!
Many to Choose.
Available Now.
Call Donna!!!
Bankruptcy, Foreclosures,
and Bad Credit OK!
Accepting All Applications!**

734-461-6700

**THE BELLEVILLE
INDEPENDENT NOW ACCEPTS
CREDIT CARDS!**

(Minimum \$5 Purchase, Classified Ads Excluded)



SERVICES

Take Advantage Of Early Bird Rates!

Call **FIRST CLASS LANDSCAPING**

(734) 699-4711

FREE ESTIMATES!!!

YEAR ROUND SERVICES

Landscaping Maintenance

Snow Removal Garage, Basement
& Attic Clean-Ups*

Removal Of: Unwanted Home
Items, Inside Or Outside Debris.

A&L SERVICES

Home Improvement & Handyman Service

Painting, Drywall, Carpentry,

Electrical, Plumbing,

Ceramic Tile, Kitchens & Bath.

Serving Belleville Since

1995. Call Aaron Schultz

@ 734-740-0628

LOCAL HANDYMAN - SOME
Jobs too LARGE - NO JOB too
SMALL. Residential Snow Plowing.
LICENSED & REFERENCES.
(734) 765-9224 TFN

HELP WANTED

AREA TRAINEE for local Real
Estate Firm. For appointment call
(734) 697-1800 TFN

TRUCK DRIVER - MUST HAVE
CDL class A license. Pulling 53'
Semi-Trailer. Home Every Night.
(734) 461-9402 1/10

HELP WANTED

DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT

Feel good about the work that you do. Support persons
we serve in residential settings. Country home. Training
provided. \$8.00 total per hr. plus good benefits.

Call (734) 753-4804 New Boston
Email resume to: recruiter@questserv.org

DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT

Join the team. Assist persons we
serve in their home and community.
\$8.00 total per hr. plus good benefits.

**Call (734) 699-3808 or
(734) 699-6543 Belleville.**
Email resume to: recruiter@questserv.org

HELP WANTED

HIRING IMMEDIATELY

**Dedicated & Reliable
Bus Drivers for
Permanent Positions
for Van Buren Public
Schools. Starting Pay:
\$11.50/hour.
Call 734-699-5100**

CRYOGENIC TRANSPORTATION
LLC: Has an immediate need for Class
A CDL drivers out of MONCLOVA,
OH We offer Local, Regional & OTR
positions, competitive pay, medical
benefits for you and your family, paid
training on product handling, paid
uniforms, paid vacations, 401K & MORE!
Requirements: 2 years Tractor-Trailer ex-
perience, Tank & Hazmat endorsements
(or ability to obtain) & Safe Driving
Record. APPLY NOW at TheKAG.com or
call Recruiting at (800) 871-4581 1/03

Notice to Advertisers:

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

HELP WANTED

"Many a small thing has been made
large by the right kind of advertising."
Mark Twain

Flames from shed fire extend into home on W. Huron River Dr.

On Friday, Dec. 7, at 1:55 p.m. the Van Buren Police and Fire Departments were dispatched to a shed fire on West Huron River Drive.

Dispatched information indicated the original caller thought the fire was in the Harbour Pointe subdivision so the City of Belleville Fire Department had originally been dispatched at 1:51p.m. to the same call.

Several other 911 calls placed by neighbors and people stopping to help confirmed the fire was in the 800 block of West Huron River Drive (Van Buren Township). Multiple police and fire units responded to the scene and found a 6'x8' shed was well-involved with fire and the flames were spreading up the side of the house towards the roof.

The police department had confirmed

the occupants had been evacuated. Fire crews quickly knocked down the flames and began to work feverishly inside and outside the home to access any hidden fires before they could spread any farther.

A hole was made in the roof in order to push heavy smoke from the upper levels and attic space out in conjunction with a large ventilation fan.

No injuries were reported and the loss is estimated at \$40,000. Fire Investigators determined the fire was caused by smoldering fireplace ashes that had been discarded outside to cool but were placed too close to the shed's exterior wall.

The Public Safety Chaplains were contacted to help set the family up with temporary housing and other needs. Belfor, a private contractor, was requested by the family to help secure the portions

VBT fire fighters help Canton FD fight brush fire in wooded area

On Sunday, Nov. 11 at 6:20 p.m., the Van Buren Township Fire Department was dispatched to a mutual aid call at a significantly large brush fire in a wooded area of Canton Township, off Denton Road and north of Mott, behind four residences.

High winds and dry conditions added to the problems.

VBT Fire Chief Dan Besson and 10 other VBT fire fighters helped Canton make an aggressive attack and used apparatus to protect nearby exposures.

VBT provided a four-wheel-drive brush truck, which Canton Fire Chief Joshua Meier said proved invaluable to fighting this fire.

In a letter to Fire Chief Besson, Chief Meier

thanked VBT for its help during this fire and for sending over some fire fighters during this time to help with the report of a fire at Wendy's on Michigan Avenue near Home Depot, which turned out to be unfounded.

Chief Meier said VBT's response to Canton's emergency showed how important it is to have the Western Wayne County Mutual Aid Agreement.

He said Canton fire fighters received an additional ten calls for service during the brush fire.

Chief Besson said VBT's last crew left the scene four hours after arriving. During this time on-call fire fighters were manning the two VBT fire stations.

Sumpter Township OKs buying seven laptops for police vehicles

At the Nov. 27 meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, the board approved purchase of seven laptop computers for police vehicles not to exceed \$35,000 from forfeiture funds.

These are to replace outdated computers at the end of their lives with specialized equipment.

Supervisor Johnny Vawters said to Police Chief Jim Pierce, "Chief, you're doing a good job," adding, especially since they were being paid for with forfeiture funds.

Also at the Nov. 27 meeting, the board:

- Approved the Wayne County Special Events Permit for 2013 and the Wayne County Annual Maintenance Permits for 2013;

- Adopted the Michigan Residential Code Book and the Michigan Building Code Book dated 2009;

- Was informed of the supervisor's appointments of board members as liaisons

to departments: Supervisor Vawters to police; Clerk Clarence Hoffman to seniors; Treasurer John Morgan to water; Trustee Peggy Morgan to fire; Trustee Alan Bates to planning and zoning board; Trustee Bill Hamm to building; and Trustee Don Swinson to parks and recreation; and

- Heard Gene Taylor of the Belleville Police Department give a short presentation on drinking and driving. "Drunk driving is a problem," Taylor said, urging friends to call taxi cabs for those who have had too much to drink. He said even if he knows somebody, he will take them to jail if they are drinking and driving. Taylor also gave a report on the American Pride project. He said 200 standard flags were distributed and Sumpter police delivered a couple of flags to replace residents' tattered flags. The project raised over \$972 for the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Taylor said.



Photo courtesy VBT Fire Dept.

Two Sumpter Township Firefighters help to douse the smoldering fire where the shed once stood.

of the home damaged by the fire. Both the City of Belleville and Sumpter Township Fire Departments provided additional equipment and manpower and VBT Fire Chief Dan Besson said he was grateful for our neighbors' helping hands.

Firefighters remained on scene verifying any smoldering fires had been extinguished - the last fire unit cleared at 4:28 pm.

Engine 1, Engine 2, Engine 4, Ladder 2, Rescue 1, Chief 1, and Tac-1 responded to the scene.



In December first graders at Keystone Academy learned about community workers when a Van Buren Township policeman and firefighter came to the school. Police Officer Chris Valinski showed the class the police vehicle and fire fighter Charles Dewitt showed them a VBT fire truck and went over fire safety with the class.



"Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising."

Mark Twain

VBT DDA approves letter of engagement to hire zoo millage lawyer

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

In a 40-minute meeting on Nov. 27, Van Buren Township's Downtown Development Authority discussed the DDA's plan to join a consortium to fight the Wayne County Treasurer's decree to stop capturing the zoo millage, which would include the upcoming DIA millage, as well.

The consortium currently includes Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Romulus, Belleville, Taylor, Northville, and Wyandotte.

DDA chairman Jere Dolph asked DDA Executive Director Susan Ireland if she had a chance to speak with township Treasurer Sharry Budd to make sure, "She knows what we're doing."

"She is very aware of it," Ireland replied. "The township will capture the zoo millage and so will the DDA, unless we hear otherwise."

In a story on the zoo millage in the Nov. 29 issue of the *Independent* the harsh letter to Treasurer Budd from the Wayne County Treasurer was detailed.

The DDA approved a \$2,500 retainer to Moynihan PC for their legal representation, with fees to be drawn from the retainer. The DDA gave Ireland permission to sign the engagement letter. This should pay for ten hours of service.

There has been significant correspondence between Roger Swets from Clarke Hill and Moynihan PC, and Swets is very satisfied with the language and the understanding that if it gets to a certain point, the township would be notified before lawyers proceed with additional work.

The agenda was amended to consider approval of the amended 2012 budget. There are some new figures based upon bond numbers that were received that day.

The newly amended 2012 DDA budget included costs of the bond issuance at \$262,000 which is part of the \$4.9 million bond issue for the Ecorse Road project.

Acquiring bond insurance raised the DDA bond credit rating from A- to AA-. The current interest rate on the bonds is 3% compared to the 5.25% for the fire station. The money for the bonds was expected to be wired on Nov. 28.

The amended 2012 budget was unanimously approved by the DDA.

Ireland summarized a report from Wade Trim which updated the Belleville/Ecorse

Road project. During the winter shut-down which is expected to last until March, two lanes of traffic running north and south on Belleville Road will be maintained. Just like it is now. Traffic on Ecorse will remain as is.

During the downtime, the engineers will address service issues at Stacks in hopes of finding some extra space for landscaping and the focal features to be installed.

In other business at the Nov. 27 meeting, the DDA:

- Learned the \$24,750 roof repair at Fire Station 2, paid for by the DDA, has been completed;
- Was informed that contractor Communication Associates will attend the January DDA meeting;
- Heard Ireland report that she has not been able to confirm the attendance of Bryce Kelley from the Aerotropolis at that meeting. Chairman Dolph said it would be nice to understand where they stand, adding at the present time there are a lot of objections from not only the VBT board but others, including Ypsilanti and Huron Township, who would like to back out of Aerotropolis. Ireland said that the DDA put the \$25,000 Aerotropolis membership fee in its 2013 budget but they are not going to pay it unless someone tells the DDA "what we're getting"; and
- Heard Ireland report she had been receiving phone calls regarding the fence along Belleville Road by Harmony Lane. Ireland said she called Wade Trim engineers

who did a basic survey on the existing chain link. The two end pieces are on the property line, and the piece that goes between Sunrise and Harmony Lane is in the county right of way. The fence was put in by the developer in the '60s and if it is in the County right of way then it is part of the streetscape and belongs to the DDA, she said. Regardless, all felt that the fence looks "real bad".

Different options discussed ranged from tearing it down, fixing, and replacing it with much concern for notification to the residents, residents with dogs, and privacy. At first all agreed that the fence will go on the property line. In most cases this will make the backyards smaller, for some up to four feet. At this point the thought was to put it on the existing line.

DDA member Pastor James Richter thought a more residential fence with cement pillars and vinyl fencing would give more privacy.

Ireland said she is going to ask McKenna for suggestion and possibly go to the Planning Commission for requirements. She said she will also check on prices and options for fencing and check with Wayne County for concerns about putting a fence in the right of way.

Present at the Nov. 27 DDA meeting were Chairman Dolph, Secretary Sophie Zoller, Township Supervisor Linda Combs, and Directors Carol Bird, Laginess, and Richter, along with Ireland and recording secretary Linda Stevenson.

HOLLOW'S LANDSCAPE SUPPLY
www.BushelCenter.com

BULK & BAG SALT
PET FRIENDLY DE-ICERS

6280 Rawsonville Rd.
(734) 482-SAND (7263)

NEW YEAR NEW HOME

START THE NEW YEAR IN A NEW HOME!

Have you considered moving into a new home? Now is the perfect time!
We are offering finance programs and incentives for all types of credit.

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT AND FIRST MONTH LOT RENT PAID!

Country setting. Minutes from Downtown Belleville & freeways.
Lincoln Schools ~ Pet Friendly!

VAN BUREN ESTATES

Call Joy for details @
(734) 697-6159

Or visit our website: www.FranklinHomeSales.com/VB

Have you thought about living in a manufactured home but didn't want to buy one. Check out our lease with option to buy program.

"Like" Van Buren Estates Manufactured Home Community
On Facebook and stay up to date on our newest homes and incentives!

NEW YEAR NEW HOME



Santa Claus took time out of his busy schedule to visit Belleville's Bayou Grill recently. Owner Brian Copsey said he was very happy to be able to host Santa's visit and was thrilled with the success of the Brunch with Santa. Copsey noted that this was the first time the Bayou has been able to host Santa and they hope to make it an annual event. Addison Donely and Jacob Ennis were able to sit with Santa and give him their Christmas Wish Lists.

Visit us at www.bellevilleconeyisland.com

WELCOME TO BELLEVILLE CONEY ISLAND

Seniors Take 10% Off Everyday! **Try Our Breakfast & Daily Specials!** **Banquet Room Available For Up To 140 People!**

871 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI
(734) 325-7551
Open 7:00am - 9:00pm

*Not to be combined with any other offer.

<p>15% OFF Your Total Bill Over \$25</p> <p><small>Excludes Specials. Not to be combined with any other offer. Expires March 31, 2013</small></p>	<p>BREAKFAST SPECIAL 2 OMELETS \$8.50</p> <p><small>WITH COUPON From 7am - 11am Only. Excludes Weekends & Holidays. Not to be combined with any other offer. Expires March 31, 2013</small></p>	<p>DINNER FOR 2 With 2 Drink Purchase. Includes Soup or Salad. \$10.99</p> <p><small>WITH COUPON Select From Our Dinner Favorites Menu From 3pm to close. Not to be combined with any other offer. Expires March 31, 2013</small></p>
--	---	--

HUGE PET GOAT SALE!

Our goats are back from the petting zoos and looking for new homes. All of our goat prices have been reduced by \$20 to ensure rapid placement. So come on down and see how friendly our goats are (they also make great lawnmowers).

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.

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

Absolute Auto Care, Inc.

590 E. HURON RIVER DR. BELLEVILLE, MI
734-697-8533

- STARTERS
- BATTERIES
- ALTERNATORS
- BRAKES
- TRANSMISSIONS
- VINYL LETTERING & GRAPHICS
- FRONT END
- SHOCKS
- POWER STEERING
- WATER PUMPS
- TUNE-UPS
- BELTS-DRIVE
- ELECTRICAL
- TIRES NEW/USED
- WHEEL BEARING
- A/C • FUEL PUMP
- ALIGNMENTS

IS YOUR CAR READY FOR WINTER? STOP IN FOR A FREE WINTER INSPECTION!

10% OFF LABOR **15% OFF LABOR FOR SENIORS**

with coupon • Not valid with any other offer. Absolute Auto Care Coupon • Limit 1 coupon per person.

Tired of **WISE GUYS** **BAD DEALS**

...Then Buy From The Right Place!

2013 ESCAPE SE USED CAR SPECIAL

24 month lease for **\$171/mo.***
UP TO \$2,500 IN REBATES.
BUY FOR \$21,293

2010 FOCUS SES
Auto, 30,000 miles
ONLY \$12,999

*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. May require trade-in.

ATCHINSON Ford (734) 697-9161
www.atchinson.net
Atchinson Ford Sales, Inc., 9800 Belleville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111

JACKSON HEWITT® TAX SERVICE

841 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111
(IN THE SECRETARY OF STATE PLAZA)

TAX PREPARERS WANTED

Experienced Preferred.
Call (734) 421-1950

BUDWEISER BOTTLES - \$2, WINE AVAILABLE!

CHINA KING

45915 S. I-94 Service Dr., Belleville
Next to the Belleville Post Office
(734) 699-1550

DOUBLE COMBINATION PLATES - \$9.00
SINGLE COMBINATION PLATES - \$6.50 - \$7.00

10% OFF **DINE-IN OR CARRY OUT Chinese & American Food**

Any Entree (Includes Carry Out Orders) or Buffet Purchase Per Person
CHINA KING COUPON
COUPON EXPIRES 1-31-13

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

WiFi HOTSPOT