



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Belleville Mayor Conley's house hit by fire Sunday afternoon

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley and her family were put out of their home by a fire on Sunday afternoon.

The mayor said on Monday they expect to be out of their home for about four months, until the insurance investigation is complete and the repairs are done.

No, they will not be home for Christmas. Presently they are staying with Mayor Conley's mother.

The Belleville Fire Department was called to the Light Tower Drive home at about 3 p.m. Sunday for a house fire.

Fire Chief Brian Loranger said the fire started in the bedroom and appeared to be electrical in nature. He said it seems like there was a grounding issue on a cable line. He said the fire seemed to start on the cable TV outlet in the bedroom and went quickly up the wall.

But Mayor Conley said the insurance investigators said on Monday that they are unsure of what started the fire, but don't think it was the cable line. But the fire was not suspicious in nature, they said.

Chief Loranger said there was no structural damage, but there was smoke and water damage to the house, so the family had to move out. He said the window fire fighters broke to fight the fire was boarded up. He said before they left the house it was winterized. Also, electrical power to the house had been killed by fire fighters because they didn't know the cause of the fire when they arrived.

There were no injuries.

And, Mayor Conley said, that was the

important part. She said everything else damaged were "just things."

She said she and her mother were out Christmas shopping on Sunday and she didn't have her phone with her. When they turned into the subdivision, they saw all the fire trucks.

(continued on page 16)

Sherwood Road resident arrested for cruelty to 13 horses, 4 dogs

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

On Oct. 5, Sumpter Township resident Gary Louis Guenther, 69, was arrested for Cruelty to 10 or More Animals.

Under Michigan law this is a felony and if convicted, Guenther could spend up to 4 years in prison, with a fine up to \$5,000 and up to an additional 500 hours of community service.

According to Sumpter Township Police Detective John Toth, on Oct. 5 Sumpter Police Officers Danielle Buccellato and Colleen Carefelle responded to an animal-at-large complaint in the 26000 block of Sherwood Road. On the scene there were 13 horses running loose. The officers were able to determine where they belonged.

They found one horse in a metal corral containing 3 feet of feces.

The officers took pictures of the animals, one of which was hard to tell was a horse. All the animals had issues and were very,

(continued on page 16)



Independent photos by Bob Mytych

The VFW/PLAV float marked the parade day of Dec. 7 as "Remember Pearl Harbor" day. Riding in the float are Sharon Kennedy and her VFW member husband George Kennedy.



Chamber of Commerce selects store decorations, best parade units

At Saturday's Winter Fest parade, the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce announced awards for the best business Christmas decorations in downtown

- Belleville.
- First: The Lunch Box
- Second: Friends Floor Covering
- Third: Barber Bob's

Also announced after the parade were the winning parade units as selected by the judges:

- Best Business: Belleville Child Care
- Best School: Savage
- Best Community Organization: Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan
- Grand Marshal Award: BYC
- Best Municipality: City of Belleville (Original announcement of Chamber of Commerce as winner was a mistake.)

Best Non-Profit: BYC
Grand Marshals for the parade were Rick Dawson and Pam Fleming.

Winner of Focus Lease

Sharon Claxton of Sumpter Township had her raffle ticket drawn as the winner of a two-year lease on a Ford Focus from Atchinson Ford. The raffle of the car's lease was a fund-raiser for the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce.

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Crowd urges School Board to fix athletic problems

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A contingent of about 45 black parents and students attended Monday's regular meeting of the all-white Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education to ask the board to fix the problems in the athletic department.

The board was told it's not about black and white, but about justice for the students.

Victoria Cole, mother of Belleville High School students Charles (Cody) and DeShawn Cole, told of the rumors she said were spread by the athletic department about Charles, a senior.

She said everyone knew he was being cut from the basketball team even before tryouts were held.

She said when asked the athletic director told Charles he should focus on football, since it was the end of the football season, instead of worrying about basketball. She said, they decided to wait.

The rumors led Charles to show up in the BHS Principal's office. Victoria said this was affecting his grades and emotions. She said Cody suffers from ADHD and low self-esteem.

She said on Nov. 18, the basketball tryouts were held, and on Nov. 19, it was announced both of her boys were cut from the team. Charles, a senior, was told he was cut because he was not up to it and had a bad attitude. He was told he did not have the skills.

Victoria said DeShawn gets good grades, 3.8 grade point average and perfect attendance. He was told by the coach that he was the hardest one to cut because so many people tried for the same position.

"I wanted to make sure they got a good chance," Victoria said, adding she followed the protocol set up for complaints.

When she didn't receive calls back from the athletic department, she called the superintendent's office and she said his secretary said the superintendent would not get involved, unless a teacher was involved.

That's when she filed her complaint against new basketball coach Adam Trumpour, who coached in Romulus last year.

She said he said both of her sons had bad attitudes. She said there have been no disciplinary actions against her sons this year. Charles was one of the highest scorers on the basketball team last year and played in summer leagues. He carries a 2.8 grade point average, she said.

She said on Nov. 22 she made a call to BHS Principal Abdul Madyun. She said she finally talked to School Supt. Michael

Van Tassel on Dec. 4 and he said he would look into it.

Victoria told the board she needs a letter on the issue by Dec. 13.

She said Charles is going to college and she needs to get these issues resolved. She said she had a letter from Charles' doctor and character letters.

"I do believe it is something personal," Victoria said, adding several other students had similar problems and two parents took their kids out of BHS.

Harold Wimberly, who said he is the boys' uncle and a former member of the board of education in another district, said his sister Victoria followed all the channels she was supposed to.

He said when stuff started going to the school board, "things started happening."

Wimberly said from experience he knows that the board should only be involved if the administrators don't resolve a problem.

"My issue is she followed the channels and was ignored," he said, noting the only staff the school board has is the superintendent.

"Why did the superintendent allow it to get to the board?" he asked. "That's the question."

School board treasurer Sherry Frazier said with rumors going around the school, the students with the rumors should have been drawn aside and spoken to.

She said the boys were very fortunate to have their mother standing up for them.

"We were saddened when we heard this," Frazier said. "They did go through channels... They got stonewalled, which is not good for the district. We have to face this head on. They are upset their student didn't get picked ... but getting the information before the tryouts?"

Trustee Scott Russell asked Supt. Van Tassel if he was conducting an investigation and he said he was. Russell asked Van Tassel to copy to the board his results.

"It's not the usual procedure, but I will be glad to do so," Van Tassel said.

Victoria asked the board to let the students talk to them.

"You need to know why some other people left the district. She said she was before them not only for her own children, but for others in the district, as well.

Joe Baskin said he graduated from BHS and he knows the Coles. "These boys have never been disrespectful, because that's how their parents raised them," he said. "I have known these boys since they were born."

He said these kinds of actions will push boys out into the street.

"If you've never played on my team, how



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

Chief 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green officially swore in the two Belleville City Council members elected in November. Given their oaths at the beginning of the Dec. 2 meeting were Councilmembers Kim Tindall and Thomas Fielder.



At the beginning of the Dec. 1 City Council meeting, Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley presented a plaque to Brian Blackburn to mark the city's appreciation for his work as a councilman. Blackburn chose not to run for reelection.

do I know you have a bad attitude? If they go out and fail, fine."

The boys' aunt Mrs. Yarborough said she has three children in the district and she wondered if this was an example of what's going to happen to them.

"Don't sweep it under the rug," she urged the board. "He's looking at college. He's worked all these years in athletics. Is he supposed to turn to the street?"

Charles' brother DeShawn said he is a junior and has one more year to try for the team. He said Coach Trumpour said it was hard to cut him. He said the coach speaks to him every day, but he never speaks to Charles, not since tryouts.

"It says something about himself," DeShawn said. "He likes me, doesn't like

(continued on page 12)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Merry Christmas to Sumpter Twp. – six more sirens

Sumpter Township is getting six more emergency sirens. This makes a total of 18 the rural township will have in place.

At Tuesday's Sumpter Township meeting, the board of trustees approved West Shore Services of Allendale to install the sirens at a cost of \$116,700.

The sirens are covered under a Wayne County Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant, which will reimburse 75% of the cost, leaving about \$30,000 for the township to pay.

The six locations for the new sirens were announced as: NE corner of Haggerty and Arkona, Haggerty N. of Wear, SW corner of Savage and Bemis, NW corner of Harris and Sumpter (PNA), SE corner of Sherwood and Arkona, and SE corner of Willis and Rawsonville.

Mary Ban told the board her friends in Huron Township have said they want warning sirens that they can hear in their township. She said she told them to talk to their township board members.

Ban didn't say anything about Van Buren Township, but residents there have been asking for years for emergency sirens.

VBT Fire Chief Dan Besson says he's working on them and now they are even on the VBT Five-Year Plan (for projects that will be done if they get the funding).

But, so far, not a one in Van Buren Township. The new Sumpter sirens at the north end can probably be heard some places in VBT. That will help some.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

I dropped by 34th District Court last Wednesday to see what was happening. Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green was handling the criminal charges and so I sat down in her courtroom.

A preliminary exam soon started for Ryan Allen Curcio, 25, who was charged by Romulus PD with: home invasion, armed robbery, two counts of criminal sexual conduct 1, one count of CSC 4, larceny in a building, and interfering with electronic communications. The young white man was found competent to stand trial.

The victim was a 72-year-old-white lady, so bent over she could not stand straight and had to make her way slowly to the witness stand while leaning on a walker with wheels.

I listened to her tell of how, on Sept. 10, she let her dog out the back door at 5:30 a.m. and sat down. She turned on the TV in the family room to wait for her dog. Then, she turned and saw the young man, armed with a big knife, who robbed and raped her. He pulled her phone out of the wall. She was very brave to get up and tell it all in front of a room full of strangers.

The whole thing just broke my heart and I'll never forget her sweet face on the stand telling her horrible story.

Judge Green heard the testimony and then found enough evidence to bind him over for trial at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice on Dec. 11. The defendant was being held at the Wayne County Jail on \$1 million cash bond and Judge Green continued the bond.

If this had happened in Detroit, it would have been all over the TV channels. But, it



was in Romulus.

We received a report from a reader that on Saturday morning there was a big film crew inside the vacant Big Boy restaurant on Belleville Road.

The man was so curious, he went up and peeked in the window and saw a film crew and actors inside doing a restaurant scene. He reported there were about 50 vehicles parked in the restaurant parking lot and since the restaurant was out of business he was interested in what was going on.

He had been at CVS when he noticed all the activity next door.

My son had an appointment with his surgeon early on the day before Thanksgiving, so we delivered our newspaper route at about 4 a.m. It was nice. No traffic.

When we got to Augusta Woods, just off Rawsonville Road south of Bemis, the entry drive was gorgeous: full of Christmas lights, right up to the clubhouse, which was also full of lights. Drive by. It's our area's mini Hines Drive.

Last Christmas season the newly planted tree next to the bridge was decorated in a small way, with the ornaments going as far up the tree as the donors' arms could reach. This year, I have heard so many people say how nice it looks.

Mayor Kerreen Conley announced at the last regular city council meeting that a

bucket truck would be used to decorate it this year. It's beautiful.

This tree is the dream of Ruth Bleeker who wrestled with all kinds of obstacles last year to get a place for the tree that was donated by the Ackrons. Then, came the job of getting it decorated.

Hey, this year it's wonderful.

We received word that Shop With a Hero (which used to be Shop With a Cop) will be at 6:30 p.m. today, Thursday, Dec. 12, at Meijer in Van Buren Township. Twenty children will be shopping the aisles with their helpers from the Van Buren Police and Fire departments. Each child will have a \$200 gift card from Meijer, and Meijer also provides cookies, refreshments, and gift wrapping.

If you're shopping at Meijer during that time, you'll know what's going on.

There's usually a similar event at Walmart, but we haven't been told about that yet.

On our VBT Police Dispatch log there is an entry for a daytime breaking and entering on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at the home of Sharry and Bill Budd on the North I-94 Service Drive.

Sharry is the treasurer for VBT and this isn't the first time her home has been hit.



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Letters

Apology for error in decorating deadline

To the Editor:

As the Winter Fest has come to a close, I want to say I thoroughly enjoyed the event. This being the first time I have attended the Winter Fest, this truly does bring the Spirit of Christmas to those who attend, as well as the community itself.

I would like to take this time to extend my sincerest apologies for an error I made that may have caused inconvenience to some.

I distributed Winter Fest information prior to the event, to many businesses in Downtown Belleville. Some of the information was regarding the Business Decorating contest; which reflected the incorrect judging date. The correct date was the following week, which in years past; was always that Friday immediately before the Winter Fest.

As a result of my error, however, the community benefited, as more stores were decorated, making Downtown Belleville very festive looking.

May the Spirit of Christmas be with you throughout the New Year.

Karen La Belle, Executive Director
Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce

Editor's Note: On Tuesday morning, many businesses along Main Street – including the *Independent* and the Chamber of Commerce – had the Nov. 5 press release from LaBelle pasted on their doors with masking tape. Red felt marker surrounded the Nov. 29 judging date that had been announced, which now she said was an error. A note on the posted press release said: “Winners weren’t ready by judge day.”

Thanks to Judge Oakley for coming to BHS

To the Editor:

We just wanted to thank Judge Oakley and his staff for visiting Belleville High School on Dec. 4. Judge Oakley was here to educate our students about the judicial system. He was patient and took an unprecedented amount of time answering questions from the student body.

The students were able to witness Judge Oakley at work, sentencing defendants on stage in our auditorium. Throughout the proceedings, Judge Oakley, his staff, the defense attorneys, and the defendants addressed the audience and offered advice or answered questions.

Judge Oakley, thank you for your time, passion and willingness for helping our young.

Belleville High School Administration Team

Students were able to attend court session

To the Editor:

On the morning of Dec. 4, the Belleville High School auditorium was transformed into a full-functioning court room. Students enrolled in the government classes at Belleville High School were invited to attend the live court session presented by Judge Oakley and the 34th District Court.

Members of the court such as the chief magistrate, court recorder, and the judge himself were in attendance representing the court. Students were able to learn the duties of each individual and were also able to witness four real trials.

The defendants were willing to be seen at the high school in front of BHS students, rather than in the courtroom, in hopes to present valuable lessons to the students. A few of the individuals on trial were given the chance to address the students, explaining their situation and urging their viewers not to do what they did.

There were also periods of time where Judge Oakley answered questions from the audience ranging from the specifics of certain laws to his own personal experiences in the field. Throughout the morning, students were able to gain valuable information on the processes involved in court cases, as well as realistic life lessons. Overall, the first trial of “live court” at Belleville High was a success.

“It was an interesting and educational experience that I would enjoy going to again,” said BHS sophomore Brian Papin.

Allison Juchartz
BHS Senior

“I think a newspaper should be provocative, stir ‘em up, but you can’t do that on television. It’s just not on.”
— Rupert Murdoch

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Council for the Arts transfers payments for vacant lot on Main St.

The payments on an 83'x165' vacant lot at 337 Main Street in downtown Belleville will no longer be the responsibility of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts after paperwork is complete sometime later this week.

About two years ago, the BACA unanimously voted to buy the property on a land contract from Russell Minges for \$80,000. Plans were to construct an art center on the site.

Since then BACA has been paying just under \$500 a month and \$3,500 per year in property taxes for the vacant parcel. A five year balloon payment is coming up.

BACA decided to sell the property, but they could find no one who wanted to buy a vacant lot on Main Street.

Steve Jones, president of BACA, said they wanted to use the limited funds they had to provide services to the community, such as Music Lakeside, Art Affair on Main, Community Art Show.

Once the economy improves, Jones said they would like to create an art center downtown, but now is not the time. The monthly payments were difficult.

Through conversations, BACA found that Rodney Herald of The Lunch Box would be interested in buying the property, taking over the payments from BACA. Reportedly, he is considering whether to build a coffee shop or some other retail store. A gentleman's agreement was reached between Minges, Herald and BACA, which will be finalized this week, Jones said.

"We would have loved to have kept it, but we can't afford to pay for the property and the things we have been doing for the community," Jones said.



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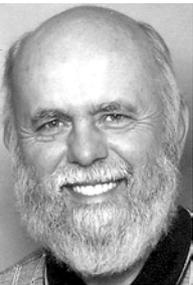
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Obituaries



Christopher H. Sanders

CHRISTOPHER H. SANDERS

(February 9, 1954 - December 3, 2013)
Christopher Henry Sanders, age 59, life-long Belleville resident, MI, passed away Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at his home. He was born February 9, 1954 in Ypsilanti, MI, son of Neil Henry & June Carole (Ollette) Sanders.

Mr. Sanders graduated from Belleville High School in 1973. He was a semi-truck driver for years. He loved being a Scout Master for the Boy Scouts of America. He also enjoyed woodworking in his shop, fixing anything and helping his family and friends in any way possible.

Chris is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife of over 38 years, Nancy Marie (Bevel) Sanders, son Michael Sanders, father Neil Sanders, brother David Sanders, all of Belleville; three sisters Debbie (James) Strasser of Whittaker, MI, Carol O'Neill of Belleville and Georgia (Kevin) Johnson of Groveport, Ohio; also numerous nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, June Sanders.

Visitation was Friday 1-8 PM and Saturday, December 7, 2013 10-11 AM with an 11:00 AM Funeral at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing & Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Pastor Jim Richter officiated. Interment was in St. Joseph Cemetery, Whittaker, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to cherish.

KATHY LYNNE ADKINS

(February 27, 1960 - December 7, 2013)
Kathy Lynne Adkins, age 53, of Romulus. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, December 14, at Heritage Free Will Baptist Church, Pardee Road, Taylor.



Donald R. "Bud" Susterka

DONALD R. 'BUD' SUSTERKA

(April 6, 1926 - December 6, 2013)
Donald R. "Bud" Susterka, age 87, of Belleville died December 6, 2013. He was born April 6, 1926 in Ypsilanti MI, the son of Emil and Lenora (Cullin) Susterka.

On March 18, 1988, he married Fran Reed. They lived on the same street in Ypsilanti as young ones. He was an avid big game hunter, and loved golf. He had no enemies, and was a good husband.

In addition to his loving wife, survivors include eight children, Cindy (Frank) Hayes, Brad (Barbara) Susterka, Barry (Nancy) Susterka, Ken, Carole Jo, Debby, Jenny, and Kelly; thirteen grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, and one sister, Doris Patterson.

Arrangements were by Stark Funeral Service, Ypsilanti. Contributions in his memory may be made to American Cancer Society. Please sign his guest book at www.starkfuneral.com.

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WILLIAM 'BILL' RAYMOND BUTLER

(April 30, 1934 - December 8, 2013)
William "Bill" Raymond Butler, 79, of Brethren, died Sunday, December 8, 2013, at the Manistee County Medical Facility in Manistee. He was born April 30, 1934, in Belleville, the son of Clarence and Henrietta (Gohl) Butler.

Bill was a Veteran of the Korean War, serving in the US ARMY. He was a member of the Bear Creek VFW Post #6333, in Kaleva, and proudly played Taps as part of the Honor Guard at numerous military committal services.

Bill retired in 1996 from Ford Motor Company's Rawsonville Plant where he had been employed as a millwright for 30 1/2 years. In his spare time, Bill loved riding his Gold Wing Motorcycle, playing golf, hunting and fishing. Bill was a member of the Onekama Masonic Lodge #497, Myrtle Masonic Lodge #89 in Belleville, and the Salyersville Masonic Lodge #769 of Salyersville, Kentucky.

On February 11, 1956, in Belleville, Bill married Joy Rose Laybourn, who survives him. He is also survived by 3 daughters, Tona (David) May of Sand Lake, Vickey (John) Stalmack of Manistee, and Lori (David) Gomez of Southgate; his son, William (Dawn) Butler of Manistee; 7 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; his brothers, Mike Butler of Onaway, and Richard (Carol) Butler of Inman, South Carolina; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held at 1:00 PM, Saturday, December 14, 2013, at the Bear Creek VFW #6333, in Kaleva.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Onekama Masonic Lodge #497 F&A.M.

The Terwilliger Funeral Home, in Kaleva, is in charge of arrangements.

www.terwilligerfuneralhome.com

HENRY TKACHUK

(January 9, 1927 - November 30, 2013)
Henry Tkachuk, 86, of Romulus passed away peacefully at home on November 30, 2013.

Beloved husband of Joyce for 61 years. Dear father of Shirley Hurt, Henry (Susan) and Terry (Dianna). Beloved grandfather of 5 and great-grandfather of 13.

He enjoyed bulldozing, playing cards, hunting and fishing. Also, he enjoyed all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He retired from Kelsey Hayes.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

Historical Society 2014 calendars are ready in time for holiday giving

The 2014 Belleville Area Historical Society Calendars are hot off the press in time for holiday giving.

Cost is \$7 for non-members and \$6 for members. This year's calendar features favorite pictures from past calendars, including "The Road that Reappeared," "Main Street Memories," and "The Budd Farm Dairy Herd."

Calendars are available at: Antiques on Main in downtown Belleville, Sumpter Ace Hardware, Sumpter Township Police Station, Van Buren Township Hall, the Belleville Area Library, and the Belleville Area Museum. Mail and gift orders are available. Call 734-697-1944.

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More Letters

Don Bluhm is back and he is 'The Messenger'

To the Editor:

It's always a pleasure to read the letters that Cornell Anton sends to you. The last one you published (several weeks ago) was like a breath of fresh air.

The reason for this letter is since my auto accident 21 months ago, my rehab has allowed me this year to return to Belleville to attend church services, etc. I've been approached by different people telling me of their thoughts on different things that have or may occur. Among the subjects were the library, the city, the school system, and even consolidation with other municipal governments.

It seems that there is a great concern in today's world! Peace, various incidents and threats to our way of life; school and workplace shootings; the economy, taxes and bankruptcy.

During a conversation, consolidation was discussed. How do you do it without the loss of jobs? It seems that at least the residents of Belleville want to maintain their own police and fire departments. I suggested can the City and Van Buren consolidate with Van Buren furnishing the water as I was told Van Buren rates were lower and they could do the maintenance, etc. Also, would consolidation be cheaper if the rubbish pickup was combined?

The high school

In keeping along the thoughts expressed by Cornell, the subject of the high school came up. The consensus: "We the taxpayers are in a deep debt." One writer in last week's paper said the school board should apply that million dollars plus amount (excessive money borrowed) to the existing debt. Take the load off the taxpayer's back.

The question was also raised in the discussion: "Did we need to go into debt for a new school when school enrollment is declining?" The school board has closed two elementary schools and approved demolition of one of the closed schools. Will we taxpayers be treated fairly? The board asked for a millage to build the school and now it's learned an excessive amount was borrowed – not needed – so apply it to the debt and reduce that amount from the backs

of the taxpayers.

The final question for the board is where will the kids come from 10-15 years from now? Was there ever a production study made of students coming to the Van Buren school district so that a new school was needed especially in our economic down trend?

The library

The other main topic discussed over several weeks was the library. It was asked has anyone seen what the total figure (land included) of a new library building will cost so the taxpayers would know how much and for how long this millage burden would exist for?

During the various discussions, the question arose do we need a new library? Has anyone seen documentation showing that the usage has dramatically increased over the past 10 years?

In the discussions, it was stated it appears the computer has taken over to secure information. A person can research any subject from A to Z and have this information instantly. Look at how the computer has changed during the past 20 years and what industry has brought forth for consumers, almost changing daily.

An example, for comparison: the cell phone. It takes pictures and stores them; you can text, play games; find any location through GPS, etc. When a person looks around it seems you see a cell phone in use. Even six- and seven-year-old children have a cell phone! The teenagers and parents in addition to the phones have laptops, iPods, etc. that do a variety of things, even reading any books you want.

Conclusions from these discussions: what further advances and new products will be produced over the next 20 years? With the kids and adults learning and using these instruments, who will be using a library?

This is not to say we don't need libraries, but if the taxation is for 20-25 years, is it prudent to acquire new land and a new library building costing millions of dollars? Is the millage fair; asking the taxpayers to pay for a building that could become a white elephant? One person who moved from Detroit told of the beautiful libraries throughout the city that have closed or are on greatly reduced hours.

Belleville

The last item was Belleville. It ranged over several issues, from personnel, lack of money, uneven sidewalks and streets, the lady that fell. Since winter is at our door, the

snow removal by the city is questionable. It seems to be a very sore spot that when a resident cleans the sidewalk and their driveway to the curb, a city plow fills the entrance of the driveway with street snow that can range from 18" to 3 feet high. The question: "Isn't it city property from the curb to the end of the driveway apron?" Shouldn't they remove this snow? It was disclosed, and again the computer was put to use on the matter, that there are cities that have removal policies different and better than Belleville.

There were other subjects – perhaps for another time. But, a final question was asked by a resident.

"How can consolidation take place when the *Independent*, serving the public, publishes the salaries of both Van Buren and Belleville employees?" It was quoted from the discussions that Van Buren salaries are

about 30% higher than Belleville.

Also, last week's paper (the *Independent*) covered the fiscal meeting at Van Buren and reported an official stated the board has used landfill money to cover the budget expenses for the last 10 years. What happens when the landfills are full and closed? What price is consolidation?

I was asked if I would write to the editor as some of the others are in business, government, school system, various clubs, etc. and they didn't want their livelihood radically altered when they expressed their views.

I said I would be the messenger, but there is an old saying, "Don't harm the messenger, BUT READ THE MESSAGE."

Don Bluhm
Belleville

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Ring #2: 6pm Back Club Room AUCTION – 80 Guitars to be Sold incl. 1890 CF Martin, US Made Fenders, US Made Gibson's incl. Custom Shop, Rickenbacker, Gretsch, Harmony, Epiphone, Etc. From Classical Acoustics to Hardcore Electrics!

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Court Watching:

Trial set Feb. 27 for accused armed robber of Heart Smart pharmacy

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

A Wayne County Circuit Court jury trial has been set for Feb. 27 for the man charged with the Oct. 24 armed robbery of the Heart Smart Pharmacy in Van Buren

Township.

On Dec. 5, Michael Earl-Chavis Lee, 29, of Lincoln Park was brought from the Wayne County Jail to the courtroom of Judge Megan Maher Brennan at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

Lee has been incarcerated since he was arrested shortly after the robbery by the Van Buren Township Police. The firearms allegedly used by Lee and his 15-year-old accomplice were recovered by VBT Fire Fighters from the detention pond behind

Taco Bell on Belleville Road.

Lee's retained attorney Ronald McDuffie stood with his client for the continuation of a postponed arraignment on the information, a bond-reduction hearing, and a calendar conference.

Lee was being held under a \$250,000 or 10% bond and McDuffie sought a lower bond Lee could afford to post.

McDuffie said the DSU referral has been completed and it recommended his bond be reduced to \$100,000/10%.

(A DSU referral is an investigation conducted by pre-trial services, explained attorney Jeff Bowdich. They meet with defendants asking questions that lead to more information than what the judge hears on the bench. Based on this information, a lower bond may be recommended or not.)

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Frank Simone, who was standing in for Dominic DeGrazia, said he would fight the reduction.

McDuffie said he had represented Lee before and he had never failed to appear. He said the other charges were a long time ago.

Simone said according to Lee's record he failed to appear Aug. 5, 2011 in West Virginia and again on March 28, 2013 at 36th District Court.

McDuffie objected, saying these were traffic tickets and there is a strong case that these tickets were not his client's but those of his cousin, using Lee's name "interchangeably."

"Since he will likely be convicted of this crime, why not let him spend the holidays with his family?" McDuffie asked.

Judge Brennan denied the bond reduction after questioning the cousin's use of Lee's exact name and pointing out the seriousness of the charges and Lee's history.

Prior to the bond-reduction hearing, Simone and McDuffie had worked out a plea bargain at the prosecutor's table. For a guilty plea to Count 1, Armed Robbery, Lee would serve 9 to 20 years.

McDuffie said he wanted the court to be aware that he is also representing the 15-

year-old codefendant in this case who has pled guilty and would be sentenced the following day.

McDuffie said he did not believe representing both clients is a conflict of interest.

McDuffie spoke with Lee and also had Lee's "fiancée" and family members, who were in the courtroom, speak with him, but Lee was not interested in accepting the plea bargain.

Lee and the minor were accused of five felonies each: three counts of Armed Robbery, one of Felonious Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, and one Felony Firearm.

A pre-trial final conference was scheduled for Jan. 21 and a reciprocal order for discovery entered.

McDuffie said a video had not been made available to Lee as evidence. In addition to the video, Prosecutor Simone said that DeGrazia, the prosecutor on the case, has 911 calls and photos which would be shared with Lee's attorney.

Judge Brennan said the defendant would likely want to see the video prior to rejecting any "future" offers.

Simone said the prosecution would need three days for trial, beginning with the scheduled 9 a.m. Feb. 27 date set by the judge. He said they would produce four civilian witnesses and four police officers.

McDuffie said the defense will call two witnesses.

Sumpter Twp. Police Advisory: Secure, protect your property

Sumpter Township Police issued an advisory to the public last week, asking residents to properly secure and protect their property because of a recent increase in thefts from garages and other outbuildings.

Sumpter Police Captain Eric Luke said thieves have been cutting off padlocks in many instances, so he urged residents to take that into consideration when choosing a lock.

He also urged people to provide proper security lighting on their property to deter thefts.

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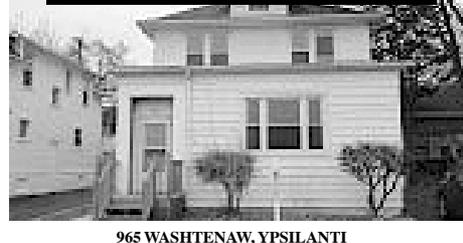
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Pokerwinski Family donates Tree to Mott's Children's Hospital

In 1973 a tree was planted in Sumpter Township in memory of Raymond Pokerwinski and to mark the birth of Richard and Sharon Pokerwinski's son Rick.

The tree was planted near the corner of the home of Raymond and Mary Pokerwinski, who were the parents of Rickard Pokerwinski.

Some 40 years later the tree had to come down because of being too close to the home. *Independent* Editor Rosemary Otzman put a note in her column that the Pokerwinskis wanted to give the 25-foot-tall tree to anyone that wanted it for a Christmas tree. It was perfectly shaped.

The Pokerwinskis received a call from a lady that read the information and told them of a contact number for the horticultural department at the University of Michigan.

Sharon contacted that U of M person and was told that they would have to come out and take a picture of the tree because they also had five other trees to consider. They did come out and inspected the tree and took numerous pictures from all different angles.

About a week later the Pokerwinskis were contacted and told that their tree was selected. Both of the Pokerwinski's children, Rick and Amy, were born at Mott's Children Hospital and Sharon worked there for 13 years.

The horticultural convoy came out and cut down the tree and hauled it away to be erected before Thanksgiving. The Pokerwinskis received a call when the tree was on display in the courtyard of the hospital and were told to come and view it in the evening.

It was overwhelming to see it on display for many to view. The tree was 25 feet tall filled with blue and gold lights. Donating the tree is something that they can talk



Posing with the decorated tree at Mott's children's Hospital are, from left, Richard and Sharon Pokerwinski, daughter Amy Kincaid, grandson Preston Kincaid, and family friend Martin Sacco. Their son Rick Pokerwinski and daughter-in-law Jessica are not pictured. They live in Phoenix, AZ.

about for years to come. They have other trees on their property but not as perfect as this one.

The Pokerwinskis recommend that if anyone has a tree that they think can be put on display for a great cause, to do so.

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School Board

(continued from page 3)

Charles.”

Steve Miller, a law enforcement officer for 30 years, said some of the coaches went to school at BHS. He said he investigated the situation. He said some had problems with families and are taking it out on siblings.

“They need a fair chance,” Miller said of the boys, “instead of ‘I can get back at his kids’.” He said he sees so many kids dying.

He said coaches were talking about these kids during the summer.

Tracy Freeman said she transferred her children out of the district because of problems at the school. She heard rumors. She said she was shocked when Charles was cut.

Charles got up to speak for himself.

“It just ain’t right,” Charles said, adding he has never been cut from a team before. He admitted he had an attitude last year in football, but he straightened up. He got 16 points in the first quarter of one game.

“I was cut before I tried out,” Charles said, adding, “He [Trumpour] said I started the fight with Romulus last year. He was the Romulus coach.”

Charles’ mother said there are tapes of that fight that shows her son didn’t start it.

“I would like to be back on the team,” Charles said.

Michael Wales of Community Baptist Church said he knows the very-well-behaved young men. He said Charles was one of the best basketball players last year.

He said there may be a personal issue but they are dealing with a young man’s future and the coach should evaluate the player for what he can do.

He said he wondered if these personal issues will end with the basketball team or go into the classroom.

“It starts spreading. Where does it end? It determines who is going to be successful or not successful.

“We as a people have been through this before. It doesn’t matter about color, about race. It is about what is just,” Wales concluded.

No one spoke for the athletic department.

In other business at Monday’s regular meeting, the board:

- Accepted a check for \$6,000 from Craig Atchinson of Atchinson Ford for the

Drive for Your School event last fall. This makes \$26,000 Atchinson has presented to the school over four years and Ford has announced it would be offering the event again in 2014;

- Accepted a fake check from Bob Thorne of the Van Buren Civic Fund, who explained he had been too busy to get the real check, but he would. The check was to pay for new basketballs for McBride School (for an amount he did not announce) and \$7,600 for a scoring table for the BHS gymnasium, plus record boards so school records could be posted;

- Heard a presentation by Owen Intermediate School Principal Jeff Moore on the programs being used in his building that has 720 students. “All these things that go on in the classroom is exhausting,” said board treasurer Sherry Frazier. “I applaud your efforts”;

- Approved the annual resolution needed to collect school taxes in the summer only, instead of half in the summer and half in the winter. The summer collection helps with cash flow, said financial director Karen Moffitt;

- Approved the purchase of two special-needs buses from Hoekstra through the MSBO/MAPT Bus Purchase Program for \$192,835. Moffitt said the school will be purchasing the buses with a corrosion and structural warranty. The district has 28 special education buses purchased in 2003 and five have over 200,000 miles on them. The district is in the process of reviewing its needs;

- Approved the hiring of Albert Dancho to teach Physical Education/Health at McBride Middle School, as of Nov. 18;

- Approved the requested terminations of Brian Burrell, custodian for six years, as of Nov. 20 for other employment, and Ashlea Trevino, a secretary for 14 years, as of Nov. 13, when she resigned;

- Heard Natalie Mosher, Canton resident running as a Democrat for State Representative in the 21st District, introduce herself and briefly explain how she would be working for more education funds for public schools and to make charter schools more accountable; and

- Learned this was the last board meeting of the year. The next regular meeting will be at 7 p.m., Jan. 13, for the board’s organizational session and election of officers.

Sumpter Twp. Parks & Rec. thanks Lee Targgart



Sumpter Township Parks & Recreation Commission Chairman Kim Toms, at right, recently presented a Certificate of Appreciation, on behalf of the commission, to Lee Targgart of Ace Hardware in Sumpter for all of his contributions, generosity, and support to the commission. “We thank you, Lee, from the bottom of our hearts,” Toms said. “With the support that you have given us we were able to make our events better for the children of Sumpter Township and also our Sumpter Country Fest.”

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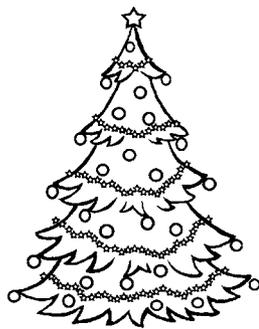
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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Now through Saturday, Dec. 28** – The Belleville Area Museum is presenting its Festival of Holiday Trees. The museum is open Tuesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. and Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.

• **Thursday, Dec. 12** – Dee Crowe will speak at 7 p.m. at the library on “A Tour in China” as part of the Homegrown Knowledge Series. Free.

• **Friday, Dec. 13** – State Sen. Patrick Colbeck invites the public to have breakfast with him and his staff at George’s Senate Coney Island, 39430 Dun Rovin Drive, near Six Mile and Haggerty roads, from 7 to 9:30 a.m. Reservations not necessary.

• **Friday, Dec. 13** – Free Friday Movie begins at 7 p.m. at the Friends Youth Center, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road at Bemis in Ypsilanti. This week: “Christmas for a Dollar” and an animated movie about three children who can change the life of any old grump! Info: (734) 482-5074

• **Saturday, Dec. 14** – Ornament workshop for children at the Belleville Area Museum, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Santa will be at the museum to visit with children and pass out treats from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **Saturday, Dec. 14** – Super Saturday with Santa at the Van Buren Township Hall, \$5 per child, 4:30-6:30 p.m. All ages welcome. Play Bingo with Santa; hear Mrs.

Claus tell a story; songs, crafts, treats.

• **Saturday, Dec. 14** – The Belleville Community Chorus presents its Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. at the Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St. Everyone welcome. Free admittance.

• **Sunday, Dec. 15** – Bring your pug to SE Michigan Pug-N-Play at 2 p.m. at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Rd. Off-leash playtime with other friendly pugs and pug owners. Free, but donations accepted.

• **Sunday, Dec. 15** – Free Country and Bluegrass music from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Van Buren Senior Center. Information: Hugh, 485-7241, or Lynette, 699-8918.

• **Monday, Dec. 16** – Santa will be at the Belleville Area District Library from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The event will begin with a short story time. Then, Santa listens to wishes from children (or reads the wishes from a note the child brings in). Music by “The Gratitude Steel Band.” Bring your cameras.

• **Friday, Dec. 20** – Free Friday Movie begins at 7 p.m. at the Friends Youth Center, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road at Bemis in Ypsilanti. This week: A story about a dog and his friends and a classic showing how Peace & Joy can be brought to our hearts from the unexpected., plus another Christmas movie. Info: (734) 482-5074

Upcoming Meetings

• Thursday, Dec. 12 – Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Monday, Dec. 16 -- Van Buren Township work-study meeting, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, Dec. 17 -- Van Buren Township board meeting, 7 p.m.

• Wednesday, Dec. 18 -- South Huron Valley Utility Authority, 10 a.m., Brownstown Township Hall. Also, Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. Also, VBT Environmental Commission, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville DDA 6 p.m.

• Monday, Jan. 6 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, Jan. 8 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Monday, Jan. 13 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study session, 4 p.m.

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Understanding the Law



By Jason Goldman, Esq. and Bryan Suliman, Esq.

Goldman Suliman, PLLC, is a Belleville law firm that was started by Jason Goldman and Bryan Suliman in order to serve the Belleville-area community. In this and future articles we will be covering legal issues commonly faced by Belleville-area residents. Our goal is to help you better understand the law.

Happy Holidays!!! Although this is the most wonderful time of the year, it can also be argued that this is the most expensive time of the year. Even if you are buying wholesale directly from the North Pole, Christmas shopping is expensive.

That takes us to this week's topic: credit card debt. In Michigan, a credit card agreement is entered into when you are provided with a line of credit from a credit card company and you use the credit card to make purchases, a signed credit card contract is not necessary.

If a credit card company is trying to shake you down, you have some options. First, request a copy of either the credit card contract or account statements showing that you have in-fact made the purchases. It might sound obvious, but sometimes the credit card companies do not hold on to those documents, and they need them to win their case. Second, once your debt is validated you will want to negotiate your debt down. Often, credit card companies will settle the debt for pennies on the dollar. Lastly, you should consider consulting with a bankruptcy attorney if you are unable to pay the balance or any reduced settlement. If the credit card debt is not yours, then you will want to immediately report the fraud to the police and notify your credit card company.

The most important thing to remember is to avoid defaulting on your credit card debt. If you default in court or if a judgment is entered against you, then the credit card company can collect the debt from you by garnishing your wages, taxes, and attaching liens to your property, etc. To avoid being in that position, we strongly urge you to take your debt seriously and work closely with your credit card company with or without the assistance of counsel.

If you would like further information regarding this issue, or any other issues that you are having, please contact us at (734) 699-7360.

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"The fact that man knows right from wrong proves his intellectual superiority to other creatures; but the fact that he can do wrong proves his moral inferiority to any creature that cannot."
- Mark Twain

Fire fighter training wage to be considered again on Monday

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Belleville City Council and four city fire fighters discussed training wages for the fire department for an hour and 20 minutes on Monday at a special council workshop session.

Then they decided to get a recommendation from City Manager Diane Kollmeyer to consider at the Dec. 16 regular council meeting.

Council members were asked to give their feedback on Monday's meeting to Kollmeyer by Wednesday. Also, Kollmeyer and Fire Chief Brian Loranger were to meet to come up with a wage to propose to the council.

The previous Monday, the council raised the \$5 per hour rate to minimum wage, \$7.40.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said after all the discussion, the council members know what the fixed budget is and how much is for training and how much for operations.

She said a realistic rate for training has to be determined from the \$52,000 budget.

Councilwoman Kim Tindall pointed out the new information furnished by the fire department shows that fire runs annually cost from \$42,000 to \$43,000.

She suggested that at the end of the fiscal year, in May or June, when the fire department runs out of money, it stops its training sessions.

Trustee Tom Fielder said the previous \$5 per hour pay for training was not fair, but the \$10 asked for by the fire chief is an arbitrary number. He asked Loranger if he would see better participation in training with a higher per-hour rate and Loranger said he didn't know, but probably would.

Fielder said maybe some of the work on the fire trucks could be done by fire fighters and the money in the maintenance account shifted to fire fighter pay.

While the city is half way through its fiscal year, Chief Loranger said he would like to have the council look into having his budget raised from the present \$52,000 to the \$70,000 budget he used to have, which would help a lot.

The Belleville Fire Department is a paid-per-call department with 13 members. Present at Monday's meeting, besides Chief Loranger, were fire fighters Brian Blackburn, Chris Zweng, and Kris Rix.

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"Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities. Truth isn't."
Mark Twain

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HELP WANTED

House fire

(continued from page 1)

She told her mother that her house was on fire and her mother asked her if she was sure that was her house. Mayor Conley replied, "I know my house."

She found that her older son Austin had seen the fire, called 911, and then called his father upstairs. She said she was very proud of him for doing the right thing.

Her two sons Austin and Carson, her stepfather, and her husband Jeffrey exited the house. Conley said all the alarms went off the way they were supposed to.

At the end of a special city council meeting on Monday, that was called to discuss training wages for fire fighters, Mayor Conley thanked the fire department.

"Thank you very much for your services last night," she said. "... I am very grateful."

Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria, a former fire chief, said people never know how much they need fire fighters until they have to call them.

"You make the call. We show up," said fire fighter Brian Blackburn, who recently stepped down from his councilman's position after not running for reelection.

Deck Fire

Also, at about 8:25 p.m. Sunday, Belleville fire fighters responded to a deck fire at 219 Victorian Dr. in Victoria Commons.

Police Chief Gene Taylor said a barbecue grill was on the back deck of a house and someone put the ashes in a bag that caught the deck on fire. Chief Taylor said they used a fire extinguisher to put out the fire and then used water to hit the hot spots.

Animal abuse

(continued from page 1)

very thin, said Det. Toth. At the conclusion of that meeting the police were told not to come back.

Sumpter police secured a search warrant to bring in a veterinarian to evaluate the animals. Dr. James Romine, DVM from the Saline Vet Clinic, was contacted to meet them at the property to evaluate the animals. Dr. Romine has owned horses for many years.



Gary Guenther

Dr. Romine conducted an evaluation of all

Minding Your Business

with Bob Mytych

The **Belleville Central Business Community**, along with **Twisted Rooster** and **Tucker Agency** is sponsoring **Visits with Santa** at the **Belleville Area Museum** on Saturday, Dec. 14 and Dec. 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days. Framed professional photos will also be available. Be sure to get your Belleville Chamber coloring book from Santa. This year's pages were drawn by **Rhonda Dutton** and other local artists.

Bethany Bible Church in Belleville is offering its **Belleville Basketball @ Bethany** program, a kids' basketball league beginning Jan. 11 through March

the animals giving each a Body Condition Score (BCS). On a score of 1 to 9, with 9 being over-weight 5 being ideal and 1 being near death, none of the animals were in the ideal range; they were all low.

According to Detective Toth, when they served the search warrant, the police walked the property and found animal remains of a goat and one horse in a burn pile. Additional skeletal remains of goats and a cat were found alongside the burn pile.

Toth also added, upon receiving the vet's report on the 13 horses and 4 dogs, they learned the animals were "really bad off". According to Michigan Law, once an individual is arrested for animal cruelty all animals can be seized.

Working with Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Rajesh K. Prasad, Sumpter got the arrest warrant for animal cruelty. Prasad is the co-founder of Wayne County's Animal Protection Unit, having a 98% conviction rate.

Detective Toth said there will be a civil hearing which will be a forfeiture of the animals and a criminal case running parallel.

Guenther, of 26551 Sherwood Road, was scheduled to have his preliminary exam on Dec. 11 at 34th District Court in Romulus. Bond was set at \$10,000/10%

The horses are being cared for by Starry Skies Equine Rescue and Sanctuary and Loving Arm Rescue Ranch. Those wishing to make a donation to help with the care of the horses may visit them online. All donations are tax-deductible.

15 for children in grades K-6. The cost is \$30 per participant, \$40 if signed up after Jan.11. For more information visit www.bethanybiblechurch.com. and call (734) 697-7456.

A **Helping Hands Christmas Sale** will be held on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at **Mt. Calvary Baptist Church** on Ecorse Road in Belleville. There will all kinds of items for sale including tools, winter coats, clothes, canned goods, sporting goods, toys, and more. Be sure to grab some free hot chocolate and Christmas cookies. Call (734) 398- 5209.

Santa Claus arrives Dec. 23, from 5 to 10

p.m. at **Leo's Coney Island** on Belleville Road in the **Murray's Plaza**. Enjoy free face painting and balloon fun with their clown, from 6 to 8 p.m. See their half page ad in today's paper for holiday hours and specials on breakfast, lunch and dinner. No coupons are necessary. They're open Monday through Saturday, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call (734) 697-1000 and visit www.leosconeyisland.com.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych, 734-699-9020, with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.

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SIXTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Belleville Presbyterian Church will be holding the Sixth Annual Community Old Fashioned Christmas Service in the historic Martha-Mary Chapel on Sunday, December 15th at 6:00 in the evening. You are cordially invited to join us for a service of Lessons and Carols, and for a time of fellowship afterwards.

Special music will be offered by Seek to Be Ministries, a singing group that regularly graces worship at Belleville Presbyterian Church, along with other gifted musicians, instrumentalists and singers.

Take a step back in time and come enjoy a simple, moving worship service in an historic setting as you finalize your holiday preparations. A freewill offering will be taken to support those in our community who are experiencing need during the holidays.

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ISSHINRYU KARATE

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES December 3, 2013

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Absent: None. Others in attendance: DPW Director Taylor, Planning and Economic Development Director Mullen, Secretary Cline and an audience of twenty-two (22).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Budd moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the agenda as amended. To change New Business Item #3 to read "Consider approval of 2013 Amended Water and Sewer Department Budget and 2014 Proposed Water and Sewer Department Budget" and under Consent Agenda remove "Voucher List of December 3, 2013" to be placed back on regular Agenda. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Hart moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Minutes November 18, 2013; Regular Board Meeting Minutes November 19, 2013.] as amended. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: McClanahan moved, Wright seconded to open the public hearing to consider the 2013 Amended General Fund Budget and the 2014 Proposed General Fund Budget. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Miller, McClanahan, Hart, Jahr, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

Supervisor Combs opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m. stating the Board has produced a balanced General Fund Budget as required by law. Supervisor Combs thanked the Directors and the Board for their efforts in preparing the 2013 Amended and 2014 Proposed General Fund Budgets. Supervisor Combs stated the process for the Amended 2013 and Proposed 2014 General Fund Budget started months ago with the individual Department Directors reviewing and amending their 2013 budgets and putting together a proposed 2014 Budget based on the needs of their respective departments. A Budget Preparation meeting was held in October where Department Directors made presentations to the Board with each budget being reviewed in detail. A follow up Work Study Session was held in November to enable the Board to discuss their concerns before final approval of the Budgets. The 2013 Amended and 2014 Proposed General Fund Budgets have been provided to the Board and set forth line items for expenditures for each department and

explanations of designated fund balance including the following: Fund Balance Modification Statement and the Salaried Employee Wage Schedule. Supervisor Combs requested the Supervisor's memo dated November 26, 2013 be a part of the motion for the budget approval inclusive of the following items: A) Revenues in excess of those noted shall be dedicated to fund balance; B) Fiscal year line items, which are not expensed, with the exception of specified reserve line items, shall revert to net income; C) Approval of appendices noted above as part of the General Fund Budget; D) Revenue as "Tax Administrative Fee" is to continue as in past practice. The allocated millage for township operations is 4.9144, which represents .9144 mill for Township Operations and 4 mills for Public Safety; E) Adoption by departmental total; F) Van Buren Township Board of Trustees hereby sets the value for capitalization of fixed

assets at \$1,000 for items having a useful life greater than one year. The exception would be computer and technology equipment for which items with values less than \$1,000 will be grouped and depreciated as long as the total of the grouped items exceeds the \$1,000 threshold; and G) December 3, 2013 approval supersedes prior resolutions. The proposed expenditures for the 2013 Amended Budget are \$13,172,461 and the 2014 Proposed Budget expenditures are \$13,657,027. Revenue sources include: property taxes, public safety millage revenues, registrations and licenses, permit fees, park fees, and State Shared Revenue with the consideration of the impact of the gradual elimination of personal property tax. The 2014 Proposed Budget reflects a transfer of 2.8 million from Landfill Fund and approximately \$400,000 from the Fund Balance.

Comments or questions from the Board. Trustee McClanahan stated the Public Safety line item for wages is overfunded for the 2014 Budget and would like a break-down of this line item. Supervisor Combs stated this line item has been reviewed by the Public Safety Director. Trustee Jahr requested Supervisor review the changes since the November Work Study review of the Budget. Supervisor Combs reviewed the major changes in the budget including reductions to the following budgets; Board, Elections, General Office, Building and Grounds, Public Safety, Fire Department, Planning Department, Recreation and Seniors. Clerk Wright stated the 2014 Proposed Budget has been reduced by approximately \$800,000. Clerk Wright stated the three full time officials did review the police wage line item and it was reduced by \$115,000. Clerk Wright stated additional questions and changes of items should have been resolved prior to tonight's Board meeting. Trustee Miller stated suggestions were given during the Work Study review of the Budgets; however, all items were not discussed. Board members discussed the required Public Hearing by December 15th with the Budgets being approved by December 31st and discussed postponing voting on the Budgets to the December 17th Board meeting. Trustee Jahr also agreed a breakdown of the police wages line item should be provided to the Board prior to Board approval. Board members discussed the Museum budget including the shortage of funds, the need for contributions from Sumpter Township and City of Belleville, additional sponsorships to offset costs and possibility of reducing the Museum position to part time. Board members agreed to contact the City of Belleville and Sumpter Township for their portion of funding. Trustee Hart stated an additional position of a part time Human Resources employee has been added to the Supervisor Department.

Comments or questions from the audience were as follows. John Delaney commented on Museum agreement and funding; budget for township legal counsel. Brenda Kurtz spoke on behalf of the AFSCME union regarding the following topics: number of union member, union jobs, lack of raises, bonus, hiring of management, Museum Director position, Human Resource position, Executive Assistant duties, Human Resource duties, DDA Director and Animal Control position. Supervisor Combs stated the Deputy Clerk handles the majority of the Human Resources duties and Executive Assistant job description included Human Resources duties; however these duties are to be removed from her job description. Clerk Wright stated the township is in need of a Human Resource Director due to the increase of duties related to Human Resources and the hiring of a Human Resource Director will be

beneficial to all township employees. Paul White commented on the following: employee breakdown of wages and fringes, bond debt for fire station one, bond debt for Visteon, legacy costs, the 2012 Audit presentation on the township website, reduction in household income, general fund balance, revenues, millage increases, landfill fund and website 2012 final budget.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Budd moved, McClanahan seconded to close the public hearing at 8:03 p.m. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Miller, McClanahan, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

Hart moved, McClanahan seconded to open the public hearing to receive public comment on the 2013 Amended Special Revenue Fund Budgets and the 2014 Proposed Special Revenue Fund Budgets. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Combs, Wright, Budd, Hart, Jahr, McClanahan and Miller. Carried.

Supervisor Combs opened the public hearing at 8:04 p.m. and stated the following are the Special Revenue Funds: Belleville Area Museum, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Downtown Development Authority (DDA), E-911 Service Fund, Federal Forfeiture Fund, Landfill Fund, Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) and State Forfeiture Fund. Supervisor Combs requested in consideration for approval of these funds the following: A) Revenue in excess of those noted shall be dedicated to fund balance and B) Items not expensed shall revert to net income. Clerk Wright stated landfill funds are used to cover expenses for the township noting the township is not in a deficit. Trustee Hart agreed the township needs to maintain a reserve fund balance and the township is monitoring landfill funds used. John Delaney stated a portion of the Waste Management landfill revenues were to be used to build a Civic Center/Recreation Center, also at some point the landfill will close and does not want the township to use all of the landfill funds. Supervisor Combs stated the township began using landfill funds due to loss of revenue from housing and the township is looking for additional revenue sources and does not intend to deplete the landfill funds. CJ Marshall stated the township has choices such as additional millage noting taxes in the township has decreased, use landfill funds or a reduction spending. Sandy Croswell stated she does not want to see additional millage due to rise in cost of living and Visteon Bonds.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to close the public hearing at 8:19 p.m. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Jahr, Miller, Hart, McClanahan, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Comments were made from 8:21 p.m. to 8:48 p.m. by audience and Board members regarding the following topics: several residents commented on the Victoria Park Consent Judgment items including Planning Commission procedures, bonds, escrow funds, same quality of home, residents input and attorney; allow public comments during discussion of agenda item; budgets; revenue from millages; Museum.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Miller moved, McClanahan seconded postpone the adoption of the 2013 Amended General Fund Budget and the 2014 Proposed General Fund Budget. Carried.

Hart moved, Budd seconded to approve the 2013 Amended Special Revenue Fund Budgets and the 2014 Proposed Special Revenue Fund Budgets, as presented. Roll Call Vote. Yeas:

McClanahan, Jahr, Hart, Budd and Combs. Nays: Miller and Wright. Absent: None. Carried.

McClanahan moved, Hart seconded to approve the 2013 Amended Water and Sewer Department Budget and the 2014 Proposed Water and Sewer Department Budget and 2 percent rate increase, as presented. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McClanahan, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: Miller. Absent: None. Carried. Wright moved, McClanahan seconded to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the proposed amended Victoria Park Consent Judgment, subject to Planning Commission review of plans. Yeas: McClanahan, Hart, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: Miller and Jahr. Absent: None. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Jahr moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the December 3, 2013 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor Combs received and filed the October 2013 Budgetary Report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor Combs announced the following: Applications are available for Van Buren Township residents who are eligible for Community Development Block Grant housing rehabilitation assistance program for information contact Developmental Services Department; Applications are available for anyone who would like to serve on a Committee or Commission noting there are several vacancies and for information contact Supervisors Office at 734-699-8910; The Goodfellows "2013 Food and Family Essentials Drive" runs through December 6th to collect donations for "No Child Without A Christmas". Registration for Goodfellows runs through December 6th; These events will be held on Saturday, December 7th the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce "Christmas Parade of Lights" will begin at 6:00 p.m. and following the parade the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremonies will be held on the museum lawn, Winter Fest 2013 at the Belleville Area Museum and Van Buren Parks and Recreation Holiday Arts and Crafts Show from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Township Hall; These events will be held on Saturday, December 14th Van Buren Parks and Recreation a Super Saturday with Santa from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Township Hall and the Belleville Area Museum will hold a Children's Christmas Ornament Workshops; Waste Management will not pick up of trash and recycling on Wednesday, December 25th and January 1st; Yard Waste ended the last full week of November and resumes the first full week of April.

Treasurer Budd stated winter tax bills have been mailed.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Comments were made from 9:49 p.m. to 9:52 p.m. by a resident regarding Public Comment period for audience on agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT: Miller moved, Wright seconded to adjourn at 9:53 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor
Publish: December 12, 2013

Birthdays

Dec. 13 – Dan Micael, Sarah Sadell

Dec. 15 – Brooks Sanders

Dec. 17 – Josh Turner, C.L. Orr, Zackery Crawford

Dec. 23 – Mary McAleer

Dec. 25 – Constance Genevieve Riggs

Do you have a birthday in December? 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.

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, Dec. 1:

1051 – larceny from an auto, 45945 S. I-94 Service
1144 – domestic violence, 13300 Edgedale Dr.
1427 – property damage accident, 41775 Ecorse
1454 – assault & battery, 12765 Hannan Rd.
1620 – narcotics crime, 45707 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1938 – intimidation threat, 9589 Dalton Dr.
2111 – larceny, 41646 Arthur St.

Monday, Dec. 2:

0047 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service
Dr./W. Archwood
1014 – mental, 41137 S. Woodbury Dr.
1227 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd./S.
I-94 Service Dr.

1354 – operating while intoxicated, Bemis /
Sumpter
1422 – harassment call, 8263 Jeremy Rd.
1439 – unauthorized driving away of auto,

Atchinson

1725 – larceny, 10766 Oak Lane
1738 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd./N.
I-94 Service Dr.

1859 – disorderly conduct, 42901 Tyler Rd.

2239 – intrusion alarm, BYC

2248 – assault & battery, 41107 S. Woodbury Dr.

Tuesday, Dec. 3:

0200 – disorderly conduct, 158 Aspen

0203 – disturbance, 48930 Denton Rd.

0244 – disorderly conduct, 158 Aspen

0423 – malicious destruction of property, 5825
Vernon St.

0550 – missing person, 10638 Oak Lane

1149 – juvenile complaint, 45063 Lindsey Dr.

1306 – fraud, 42721 Stratford Dr.

1554 – larceny, 7158 Belle Pointe Dr.

1648 – breaking & entering, 42700 N. I-94 Service

1704 – private property accident, 2025 Rawsonville
Rd.

1704 – narcotics crime, E. Huron River Dr. /
Haggerty Rd.

1729 – malicious destruction of property, 46121
Village Green Ln.

1836 – fraud, Walmart

1853 – property damage accident, 2235
Rawsonville

Wednesday, Dec. 4:

0653 – disturbance, Meijer

0916 – property damage accident, 47001 Waters
Edge Ln.

1122 – fraud, Walmart

1441 – child abuse, 35 Maple Dr.

1447 – disturbance, Bayshore Dr./Denton Rd.

1509 – intimidation threat, 41646 Arthur St.

1730 – malicious destruction of property, 46572
Bemis Rd.

1849 – property damage accident, WB I-94 /
Rawsonville

1931 – property damage accident, 10930 Belleville

2003 – suspicious vehicle, BYC

2036 – breaking & entering, 17168 Bak Rd.

2102 – intimidation threat, 8967 W. Walden Dr.

2144 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. /
Park Estates Dr.

2231 – private property accident, 42350 Van Born

2308 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. /
S. I-94 Service Dr.

2310 – intimidation threat, 43427 Heatherfield
Blvd.

Thursday, Dec. 5:

0550 – suspicious person, 42543 Winding Pond Dr

0919 – private property accident, 42350 Van Born

0948 – hunting complaint, Morton Taylor/Ecorse

0952 – assault & battery, 44401 S. I-94 Service Dr.

1433 – holdup alarm, 45155 McBride Rd.

1556 – mental, 44401 S. I-94 Service Dr.

1600 – shots fired, Haggerty/Riggs

1622 – fraud, 2025 Rawsonville

1741 – property damage accident, Belleville /
McDonald's

1752 – harassment call, 109 Richard Run

1837 – breaking & entering, 8804 Parkwood Dr.

2012 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. /
S. I-94 Service Dr.

2200 – property damage accident, Walmart

2201 – property damage accident, Walmart

2226 – harassment call, 37 Brandi

2251 – assault & battery, 41601 S. Bellridge Dr.

Friday, Dec. 6:

0105 – assault & battery, 11022 Oak Ln.

0329 – assault & battery, 45501 N. I-94 Service

1016 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 48860

Denton Rd.

1258 – agency assist, 501 W. Columbia, BHS

1735 – intimidation threat, 23 Maple Dr.

1959 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 4104

Westlake

2300 – weapons violation, 16907 Elwell Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 7:

0218 – fight, 10930 Belleville

0330 – noise complaint, 41710 N. Bellridge Dr.

0545 – breaking & entering, 42045 Filmore St.

0753 – operating while intoxicated, EB I-94 /
Belleville Rd.

1015 – hospice, 237 S. Ponderosa Trl.

1058 – larceny, 49891 W. Huron River Dr.

1109 – larceny from auto, 9119 Celestine Dr.

1222 – malicious destruction of property, 5825

Vernon St.

1325 – larceny from auto, 9506 Hampton Dr.

1425 – larceny from auto, 9521 Hampton Dr.

1446 – property damage accident, Van Born /
Haggerty

1516 – fraud, 13001 Lakeview Dr.

1621 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler

1700 – malicious destruction of property, 46145

Village Green Lane

1829 – larceny from auto, 44252 Stonebridge Dr.

1922 – larceny from auto, 43766 S. Timberview

2130 – agency assist, Sumpter/Hull

2154 – assault & battery, 41278 Woodbury Dr.

2344 – personal injury accident, Tyler/Morton
Taylor

Also on this week's log are 165 traffic stops, which
include 41 on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 1:

1605 – suspicious situation, 201 Potter Dr.

1810 – follow up, 35 Loza Lane

1816 – civil matter, 6 Main St.

Monday, Dec. 2:

0020 – intrusion alarm, 573 Main St.

0518 – intrusion alarm, 501 W. Columbia, BHS

0920 – prisoner transfer, 11131 S. Wayne Rd.

1106 – E-911 hang up/investigation, 801 Estrada

1235 – suspicious person, 375 N. Liberty St.

1358 – fraud, 723 Harbour Pointe Ct.

1420 – vehicle lockout, Hayward's

1647 – harassment call, 35 Loza Lane

1959 – E-911 hang up/investigation, 231 Belle

Villa

2015 – fraud, 6 Main St.

2216 – disturbance, 75 S. Liberty St.

Tuesday, Dec. 3:

0309 – agency assist, Kmart

1204 – parking complaint, Fourth St./Main St.

Wednesday, Dec. 4:

0238 – disturbance, 401 Estrada

0942 – miscellaneous complaint, 127 Carmell St.

1710 – abandoned auto, 176 W. Columbia Ave.

1730 – fraud, 19 Loza Lane

1831 – suspicious situation, 465 Main St.

1927 – malicious destruction of property, 205

Roland St.

2004 – E-911 hang up/investigation, 514 Main St.

2306 – suicide or attempt, 32 Carmell St.

Thursday, Dec. 5:

1127 – property check

1257 – missing person, BHS

1345 – lost property, BHS

1541 – fraud, 465 Main St.

1736 – assist fire dept., 138 Menlo Park Dr.

1953 – E-911 hang up / investigation, 167 Fourth

1952 – assault domestic, 341 Light Tower Ct.

2137 – disorderly conduct, 496 Main St.

Friday, Dec. 6:

0309 – suspicious situation, 506 Harbour Pointe

1200 – all other traffic, Owen

1257 – fight, BHS

1539 – assault & battery, BHS

1540 – weapons violation, BHS

1940 – intrusion alarm, 300 Sumpter

Saturday, Dec. 7:

0228 – agency assist, Pine Creek

0638 – intrusion alarm, BHS

1056 – fraud, 6 Main St.

1606 – E-911 hang up / investigation, 167 Fourth
St., library

1806 – assist fire dept., BHS

1917 – miscellaneous complaint, 126 South St.

2341 – E-911 hang up / investigation, 275 W.
Columbia, Columbia Court

Also on this week's log are 49 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 1:

0035 – civil dispute, Wayside

0250 – fire dept. assist, 7200 bl. Oakville Waltz

0828 – suspicious incident, 39000 bl. Wear Rd.

1136 – 911 hang up, 22000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1428 – civil dispute, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.

1500 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 23000
bl. Karr Rd.

1559 – shots fired, 51000 bl. Wear Rd.

1620 – assist other agency, 43000 bl. Arkona Rd.

1723 – warrant arrest, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1933 – suspicious vehicle, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

2010 – larceny, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.

Monday, Dec. 2:

0642 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Willow

0825 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Willow

0941 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Willow

1534 – missing person report, Rustic Lane

1603 – suspicious incident, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 3:

0031 – suspicious vehicle, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

0200 – warrant arrest, 36000 bl. S. Huron Rd.

0453 – suspicious vehicle, Clark/Judd

0836 – suspicious incident, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.

0902 – suicide, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.

1019 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1027 – suspicious incident, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.

1356 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1526 – 911 hang up, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.

1718 – shots fired, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.

1738 – suspicious vehicle, 21000 bl. Martinsville

1834 – warrant arrest, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

2102 – civil dispute, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.

Wednesday, Dec. 4:

0237 – 911 hang up, 20000 bl. Wilmot

1049 – suspicious incident, Nevada

1254 – alarm, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

1514 – warrant arrest, out of township

1624 – civil dispute, 43000 bl. Arkona Rd.

1642 – threats complaint, 45000 bl. Kozma Rd.

1929 – civil dispute, 6700 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.

2008 – suspicious vehicle, Nevada

2030 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Wear Rd.

Thursday, Dec. 5:

0031 – disorderly person, Country Club Blvd.

0513 – property damage accident, Rawsonville /
Bemis

0616 – alarm, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.

0904 – larceny, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.

1201 – civil dispute, Virginia

1304 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Arkona

1523 – alarm, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1529 – warrant arrest, out of township

1557 – suspicious incident, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.

1629 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1756 – well-being check, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.

1932 – suspicious incident, Oregon

2003 – well-being check, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

2017 – assist other agency, Willis/Rawsonville

2022 – fire dept. assist, Sumpter/Judd

2107 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

2209 – family trouble, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.

Friday, Dec. 6:

0218 – suspicious vehicle, 25000 bl. Sherwood

0821 – larceny, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.

0908 – larceny, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.

1337 – well-being check, Carriage Ln.

1522 – breaking & entering report, 28000 bl. Karr

1534 – juvenile complaint, Rustic Ln.

1721 – missing person report, 47000 bl. Harris Rd.

1752 – larceny, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1806 – suspicious vehicle, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.

1914 – alarm, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 7:

0539 – larceny, Texas

0752 – larceny, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.

1021 – suspicious incident, California

1157 – larceny, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

1245 – assault, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1309 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.

1628 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.

1658 – well-being check, 21000 bl. Clemmons Ct.

1719 – animal complaint, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.

1728 – alarm, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.

TeamDESIGNS

Hair - Nails - Tanning - Etc..

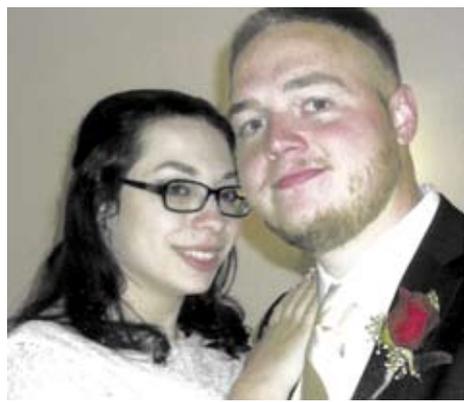
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Nicole Jenkins, Cody Caudill wed Nov. 14



Nicole and Cody

Nicole N. Jenkins of Livonia and Cody A. Caudill of Belleville were married Nov. 14 at Greenmeade Historical Church in Livonia.

Officiating was Pastor John Fuson from Hull Road Church of God in Belleville.

The bride is the daughter of Marvin and Cindy Jenkins of Livonia. The bridegroom is the son of Teresa Caudill of Belleville and Billy and Gloria Caudill of Adrian.

Attendants were Katie Nicholson, friend of the bride from Powder Springs, Georgia, and Joey Caudill, brother of the bridegroom of Belleville.

The couple is residing in Belleville.

Pet of the Week

Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue
“GINGER”



Ginger is a sweet older pup with lots of spring left in her step and love in her heart to share. She's a 9 1/2 year old Beagle with a friendly and social personality eager to find her way into a new fur-ever home. Ginger is a true Beagle and likes to have her nose to the ground for busy outside adventures. She definitely still needs some daily exercise and time to sniff around making her a great hiking or walking partner for shorter trips fitting her age. She's also very partial to stuffed toys but has a slight problem with keeping them fully intact after playtime is over. She has been known to act like a queen bee when other dogs are getting too much of her attention but can usually be corrected and brought back to her senses pretty quickly. Ginger is truly a people loving dog and will need a home where she gets to spend lots of time with her people to keep emotionally content. Don't be turned away by her age because this oldie but goodie has many years left to share and will make an excellent addition to any household that will give her the time and effort she deserves. In return, Ginger will shower you with doggie kisses and unconditional love for the rest of her years. She is spayed, vaccinated and micro-chipped. Call today to meet this special girl.
734-461-9458

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one. Check out our lease
with option to buy program.**



BHS Alumni Swim set for Saturday, Dec. 21

Belleville High School will hold its traditional Alumni Swim Meet, starting at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21.

Pool Manager John Cast said this is an annual event, dating back to the early 1970s. Alumni swimmers are provided an opportunity to swim against Belleville's current swimmers.

Interested alumni may contact JCast@VanBurenschools.net for more information, or to communicate their intent to swim.

National Heritage Academies Keystone Academy Public Notice

KEYSTONE ACADEMY
47925 BEMIS RD
BELLEVILLE, MI 48111-9760
734-697-9470 PHONE
734-697-9471 FAX

OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE
Open enrollment for the 2014-2015 academic school year ends on 2/28/2014 at 5:00 PM. Applications are available for grades K - 8 and can be obtained at the school, at www.NHAschools.com or by calling 866-NHA-ENROLL. Should the number of applications received during open enrollment exceed available seats, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing, if needed, will be held on 3/13/2014 at 1:30 PM at the school. Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining open seats. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly.

**NOTICE OF
NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY
AS TO STUDENTS**
Keystone Academy admits students of any race, color, and nationality or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic abilities, measures of achievement or aptitude, disability, status as a handicapped person, homeless status, English proficiency, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other school-administered programs.



2014 FOCUS SE

24 month lease for **\$136/mo.***

UP TO \$3,000 IN REBATES. BUY FOR \$15,342



2014 FUSION SE

24 month lease for **\$162/mo.***

UP TO \$2,000 IN REBATES. BUY FOR \$20,420

\$\$ HUGE OFFERS \$\$

ON YOUR NEXT VEHICLE LEASE OR PURCHASE!



Go Further

ATCHINSON FORD HAS BEEN AWARDED THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD FROM FORD MOTOR COMPANY! It's THE HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT WE CAN RECEIVE IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION!

2013 F-150 SUPER CAB 4X4



V-8

24 month lease for **\$219/mo.***

UP TO \$5,250 IN REBATES. BUY FOR \$27,427



2014 FLEX SEL

Leather, 7 passanger. 24 month lease for only **\$235/mo.***

UP TO \$4,500 IN REBATES. BUY FOR \$29,168



2014 ESCAPE SE

24 month lease for **\$172/mo.***

UP TO \$2,000 IN REBATES. BUY FOR \$22,285

All Rebates & Payments Expire 11/30/2013

USED CAR SPECIAL



2012 FIESTA SEL

Factory warranty.

ONLY \$11,999

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



Atchinson Ford Sales, Inc.
9800 Belleville Rd.
Belleville, MI 48111

734-697-9161

www.atchinson.net



9624 Belleville Road, Belleville, MI

734-697-1000

Hours: Monday - Saturday 6am - 10pm • Sunday 7am - 9pm
COMING DECEMBER 23 -- Santa 5pm - 10pm, Clown 6pm - 8pm

Every Wednesday All Day!

Small Greek Salad with a Cup of Soup Only \$5.99
No Coupon Needed!

Open Christmas Eve
until 2pm to serve your needs!
Closed Christmas Day



Open New Years Day!

Seafood Specials
Every Wednesday & Friday



Every Thursday All Day!

Gyro or Chicken Gyro with fries Only \$5.99
No Coupon Needed!

www.leosconeyisland.com



Monday - Friday Breakfast Specials

6am - 11am

Starting at only \$1.99
No Coupon Needed!

FISH & CHIPS EVERY FRIDAY



99¢ CONEYS EVERY MONDAY



No Coupons Necessary!

Every Tuesday

- 1/3lb Burger -- \$2.99
- Sliders, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- 1/2lb California Burger, Fries & Pop \$7.99
- 1/2lb Ultimate Cheese Burger, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- 1/2lb California Burger, Fries & Pop \$7.99
- California Chicken Burger, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- Turkey Burger, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- Salmon Burger, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99

Every Wednesday & Friday

- All You Can Eat Fish -- \$8.99
- Fish Sandwich, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- 21 Shrimp Basket, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- Tuna Wrap, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- Tuna Melt, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- Lake Perch, Fries & Pop 2pc -- \$6.99
- Lake Perch, Fries & Pop 3pc -- \$7.99
- Lake Perch, Fries & Pop 4pc -- \$8.99



BREAKFAST SERVED ALL DAY!



We Have A Clown Every Monday 6-8pm
Bring Your Kids for Face Painting and Free Balloon Fun!