Van Buren Township Public Safety Director Greg Laurain, left, and Lt. Charles Bazzy inspect a site for installation of the township’s new emergency alert sirens. The first four of 13 sirens were installed March 19. This siren is located within Van Buren Park next to the boathouse. The other three were placed at Ecorse and Belleville roads, Haggerty and Ecorse next to the pump station, and one near Van Buren Plaza on Belleville Road. Director Laurain said the complete siren system hopefully will be up and running sometime in April.

Installation of emergency sirens begins in Van Buren Township

By Gregory M. Laurain
Director of Public Safety
Van Buren Township

We are happy to announce that all outside equipment has been delivered to our vendor (West Shore Services Inc.) and the installation process of the Emergency Alert Siren (EAS) system has begun. As of Thursday, March 19, four siren sites were the first to be completed at Van Buren Park, Ecorse and Belleville, Haggerty and Ecorse, and in the area of Van Buren Plaza. The remaining nine towers should be installed within a three-week period contingent on the frost law.

Though the system is not operational until all sirens are installed, we are developing protocols for Public Safety personnel to follow in the event of an emergency that requires the public/community to be notified by use of the Township EAS system.

This important life-safety project has been made possible through funding from the Downtown Development Authority, Van Buren Civic Fund, and CDBG block grant funds.

(continued on page 7)
Van Tassel

Belleville Area Independent/March 26, 2015

SECOND FRONT PAGE

VB School Board gives Supt. Van Tassel ‘highly effective’ rating

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education gave School Supt. Michael Van Tassel the top “highly effective” annual rating for his work at its regular meeting March 16. Supt. Van Tassel also had his contract extended for another year, making it good until June 30, 2018.

Board members said they offered Van Tassel a raise, but he declined. His base pay in 2014 was $132,502.46, plus benefits, for a total cost to the school district of $191,118.49.

Board policy requires the board, no later than March, to evaluate the performance of the superintendent. A summary statement of that evaluation was developed by the board after a closed-door session evaluation of the superintendent’s performance.

Under Van Tassel’s contract, unless his contract is extended and salary set for an additional year by June 30 or written notice to the contrary is given by the board by 90 days before June 30 (April 1), the contract automatically extends for another year.

Board Secretary Kevin English read a summary of the evaluation.

The evaluation begins: “Superintendent Van Tassel continues to exceed our expectations for effectiveness. His leadership is comprehensive, attending to all areas of operation and planning, while taking on extraordinary challenges without missing a beat.

“We are especially pleased with the methodic and long-range building he has done of both human capacity and effective processes. Our school district has never before, to our knowledge, invested so systematically in ongoing training, development, and continuous improvement.

“The results are evident in increased attention to staff morale, fewer parent complaints, better financial stability, incremental improvements in facilities, and – most importantly – the 21st Century curricula, materials, and teaching practices that have been producing above-average growth in student learning…”

In other business at the March 16 meeting, held at Edgemont Elementary School, the board:

• Approved the recommendation to name Melissa Lloyd as new principal for Owen Intermediate School with a one-year term for the 2015-16 school year at a salary of $94,416 plus fringe benefits offered to all administrators. Lloyd currently is an assistant principal at Belleville High School, with a base salary of $83,494.36 for 2014, plus $52,370.14 in administrative benefits for total compensation of $135,864.50.

Belleville DDA awards bid for Horizon Park project to Blue Ribbon

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Four bids for construction of the Horizon Park kayak launch and attendant projects were opened by Dave Vallier of Spicer Engineers at the Feb. 18 meeting of the Belleville Downtown Development Authority.

In 2011, the estimate for the project was $157,000, but the lowest bid opened on Feb. 18 was $40,000 more than that, he pointed out.

Bidders were:
• Anglin Civil - $223,600.25 for both divisions
• Davenport Brothers - $211,284, both divisions
• Blue Ribbon - $194,071.50 for both divisions
• Terrafrma - $99,670.99 for the first division

The DDA voted to give the bids to Spicer to go over them and make a recommendation.

Vallier said since there were two divisions in the project, he will separate parts of the bids and may recommend two companies for the separate work projects.

The first division is for dock improvements, parking lot paving, concrete sidewalk, and shoreline/stairway grading and seeding, kiosk improvements, decorative benches, decorative trash receptacle, and clean up and site restoration.

The second division was for furnishing and installing the canoe/kayak launch, 150 feet of EZ Dock, and 2 EZ Dock gangways.

DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson said that local vendor preference in bidding is only for projects under $100,000, in reply to Treasurer Sabrina Richardson-Williams question about whether Davenport will get a preference.

Actually, the Davenport Brothers business is in Belleville and their homes are in Sumpter Township. Bidder Blue Ribbon has his business located in Romulus and he lives in Van Buren Township. A Terrafrma office is in Van Buren Township.

At its March 18 meeting, Vallier told the DDA that the project ran into a hiccup.

He said the project was set up to be bid in two divisions and at the mandatory pre-bid meeting on Feb. 4 companies were told they could bid on one or both divisions.

Vallier said Davenport’s bid of $92,030 was low on division one and Blue Ribbon at $96,690 was low on division two. Blue Ribbon was low on both divisions and Davenport was second.

Vallier said they heard back from the DNR on March 4 and the DNR said they could not award the bids by division.

The DNR noted the DDA advertisement did not specifically state that they could bid by divisions and it could be misleading.

The DDA could revise the form and rebid or award the whole contract to Blue Ribbon, the low bidder.

Vallier said he told the DNR that he told the contractors at the meeting that they could bid by divisions.

He said he heard back from the DNR on March 13, saying the DDA had two options: rebid with the addendum that the base bids will be awarded by division or award the contract to the lowest bidder: Blue Ribbon.

The DNR noted that page AD-2 of the advertisement for bids said, “Oral Statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective.”

“We need to make a decision,” Vallier said.

DDA member Brian Cospay said, “Blue Ribbon should get it – a no-brainer to me.” He said there were benefits to using the same company for both divisions of work.

Mayor Kerreen Conley, who sits on the DDA as a voting member, said there is a $5,000 difference doing it this way. She noted the DDA still doesn’t have FERC approval for the work in the lake.

Vallier said the work on the shore could start after the Frost Laws.

DDA coordinator Carol Thompson said the DDA is still waiting for operator of the dam STS and Van Buren Township to complete the report and send it to FERC.

Mayor Conley said the two contractors in the community – Davenport and Blue Ribbon – have been doing work in the city for years and she was kind of excited to think they could be working together.

“Both are very well respected and do (continued on page 9)
Sumpter Roller Rink rolls back to Planning Comm.

Fraternities have been in the headlines lately for wrecking a hotel up north. A frat party also has caused lots of trouble in Sumpter Township. The Sumpter Roller Rink rented its building for a frat party last Halloween and it turned into an ugly incident involving a stabbing and a gun.

Owner Bewey Horn admits they shouldn’t have rented to the fraternity and promised never to rent to such groups again. But, the police want to be sure no such activity occurs in the future and also want more respect for their officers when they come to the rink.

The township board sent the “special exception use permit” the rink had back to the planning commission to recommend whether the permit should be revoked. Planners ordered Horn to come up with an exact list of what he wanted to do there besides skating. At the March 12 planning commission meeting there was a misunderstanding and angry dispute over the list. Horn asked for his permit to be cancelled and for the return of the money he spent to get the permit. The commission voted to do as he asked, even though he had changed his mind by the time they voted.

The township board makes the final decision and so it was sent back to the board. On Tuesday, the board sent it back to the planners to work it out. Sumpter needs the roller rink business and the roller rink needs planners to work it out. Sumpter needs the decision and so it was sent back to the board.

On the voucher list approved for payment by the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees on March 17 was the purchase of two leg-irons for the jail cells at a cost of $134. Interesting. Pulls up pictures in my mind of wild prisoners.

The $6.4 million Capitol Dome renovation starts in Lansing on March 30 and the scaffolding covering the dome will be in place until fall. This is the first significant work on the outside of the state’s Capitol building since 1992.

According to reports, the dome’s decorative elements will be replaced and repaired. The sandstone walls will be cleaned and repaired. The entire dome and more than 200 windows are slated to be repainted.

There’s a lot of corrosion on the dome and there are gashes and fastenings that are loose or missing. A lot of metal needs to be replaced and a lot of sealant needs to be cut out. Joints need to be resealed. Most of the exterior stonework has not been refurbished since the building was built in 1879.

Also much of the Capitol will be washed after years of grime have created some discoloration. Many years ago, a tacky chemical was applied to the Capitol to keep away pigeons. That substance has attracted dirt and other pollutants.

The State Prosecutor who is prosecuting the embezzlement case from Archer Corporate Services (ACS) on Haggerty Road in VBT is Lori A. Dawson. During a break in the court proceedings last Friday, Lori told me she also prosecuted the embezzlement charges in Romulus a few years back that convicted the police chief, his wife, and others.

You may recall the preliminary exams for the Romulus defendants were held at the Van Buren Township Hall because they needed more room than they had at the 34th District Court.

Prosecutor Dawson said she learned a lot about embezzlement during that Romulus prosecution, so now she is the “embezzlement” prosecutor and got the ACS case. There are more than 3,800 pages of documents in this case and, so far, she and the officer in charge, VBT Lt. Ken Floro, have carried the many binders in and out of the courtrooms twice. They’ll do that again, I think, on April 8 when the preliminary exam on one of the defendants wraps up.

I’ve been told by those driving down North Liberty Street on St. Patrick’s Day that there were no-parking signs on both sides of street. There was a big, white tent set up on the Fourth Square next to Egan’s Irish Pub and a huge party was held that evening, with people parking for blocks and blocks along Main Street. There also was a parking lot set up on the lakeside property that at one time was to hold BYC’s club house.

There were many comments from Belleville residents about how nice it was to see all that activity in Belleville with so many people having a good time.

I asked Belleville Police Chief Hal Berriman about the no-parking signs on Liberty and he pled ignorance. He said he didn’t know about any signs on Liberty and he certainly didn’t order them to be put up.

He said he had been out and around along Main Street and parking on Main was packed. It was a nice crowd with very few problems, he said. He had the police Reserves out to patrol.

At the Belleville DDA meeting, the day after St. Patrick’s Day on the 17th, members of the DDA were making their general comments at the end of the meeting. DDA member Brian Copsey, who owns the Bayou Grill on the other side of the Fourth Street Square from Egan’s, said he had only one comment: “I’m glad it’s March 18.” That big party must have cut into the Bayou business for that one day.

The new president of the Western Wayne (County) Democratic Club is Kevin McNamara. I’ll be getting a list of the rest of the new officers from the group, but having our former county commissioner and candidate for county executive as the president of the local Democrats is an interesting turn of events. Former WWDCC president John Herman said he didn’t reelect.
**Letters**

**VB T First Responders took great care of me!**

To the Editor:

I want to praise the Van Buren Township police and fire fighters who came to my aid when my car was struck from the rear and rolled over right as I was turning into my driveway at 8:30 p.m., March 17.

I was heading north on Belleville Road from Tyler to go home and had my turn signal and brake lights on and was 70% turned into my driveway, when a car came out of nowhere, hit the back of my vehicle and rolled me over. I was left hanging upside down. Two young guys came over to help me and called the police and fire departments.

I asked them to help me out of the car, but they couldn’t. I was afraid the car would burst into flames because of the gas spilling out and the hot muffler, but I was able to reach over and turn off the ignition.

I didn’t know where that other car came from, since I could see nothing behind me when I started turning.

After the police came and then the fire fighters, I knew I was in good hands. They spoke calmly, which calmed me down. They treated me so professionally I am overcome with admiration.

They were beyond superior and kept me calm with their voices. They figured out a plan to get me out, covered me up good with a blanket, and then smashed out the rest of the windshield so I could be pulled through.

The EMTs checked me out and I was fine except for a bruise and a cut on my elbow. I didn’t need to be transported.

People talk about the amount of money the police and fire fighters get, but when you’re hanging upside down in a car you think is going to burst into flames at any minute, you don’t care about the money.

I was so glad to see them.

The professional manner in which they cared for me leaves me at a loss for words.

I just want to tell them all: Thank you! Our first responders are the best.

The police report indicates the female who was driving the other car said she was eating French fries out of a bag and looking down when she hit me. They found she had no driver’s license, no proof of insurance, and the wrong plate on her car. I hope the people in her car weren’t injured, either.

**Toby Leis**
Van Buren Township

**Help family of child killed in auto accident**

To the Editor:

Come out and enjoy spaghetti and help a good cause.

Drake was a loving, caring, beautiful, smart and witty 9-year-old boy, who passed away on March 16 after being involved in the automobile accident on March 11. A spaghetti dinner will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 4–9 p.m. at the Regal Beagle located at 817 East Michigan Ave in Ypsilanti.

Proceeds from the event will go to help Drake’s mother and sister as they work through losing their son and brother. This is an all-age’s event.

There is no admission charge to enter the event. Spaghetti will be $5 per plate. In addition we will be having a 50/50 raffle as well as basket raffles.

If you would like to help but cannot make it to the event a GoFundMe page has been created as well.

http://www.gofundme.com/olzy1c

Help spread the word and I hope to see everyone on Saturday.

Page McLaughlin
Belleville

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“God Sees the Truth, But Waits”

--Leo Tolstoy

**Barbara Rogalle Miller**
Attorney At Law
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Belleville, Michigan 48111
(734) 697-4455 - Fax (734) 697-7177

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**“When you are courting a nice girl an hour seems like a second. When you sit on a red-hot cinder a second seems like an hour. That’s relativity.”**

– Albert Einstein

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Easter is the time for Hot Cross Buns!

To the Editor:
This is the holiest time of the year for Christians. It is Easter. This is also the time for special goodies called Hot Cross Buns!

I called around and finally found a baker that especially makes these delicious buns. The G&G Bakery on Willis Road in Sumpter Township is taking orders for Easter.

If you want to know more about the tradition and history of Hot Cross Buns, Google “History of Hot Cross Buns.” There is a lot of information that will help you appreciate why these buns are only made at Easter time. If you don’t have access to a computer, go to the local library and the librarians will be happy to assist you with your questions.

Note: This is a holy time for many and it is a time to reflect on what Easter really means and why we should be humble, grateful, and caring for those who are in need of a little kindness. Now, go, order, and share your buns with someone.

Happy Easter to everyone!

Marian Caldwell
Van Buren Township
Embezzlement
(continued from page 1)

and retained attorney Peter Samouris.

Obioha was charged with three counts of embezzlement, two of which were more than $100,000; five counts of forgery; two counts of false pretenses; identity theft; and using a computer to commit a crime (maximum imprisonment of 20 years or more).

The crime is dated as May 1, 2009 and the warrant was issued Nov. 20, 2014.

Co-defendant Marsha Sharlene Rutherford, 38, is charged with two counts of embezzlement for $100,000 or more, two counts of false pretenses for $100,000 or more, identity theft, and using a computer to commit a crime (maximum imprisonment of 20 years or more).

Date of crime is May 1, 2009; warrant issued Nov. 20, 2014.

Rutherford also has posted her $100,000/10% bond.

Obituaries

DONALD ROY McGILL
(April 5, 1953 – February 25, 2015)

On Wednesday, February 25, 2015, Donald Roy McGill, 61, a Belleville resident, passed away at the V.A. Hospital in Ann Arbor after a struggle with illness.

He was born April 5, 1953 in Earle, Arkansas to Lester and Roy McGill. He lived life in high spirits. A retired radiologist and loving friend. He is survived by his son Matthew McGill of Belleville, daughter Christi Pederson of Florida, brother Jim, sister Lydia, his mother and extended family.

In life he was around the best kind of people. Thank you to everyone who attended his memorial service on March 7 this year.

ALISHA L. JOHNSON-RAY
(August 13, 1979 - March 22, 2015)

ALISHA L. JOHNSON-RAY
(August 13, 1979 - March 22, 2015)

AISHA L. JOHNSON-RAY

He testified she was not authorized to sign any of them. He had reviewed all 198 checks presented and none of those signatures were his, he said.

He said he did not know Marsha Rutherford, PHC Global LLC or BNM Transportation, except as a result of these legal proceedings. ACS had no reason to hire a trucking company.

Prosecutor Dawson asked if Obioha was authorized to send ACS’s tax returns to Porter Billings and Archer said she wasn’t.

Dennis Archer, Jr.

Second witness was Dennis Archer, Jr., ACS owner and president. The firm was incorporated in June 2004 and it does marketing services for clients, including trade, warehouse and distribution of rebates and coupons. It does printing and marketing for General Motors and does all the posters and books for North America GM.

He said ACS does not hire trucking firms, but it does warehouse the iPads being sent to General Motors dealerships.

Archer said Archway is the company that manages the logistics, which ACS does not do.

He testified that Obioha wrote checks, balanced the checkbook, made payments electronically, but is not authorized to sign checks, which he and his partner do.

He testified she was not authorized to write checks to herself, to Harvest Time Ministries, Next Detroit, Blue Rose Group, Millenium Fund, Next Detroit Initiative, PHC Global LLC and others.

Obioha was not authorized to give a $1.4 million charitable grant to a small business, PHC Global. When asked about Porter Billings, Archer called it a “back-room company” that ACS never hired. Porter Billings pays a company for its accounts receivable and then collects on them. ACS never hired them, he said.

Prosecutor Dawson showed Archer some checks and he said it looked like his signature on the checks, but he didn’t sign any of them. He had reviewed all 198 checks presented and none of those signatures were his, he said.

He said he did not know Marsha Rutherford, PHC Global LLC or BNM Transportation, except as a result of these legal proceedings. ACS had no reason to hire a trucking company.

Prosecutor Dawson asked if Obioha was authorized to send ACS’s tax returns to Porter Billings and Archer said she wasn’t.

Dawson produced paperwork showing 1,108 Cadillac iPads being transported by BMN Transportation Services from Belleville to Proctor and Gamble headquarters in Cincinnati and a payment of $10,526 for the transport. He said there was never a truckload of iPads and ACS never had such a shipment.

Michael Carr

Third witness was Michael Carr, CEO and one of the founders of ACS, a partner. He did identify Marsha Rutherford in the courtroom.

“In late April 2004, you realized there was a problem, with fraudulent activities,” Prosecutor Dawson prompted and Carr told what happened.

He said one evening while he was driving home he got a call on his cell phone and he saw it was Shawn (Obioha), but a man’s voice was on the phone. It was her husband Jason, who asked Carr to meet him at their home.

“She gave me information,” Carr continued, telling what happened at Obioha’s home.

“What did you do?” Prosecutor Dawson asked.

“I asked her why she did what she told me,” Carr said. “Then I asked her to meet me in the office the next morning, on a Thursday. I called our attorney at Dickinson Wright and asked him for direction.”

Carr said at the meeting, Obioha gave him a sheet of paper with check amounts.

“We had her leave the office to investigate the full extent of the fraudulent activities. She gave us Marsha Rutherford’s address and bank account information,” Carr said.

He said they had a letter from Jason Jenks, attorney with Jenks & Jenks, demanding payment of $600,000 for an overdue outstanding balance for Porter Billing, a factoring company that advances money to clients against receivables.

Another exhibit produced by Prosecutor Dawson was an operating contract between BMN Transportation and ACS, which Carr said was presented by Obioha at the Thursday meeting. Also, the ACS tax returns for 2010, 11, and 12 were not authorized to send to Porter Billing for a credit check.

Carr also testified they did not authorize

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Embezzlement (continued from page 7)

a $1.4 million small-business grant to PHC Global, LLC.
Carr testified ACS had Minority Business status since it began in 2004 and didn’t have to affiliate with anyone else because, “We ARE a minority business.”

Police Lt. Ken Floro

Fourth witness was VBT Police Lt. Ken Floro, who said his department received a report of crime activity on May 2, 2014 from Carr, concerning fraudulent activity and embezzlement at ACS.

Lt. Floro said originally they thought it was a few hundred thousand dollars but now it is just shy of $2 million.

He said his department checked into the situation and executed search warrants at the homes of Obioha and Rutherford, securing documents and electronic equipment. They conducted interviews.

Lt. Floro said he interviewed Rutherford at the Van Buren Township Police Department. He said he read her her Miranda Rights on May 9, 2014 and she agreed to talk to him.

“She had an understanding of why she was there because she was a suspect in fraudulent/embezzlement activity at ACS,” Lt. Floro testified.

She said she got a private grant for Millennium, a double minority.

Lt. Floro identified the two business cards Rutherford gave him: One for BMN Transportation, which had her name on it as CEO and founder, and the other for PHC Global, which read “President and Owner” but had no name.

Lt. Floro said Rutherford said she became available as a vendor for PHC Global for ACS. He said she told him BMN Transportation was her company and was on an approved vendor list and shipped items for ACS on a regular basis.

Lt. Floro said the interview was cut short when Rutherford’s attorney arrived and asked him to stop speaking to her.

Undercross-examination, defense attorney Callanan asked Lt. Floro about taking Rutherford into custody without a warrant for her arrest. Floro said the interview was not recorded and was 30-minutes long, at the most. He had written notes of what he told him which he used to authorize a warrant request.

Callanan said Rutherford told Floro that she had a legally binding contract and there was no scheme to embezzle.

“She admits no wrongdoing to you,” Callanan said and Floro agreed.

Editor’s Note: Prosecutor Dawson said why Obioha revealed information to Carr on the embezzlement is not yet public record so she couldn’t explain it yet.

Court Watching:

James Chapman gets 183 days in jail for trespassing incidents

By Rosemary K. Otzman

James Forrest Chapman, 45122 Hull Road, Van Buren Township, was sentenced by 34th District Court Judge David Parrott to 183 days in jail and taken into custody on March 17 to begin serving his time.

Judge Parrott ordered there to be no early release and that Chapman, 55, must contact the court when he is released.

On Jan. 16, after an hour of deliberation, a 34th District Court jury found Chapman guilty of trespassing, malicious destruction of property, and larceny under $200. That incident occurred on Sept. 15. The sentence for that was 93 days.

Judge Parrott ordered an additional 90 days added to the sentence because Chapman violated the court’s conditional bond. Chapman was out on $5,000 personal bond with conditions.

Judge Parrott had ordered him to have no contact with the property involved in the trespassing and that the violation on Oc. 12 was essentially contempt of court.

Judge Parrott said Chapman’s permission to be on the property on the south side of Hull Road had been revoked. Chapman cut the lock or chain on the gate and then went off with the chain, claiming the chain was his. The larceny involved his retaining of the lock after he was asked to return it by one of the VBT police officers.

The second trespassing involved a large wooden cross, same property that had been taken down. Chapman went with Nicolas Jones to retrieve the cross, which appeared to be made out of railroad ties and had been illuminated.

A photo of the cross lying on the ground was taken by police and was a part of the court record.

This was in the cornfield immediately to the west of 44975 Hull Road.

Chapman said that the cross held “biblical and sentimental value to him” and that’s why he wanted it back.

Chapman’s defense attorney was John Day.

Court Watching:

Koenig gets plea deal at Frank Murphy with probation, work detail

By Rosemary K. Otzman

On Monday, Paul Koenig, 49, of Van Buren Township entered into a plea agreement at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice and was sentenced to a year’s probation, serving five days on a work program, and paying minimal fines and costs.

Koenig had been charged with assault with a dangerous weapon (a dog) and assaulting or obstructing a public official on Aug. 28 in the 13000 block of Martinsville Road.

At the docket conference Koenig’s attorney Jason Goldman discussed the case with one of the lead prosecutors and the
Koenig  
(continued from page 8)

prosecutor agreed to dismiss the assault with a dangerous weapon charge, a felony. Koenig then pled guilty to “attempted obstruction” which is a misdemeanor. The court granted Goldman’s request for immediate sentencing.

To form a factual basis to be convicted of attempted obstruction, Koenig stated on the record that he may have shouted a profane statement at the ordinance officer in an attempt to convince the ordinance officer to leave his property.

No mention was made of the dog that figured into the testimony of VBT Ordinance Officer David Schuler during the March 4 preliminary exam at 34th District Court.

Court Watching:  
Defendant gets 18 charges dropped in plea deal on larceny charges

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

Djuna Lynn Garbo pled guilty to a new reduced charge of larceny under $200 and the charge of identity theft and 17 other counts were dismissed at 34th District Court in Romulus on March 11.

Garbo had been accused of using a Financial Transaction Device on Jan. 25, 2014 in Van Buren Township to take property and items from Patricia DiPietro.

The original charges, filed Feb. 6, were: larceny of $1,000 or more but less than $20,000, identity theft, Financial Transaction Device stealing/retaining without consent, 14 counts of FTD illegal sale/use, and FTD possession.

Her retained attorney Angie Martell said her client would pay the agreed-upon $5,884 restitution by credit card after she left District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green’s courtroom that morning.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Latoya Willis said the defendant agreed to mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Attorney Martell said Garbo has been in treatment for a long time and has been dry since 2014. She lived in Canton and now lives in Washtenaw County.

Judge Green noted the deferred sentence was checked on the paperwork and it was approved 5-1 with Mayor Conley voting no.

“Does the township know it has things to do?” asked Councilman Tom Fielder from the audience.

Thompson said she talks to them every week. She said a packet is assembled by VBT and STS but Belleville doesn’t have a copy of the sent documents.

After the vote was taken to approve Blue Ribbon, DDA chairwoman Rosemary Loria said, “It was a tough decision. I don’t know if there’s a right or wrong decision. Hopefully, we’ll get the kayak launch built this summer.”

At the March 18 meeting, the DDA:

• Heard a report on the Belleville Area Museum program by Director Katie Dallos; and

• Was informed that the BYC will do its Beautification project on May 2 and asked if Brown came up with a method they could take it to VBT for the township to consider.

Morgan Hunter named to Dean’s List at Siena Heights

Morgan Hunter of Belleville has been named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2014 semester at Siena Heights University in Adrian. To be on the Dean’s List students must attain a 3.5 grade point average for 12 or more semester hours of letter-graded work. During the fall semester, Morgan earned a 3.8 GPA. Morgan was born and raised in Belleville and graduated from Belleville High School in 2012. She is in her junior year at Siena Heights, where she has a full scholarship. Morgan is studying Criminal Justice to become a forensic scientist. Her parents are Kelvin Hunter, Sr. and Marilyn Hunter.
Keystone Academy school board seeks new board member

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Are you interested in becoming a school board member?

The Keystone Academy school board is looking for a new board member since present board vice-president Amy Gusfa has resigned to take a job opportunity in Cincinnati.

At the March 12 board meeting, Gusfa explained that her husband, who originally is from Cincinnati, has had a job that kept him traveling on the road for years. With his new job in Cincinnati he won’t have to travel.

She said she starts her new job in April and so the March 12 meeting was her last meeting as a board member. The open seat is a member-at-large position, so candidates do not have to have children in the school or be an educator. Board members also do not have to live in the community.

The way it works is that the local school board nominates a candidate for the seat and that must be approved by the charter school authorizer, Bay Mills Community College.

The position is appointive not elective, such as in traditional public schools.

A National Heritage Academies brochure said board members serve approximately five hours a month, essentially to prepare for and participate actively in board meetings. The terms are for three years that can be renewed.

There is no financial compensation and board members do not do fund raising.

“Here is the reward of knowing that you are helping to mold a child’s life,” the brochure said, inviting the public to learn more about the school by visiting keystoneacademy.org.

Keystone Academy is a free public charter school located at 47925 Bemis Road in Sumpter Township and has 768 students in grades Young 5’s to 8th grade.

Other board members are: chairwoman Vesta Losen, treasurer Carol Manley, secretary Susan Meland, and William Johnson.

Those interested may call Keystone at (734) 697-9470.

In other business at the March 12 meeting the board:

- Heard Reg Ion, the grandfather of two Keystone students, give suggestions for ways to manage the pick-up-students part of the day that leads to traffic being disrupted on Bemis Road. He said the main problem is that they don’t have enough parking, but that’s the fault of the Sumpter Planning Commission that approved their plans when the building was constructed. The board and Principal Keturah Godfrey listened to his suggestions and said they will look into making the pickup more efficient. Godfrey told Ion that she is both principal and superintendent in this single-school district and she has “an incredible open-door policy” where people can come in at any time to talk to her. She invited Ion to come in with any other suggestions or comments. “You don’t find that in traditional public schools,” Ion said;

- Heard Principal Godfrey say the school could use three more Chrome Books per grade for a total of 27 new units. The Chrome Books cost $250 per unit for a total of $6,750. She said this in response to a board question of what the board could buy for the staff for Teacher Appreciation Week and National Charter School Week on May 4-8. They directed Godfrey to come up with a proposal for the next meeting;

- After a public hearing, passed the Revised School Safety and Anti-Bullying Policy to go along with the legislature’s changes, especially on cyber bullying. Although Keystone already had cyber bullying policy, this has more complete wording to protect anyone reporting cyber bullying and keep their name confidential.

“Cyber bullying is increasing exponentially because of the availability of technology,” said the board’s attorney LaRae G. Munk. The new law goes into effect March 31;

- Approved the Revised Wellness Policy to comply with federal laws. The U.S. Department of Agriculture changed its policy and added requirements for compliance. Munk said the revised policy went before the federal auditors and the federal legal counsellors at NHA to make sure Keystone’s are compliant;

- Approved the 2014-15 regular and A-133 Audit Letter of Engagement with Plante Moran;

- Heard Godfrey report that the school raised $7,000 for the American Heart Association and so two administrators each ate a cricket whole and then a cricket pan-fried in garlic, as promised, if their $4,000 goal was exceeded in the Jump Rope for Heart project; and

- Heard Godfrey announce the annual School Carnival is Saturday, March 28.

The next board meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14.
BELLEVILLE CENTRAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY PRESENTS
THE FLOP E BUNNY EASTER CANDY HUNT
SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2015
VICTORY PARK AT FIVE POINTS

Candy Hunt Schedule
12:15 p.m. --------------- Toddler to 3 years old
12:30 p.m. --------------- 4 to 5 years old
12:45 p.m. --------------- 6 to 7 years old
1:00 p.m. --------------- 8 to 10 Years old

Framed pictures with Flop E Bunny By April Warner Photography
12 Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Presenting Sponsor: GENISYS CREDIT UNION

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN Auto Repair Shop you can Trust?
AUTO-LAB
COMPLETE CAR CARE CENTERS
OF CANTON SOUTH
(734) 397-8800
CantonAutoLab.com
4474 Michigan Ave.
Canton, MI 48188

$49.95 FRONT WHEEL ALIGNMENT SPECIAL
Inspect steering suspension system, inspect shocks & struts for wear, inspect tires for wear, Most cars & light trucks. Additional parts & labor extra. Offer valid at Canton South location only. Must present coupon at time of write up. Offer expires March 31, 2015.

$50 OFF FRONT OR REAR BRAKE SERVICE
Brake Service includes: Inspecting the complete brake system, Replacing brake pads or shoes, Resurfacing or replacing rotors or drums as necessary. Bleed the complete brake system
Offer valid at Canton South location only. Must present coupon at time of write up. Offer expires March 31, 2015.
Wondering what your kids can do during spring break? Bring them to the RAC for some active and supervised Day Camp fun!

Our Spring Break Camp is for children age 6-12. Your kids will have the opportunity to participate in many games and activities, such as Arts & Crafts, Dodgeball, Basketball, Rock Climbing, Swimming, and much more, all in a safe, instructor led environment!

**RATES**
- Members: $80 per week
- $20 Daily Drop In
- Non-Members: $110 per week
- $27 Daily Drop In
- Daily Lunch Option: $4 per day

*Early Drop off/Late Pickup (7-9am, 3-5pm): $6 per child, per hour*
Women’s Club seeks volunteers for Reality Check event at McBride

The Belleville Area Women’s Club is looking for community volunteers to help with the Reality Check program. The club will be putting on a Reality Check event at McBride Middle School from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 7. For the Reality Check, the club works with eighth-grade students to give them a reality check on what it would be like to be out on their own.

The students are given details of a life: “You’re 25. You live in Belleville.” They find out if they are married or single, have any children, if they have a car, and they select their occupation from a list and then are given a salary that has to meet all their needs.

“This is an outstanding program where we reach into the community,” said Sophia Zoller, the program coordinator. “This is an extraordinary program that our kids need to see.”

Orphan of the Week

“MILA”

Meet Mila but be warned only keep reading if you love outgoing, affectionate and talkative kittens since Mila is all three and more. This super friendly girl can’t get enough attention and has no problem following you around. She would love to come home with you to set her sights on you with. Come meet Mila aka Ms. Friendly Kitty today. She’s spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLV/FIV and micro-chipped. Call Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue at 734-461-9458 or visit our website www.friendsmichigananimals.com for more information.

Different California student needs help

To the Editor:

Hello, I am a fifth grader at Napa Valley Language Academy in Napa, CA. I am writing to you because my class is doing a state report. I have chosen your magnificent state, Michigan. I would love it if you published my letter in your newspaper. It would really help my report. What would be so helpful from you and your readers are pamphlets, postcards, or souvenirs or anything helpful. I will be writing about your great state, Michigan’s agriculture, history, economy, famous people, historical events and I will be doing an oral report on your state.

Thank you for your support.

If you have any questions, please contact my teacher at ihernandez@nvusd.org.

Dustin W.

Napa Valley Language Academy

2700 Kilburn Ave., Napa, CA 94558

Editor’s Note: Napa Valley Language Academy is a Spanish/English Immersion Charter School. Another California student sent us a similar letter that was printed Feb. 19 and our readers opened their hearts. They sent many packages of Michigan items to Citalli Alvarado, a fifth grader at Salida Elementary School in Salida, CA. State reports must be part of California’s fifth-grade curriculum. How Bellefille got involved is a mystery.

Check Out These Offers!

- $2 OFF Your Entire Bill
  - Not valid on Mondays.
  - With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.

- 10% OFF Your Entire Bill
  - With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.

- $6.99 Up To 5 Items
  - With Hashbrowns & Toast
  - With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.

- $2 OFF Your Entire Bill
  - Of $20 or More
  - With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.

New Daily Dinner Specials

- MONDAY -- Pot Roast
- TUESDAY -- Country Fried Steak or Chicken
- WEDNESDAY -- Italian Night
- THURSDAY -- Hot Roast Beef
- FRIDAY -- Fish Night

Try A New Burger

- BELLEVILLE BURGER
  - With Coleslaw, Red Onions & American Cheese
- IRISH BURGER
  - Sauerkraut, Corned Beef, Pickle & Thousand Island

Try A New Burger

$7.99

- With Fries & Pop

Mondays

Enjoy Our Clown, Face Painting & Balloons

6-9pm
Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Throughout the month of March** – Quilt Show at the Belleville Area Museum.
- **Saturday, March 28** – State Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, invites constituents to a coffee hour at 10 a.m. at Leo’s Coney Island, 9624 Belleville Road in Van Buren Township.
- **Saturday, March 28** – There’s an Autism Fund Raiser in the Belleville High School gymnasium beginning at 9 a.m. Sign up by March 20 by calling (734) 636-4909, but walk-ins are still welcome. Come walk, run, push or wheel with others while raising money for Van Buren Schools, Burger School for Autism and Webster Elementary in Livonia.
- **Saturday, March 28** – Walk-in registrations for Belleville Cougar Football and Cheer for the 2015 season from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Wayne County Community College – Western Campus on Haggerty Road, room C104.
- **Saturday, March 28** – Sumpter Township Easter Egg Hunt for children starts at noon at Graham Park, Sumpter Road at Wear Road.
- **Saturday, March 28** – Children’s Sewing Workshop at the Belleville Area Museum. $1 per child; reservations recommended, (724) 697-1944. At noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. This year children 7-12 years of age will make doll quilts for Mott Children’s Hospital.
- **Saturday, March 28** – Van Buren Community Soccer is holding a bowling fund raiser 2-5 p.m. at Lodge Lanes in Belleville. Tickets are $20 for adults and $15 for children 12 and under. Includes pizza, drink, 2 games, shoes, Raffle and 50/50.
- **Saturday, March 28** – Basketball game to benefit the local St. Vincent DePaul charity is being held at the high school gym. Tickets are $10 for those 10 years old and older, with younger kids free. Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren police officers will face off against the fire fighters from those communities. Last year the fire fighters won. Doors open at 6 p.m. Game starts at 7 p.m.
- **Thursday, April 2** – This is the first of a four-session series to Learn Meditation – Mind, Body and Soul with instructor Sissel Bridges, 11 a.m. to noon at the September Days Senior Center, fee $20. Sign up at the center, 699-8918.
- **Saturday, April 4** – Take your Household Hazardous Waste to the Wayne County sponsored collection from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Romulus Civic Center, 11111 Wayne Rd.
- **Wednesday, April 8** – Chicken Supper from 5 p.m. to sell out at Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Rd., New Boston, (734) 654-9020. Carry-outs start at 4:30 p.m. Adults $10, children 12 and under $5.
- **Saturday, April 11** – Autism Fund Raiser begins at 4 p.m. at the Van Buren Eagles Lodge, 9961 Beck Road. All proceeds go to the Van Buren Public Schools in Belleville, Burger School for Students with Autism in Garden City, and Webster Elementary in Livonia. Tickets $20 in advance and $25 at the door. Call Rich at (734) 629-7122.
- **Thursday, April 16** – Third Thursday Lecture at 6 p.m. at the Belleville Area Museum features Gerald Dodson, retired from the Department of Defense, presenting “JFK: No More Tomorrows.” Free to members of the Historical Society and $5 for non-members.
More Letters

Legacy costs detrimental to Van Buren Township

To the Editor:

Van Buren Township has a police officer making $215,000 per year and we have a staunch union supporter defending these circumstances as the American way, and a “good ol’ boy” management accepting it, and a weak administration allowing this to happen for their own preservation. The circumstances allowing this to happen are cancerous, and it borders on a police state.

The reason officers and other employees work overtime as firefighters is to pad their income AND retirement.

The retirement compensation for police officers who are now retiring at 48 years old and started working when they were 18 years old is based on 75% of their final three years’ compensation. So 75% of $215,000 is $161,250 per year for retirement. Are you OK with that? (This could vary depending on the age, length of service and total last three years of compensation of an officer.)

We will now have a legacy cost for just one officer equivalent to the base pay of three new officers for a period of 20-30 years.

The cancerous ones will defend this practice of padding retirement by saying the officers were benevolent in helping the township when they were short of qualified firefighters.

In reality the cancerous ones caused the shortage by:

A. Stymying the efforts of a courageous fire chief to hire/train recruits. (The chief was fired.)
B. Making conditions for the part-time firefighters less than desirable.
C. Police officers taking cushy weekend firefighter assignments where they can sleep for 8 hours. (Do they control the callouts -- don’t bother us unless there is a serious fire? Nighty night!)

The officers falsely claim they have seniority over firefighters allowing the police to pick the best assignments. In reality, the firefighters should have first choice of assignments in their own department. They have not worked any hours when assignments are made. The officers have their full hours of regular officer assignments. Part-time firefighters are cowed into not pushing for this right by the cancerous ones. Some get fired. The seniority rights assignment issue is not given to police officers in their contract, they just take it. Nowhere in union contracts or departmental group have seniority rights assignment issue is not given to police officers in their contract, they just take it. Nowhere in union contracts does one departmental group have seniority rights in another group’s hours, let alone choice overtime rights. Watch for our weak administrators to put this in their next police contract.

Officers have claimed that the windfall retirement is paid from their own retirement funds. The reality is that your taxes are used to make up most of the shortfall in the funds.

The cancerous ones try to say that the “Blended Rate” that is mandated by the courts is the culprit. People listen to the cancerous ones fictitiously whine about blended rates and then go – Oh, OK your hands are tied by the court ruling. In reality here is the explanation of blended rates:

When VBT first started letting police officers work overtime as firefighters they compensated them with overtime rates of a firefighter. The police wanted to get paid overtime police officer rates. The courts settled this issue. They said that the township must pay officers a blended rate when they work as firefighters. That rate would be made up of 80% of the officer’s rate of pay and 20% firefighters’ rate of pay.

An example of a police officer making $50,000 per year is about $24/hour and firefighters wage of about $18/hour.

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Calling the court-mandated “Blended Rate” the issue, is just a smoke screen put up by the cancerous ones. Every time someone brings up the windfall issue the cancerous ones bring up “Blended Rate” and the real issue gets side-tracked. If someone brings up “Blended Rates” as an issue, look them in the eye and say it is not an issue.

Let me repeat, Blended Rates are not the issue that is costing our township serious money in wages and retirement legacy costs. The real issue is that we are paying officers overtime to work as firefighters. Some officers have enough hours to get paid double time. Why would any competent management/administration allow work to be done at $45.60/hour (or greater) when it could be done at $18/hour? There is no current law, union contract, or court ruling that forces the township to allow officers/employees to work overtime as firefighters.

The cancerous ones claim that the officers are doing a great service to the community and sacrificing their lives. In reality, these ones are shorting us. How well can a person...
work after that much overtime making life-changing decisions? One courageous fire official blew the whistle on the practice of police on overtime spending hours on personal business while on the clock. He is now fired. Will that blunder cost VBT an additional $50,000 - $200,000? The same sorry excuses to justify paying 3X the wages to accomplish work have been used for years. (See shortage of firefighters above.) One courageous trustee who fought this practice was threatened with death for his actions. The MSP investigated and determined that the threatening phone call came from a police officer’s desk (who was nearing retirement and worked a lot of overtime) with the voice and source phone number disguised. That trustee’s outside job was then threatened, if he did not back down.

Next the cancerous political machine helped vote this trustee out of office. The position of firefighting can be very physically demanding. One police officer trained to be a firefighter at the age of 60. The cancerous ones will claim that they could not prevent this because they cannot discriminate because of age. In reality, can a 60 year old lift hoses full of water and point hoses with over 100 pounds of water pressure for very long? The “good ol’ boy network” had this one pass the physical. Was his motive to become a firefighter “benevolent or community-minded”? Do you want 5 of these guys saving lives and fighting a fire at your house? There is no discrimination if the person applying could only be born at the age of eighty and broke down the salary of Ken Floro. To me it sounds like “fuzzy” math and sleight of hands. People of Van Buren aren’t stupid. Name withheld by request.

People of Van Buren Township aren’t stupid

To the Editor: In the March 12 paper a CeJay Marshall broke down the salary of Ken Floro. To me it sounds like “fuzzy” math and sleight of hands. People of Van Buren aren’t stupid.

Name withheld by request.

The position of firefighting can be very physically demanding. Since the administration is shirking its fiduciary responsibility to correct this I would like to see someone on the board step up and sponsor a motion to stop the practice of having employees work overtime as firefighters and plug the holes that stop hiring of firefighters.

District Library sets Spring Storytimes

Announcing Spring Storytimes at the Belleville Area District Library. Spring “Family” Storytime will be at 7 p.m. Mondays, March 23-April 27. Spring “Toddler Times” Storytimes will be at 11 a.m. Tuesdays, March 24-April 28 and at 11 a.m. Thursdays, March 26-April 30. The library will be closed on Good Friday, April 3.

“Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities. Truth isn’t.” —Mark Twain

FT/PT custodians needed. Must be reliable, have own transportation, pass a background check. Email mijobopenings@gmail.com

Johnny’s Grill Restaurant located on Belleville Lake is looking for experienced Bartenders, Chefs, Pizza Makers, Managers, Dishwashers, Servers and Delivery Drivers. Also need a full time Maintenance Person. Must be reliable. Mail resume to: Johnny’s Grill, 146 High St., Belleville, MI 48111 or fax to (734) 699-7847.


RECEPTIONIST NEEDED for Tues 3-8pm, Wed 2-6pm, Thurs 3-8pm, Sat 9-4pm. Call Georgie at Inspirations (734) 697-7007.

EQUIPMENT MANAGER. Part-time 10-20 hrs/week. Duties include: repair equipment, inventory & prep. Call Jeremy (734) 955-6600.

PART-TIME CLERICAL. On Call. Must know Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher. Call Tracey (734) 955-6600.

OWNER OPERATORS needed. Dedicated Lanes! From MI, KC, TN areas. CDL-A, 12 mo exp. www.bawc.com or Tabitha: 800-325-7884 Ext. 4

PART-TIME on-site Maintenance. Own tools required. $12-$15/hour. Prior experience desirable. Inquiries to: Carrie Martin (734) 459-5440 or cmartin@herriman.net.

EXPERIENCED JOURNEYMAN & Carpenter Apprentice wanted with 2 years experience. Reply to info@aqhms.com

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Name withheld by request.
Public Auction
Saturday, March 28th
at The Q
879 Sumpter Rd.
Preview 6:30pm, Auction 7:00pm
— Cash Only —
JNGauctions.com
734-489-4636

Vehicle for Sale
1998 Jeep Cherokee. 4-wheel Drive, auto, mud & snow tires. Runs good. Motor & Transmission are great. $1,600.
(734) 363-3744.

Rummage Sale
Rummage & Bake Sale. April 1, 2 and April 8,9,10, 9am-5pm. Morning Star Church, 44441 Clay.

Wanted
Wanted: Scrap Cars
Top Prices Paid!
True II Life Towing
(313) 268-3452
Call for all your Towing Needs

Wanted: Any size Men’s Jeans
True II Life Towing
(313) 697-9612

For Rent
One Bedroom. All utilities included except electricity. One month deposit required. Rent $625. (313) 790-0498

Lost
Gold High School Ring. No stone. Initials EB. Lost by Wal-Mart. Call the Independent (734) 699-9020

Services
Murray’s General Service.
Licensed & References.
(734) 697-6159

Rummage Sale
Round Bales Only. Leave Message.
734-587-2344

Property for Sale
$53,000. Looking to build your dream home? Great opportunity to own this lovely 3.19 acres in Belleville. Country setting. 196 ft. frontage. Can be split with easement. City water at road. Property perked and approved in 2006. For more information, call Penny Young at (734) 740-7350. Century 21 Belvil Realty (734) 697-1800

For Sale
New Dark Blue Swivel Chair. Very modern. Paid $370, asking $100. Must sell. (734) 941-3785.

Rummage Sale
Items. (734) 837-9930

For Sale
Manufactured Homes For Sale
$53,000.
Independent (734) 699-9020

Auction
HAY FOR SALE
Round Bales Only. Leave Message.
734-587-2344

M.D. Appliance Service
Refrigerators • Washers Dryers • Ranges
$20 House Call
Phone (734) 782-3354

Plumbing • Sewer Drains • Handyman
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Call Us!
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For Sale
Streetside Home. 3 miles south of I-94 at the Rawsonville Exit.
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Joy Road between Middlebelt and Inkster.

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Property for Sale
$53,000. Looking to build your dream home? Great opportunity to own this lovely 3.19 acres in Belleville. Country setting. 196 ft. frontage. Can be split with easement. City water at road. Property perked and approved in 2006. For more information, call Penny Young at (734) 740-7350. Century 21 Belvil Realty (734) 697-1800

Publishers Notice:
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal 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.

For Sale
Rummage Sale
Items. (734) 837-9930

Property for Sale
Independent (734) 699-7700
Belleville Road just 1 mile north of I-94
Van Buren Estates
734-697-6159
3 miles south of I-94 at the Rawsonville Exit.
Murray’s General Service.
Licensed & References.
(734) 745-9224

Property for Sale
Round Bales Only. Leave Message.
734-587-2344

For Sale
Manufactured Homes For Sale
$53,000.
Independent (734) 699-9020

Auction
HAY FOR SALE
Round Bales Only. Leave Message.
734-587-2344

M.D. Appliance Service
Refrigerators • Washers Dryers • Ranges
$20 House Call
Phone (734) 782-3354

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION
FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION
TUESDAY MAY 5, 2015

To the Qualified Electors of CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN – WAYNE COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that Monday, April 6, 2015 is the last day to register to vote or change your address for the above stated election.

PROPOSALS:

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROPOSAL 15-1

A proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the School Aid Fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles operating on public roads, and to give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposes by increasing the gas tax and vehicle registration fees.

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Eliminate sales/use taxes on gasoline/diesel fuel for vehicles on public roads.
- Increase portion of use tax dedicated to School Aid Fund (SAF).
- Expand use of SAF to community colleges and career/technical education, and prohibit use for 4-year colleges/universities.
- Give effect to laws, including those that:
  - Increase sales/use tax to 7%, as authorized by constitutional amendments.
  - Increase gasoline/diesel fuel tax and adjust annually for inflation, increase vehicle registration fees, and dedicate revenue for roads and other transportation purposes.
  - Expand competitive bidding and warranties for road projects.
  - Increase earned income tax credit.

Should this proposal be adopted?

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROPOSAL:
MILLAGE PROPOSAL-BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND TAX LEVY

Shall Van Buren Public Schools, Counties of Wayne and Washtenaw, State of Michigan, create a sinking fund for the purpose of construction or repair of school buildings and the improvement and development of sites and for any other purpose which may be authorized by law, and be authorized to levy not to exceed 1.13 mills ($1.13 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of seven (7) years, 2016 to 2022 inclusive? This levy would renew the sinking fund levy previously authorized by the voters in 2008 for an additional seven (7) years. It is estimated that the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in the 2016 calendar year shall be approximately $715,961 from the local taxes authorized in this proposal. A portion of the revenue collected may be subject to capture by the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority.

A sample of the ballot may be obtained at the Van Buren Township Clerk’s Office or on the Township website www.vanburen-mi.org.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the above stated jurisdiction in which you live, you may do so at the following locations and times listed in this notice.

Qualified electors may also register to vote or change their address in the following manners:

In Person:
- At the township clerk’s office or at the office of any county clerk during normal business hours.
- At any of the Secretary of State Branch offices located throughout the state during normal business hours.
- At the specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some offices of the Commission for the Blind.
- At the military recruitment offices for persons enlisting in the armed forces.

By Mail:
- By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the election official as directed on the application by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained by contacting:

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP CLERK
46425 TYLER RD.
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MI 48111
Telephone number: 734.699.8909

Qualifications for Registration
1. Applicant is at least 18 years of age.
2. Resident of Van Buren Township for at least 30 days.
3. Citizen of the United States.

Note: A Person who registers to vote by mail is required to vote in person unless they have previously voted in person or are at least 60 years of age or are handicapped.

Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk’s Office. The deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the May 5, 2015 Election is Saturday, May 2, 2015 until 2:00 p.m. at the Clerk’s office.

Leon Wright
Township Clerk
Publish: 3-26-15
Posted: 3-11-15

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

In compliance with State Election Law 168 Section 798, a Public Hearing will be conducted on Thursday, April 2, 2015, at 3:30 p.m. in the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, Michigan. The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate the program and computer that will be used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law for the Special Election to be held Tuesday, May 5, 2015. Said meeting is open to the public and any concerned citizens may attend. The Charter Township of Van Buren will provide, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations with advance notice to the Clerk’s Office, 734.699.8909.

Leon Wright
Township Clerk
Publish: 3-26-15
Posted: 3-11-15

Judge Green lets Tom White stay in rental house until end of lease

Although disbarred attorney Tom White is scheduled to be sentenced to prison for 20 felonies on March 27, the couple renting a house to him on Harris Road in Sumpter Township would like him out of their house now.

His landlady told 34-year-old District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green that White hasn’t paid his rent, but Green is allowing him to stay in his rental home until April 12 when his lease ends.

On March 19, Danny and Debra Bye went before Judge Green seeking a termination of tenancy.

Danny Bye said Judge Green that White hadn’t paid the $1,200 per month rent since Feb. 12 and he hadn’t paid the water bill and has a dog in the house which is not included in the lease.

Debra Bye said White will be going to jail on March 27 and she wants White’s two 20-year-old kids and two dogs out of there.

White told Judge Green he did not pay the rent because he paid a $1,700 security deposit and he plans to be out of there by April 12, using the deposit for his last month’s rent.

Debra Bye said in the lease it specifically states that you cannot use the security deposit for the last month’s rent.

She said she is sure there will be damages to their newly refinished floors from White’s two dogs in the house. She said the lease also states that no dogs are allowed in the house. They allowed him to have one, a Great Dane, but then he brought in another dog.

Judge Green said she could issue a judgment for possession for April 12, but if the Byes dispute that date it can go to court for a hearing.

Judge Green also said she was not interested in White’s “personal business.”

Danny Bye requested a hearing and Judge Green scheduled the hearing for 1 p.m. on March 30. If White or his representative does not show up, it goes to a default judgment for the Byes.

Debra Bye said they paid $45 for the March 19 court hearing, plus $35 to serve White. And, her husband took a day off work and will have to do it again on March 30.
City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE
NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR SPECIAL ELECTION

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE, WAYNE COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN:

Notice is hereby given that Monday, April 6, 2015 is the last day to register to vote or change your address for the above stated election.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the City you may do so at the following locations and times listed in this notice.

Qualified electors may also change their address in the following manners:

In Person:
At the City Hall Clerk's office, or at the office of any County Clerk during normal business hours.
At any Secretary of State Branch office located throughout the State during normal business hours.
At the specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some office of the Commission for the Blind.
At the military recruitment offices for persons enlisting in the armed forces.

By Mail:
By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the Clerk's office by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained by contacting:

Lisa Long, City Clerk
(734) 697-9323 ext. 7010
6 Main Street
Belleville, MI 48111

Note: A person who registers to vote by mail is required to vote in person unless they have previously voted in person in the City/Township where they live or are at least 60 years of age or are handicapped.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION:
1. Applicant is at least 18 Years of age.
2. Resident of Belleville for at least 30 days.
3. Citizen of the United States.

The May 5, 2015 Special Election will be conducted in all voting precincts of the City of Belleville, for the purpose of voting on the following proposal:

PROPOSAL 15-1
A proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the School Aid Fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles operating on public roads, and to give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposes by increasing the gas tax and vehicle registration fees.

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

• Increase earned income tax credit.

Should this proposal be adopted?

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS MILLAGE PROPOSAL BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND TAX LEVY
Shall Van Buren Public Schools, Counties of Wayne and Washtenaw, State of Michigan, create a sinking fund for the purpose of construction or repair of school buildings and the improvement and development of sites and for any other purpose which may be authorized by law, and be authorized to levy not to exceed 1.13 mills ($1.13 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of seven (7) years, 2016 to 2022 inclusive? This levy would renew the sinking fund levy previously authorized by the voters in 2008 for an additional seven (7) years. It is estimated that the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in the 2016 calendar year shall be approximately $1,715,961 from the local taxes authorized in this proposal. A portion of the revenue collected may be subject to capture by the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority.

YES
NO

APPLICATIONS FOR ABSENTEE VOTER BALLOTS are available at the City Clerk’s office, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111. Deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the May 5, 2015 Special Election is Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the City Clerk’s office.

Lisa Long,
City Clerk

Publish: March 26, 2015
Minding Your Business

An Autism Fundraiser is taking place this Saturday, March 28, beginning at 9 a.m. at Belleville High School Gymnasium. Participants can take part in a 5k/run/walk. Proceeds go to Van Buren Schools, Burger School for Autism, and Webster Elementary. Registration gets underway at 9 a.m. for the 5k/run/walk. Baked goods and bottled water will be available for purchase. There will be basket raffles too. Call (734) 636-4909.

Sumpter Township Parks & Recreation will be holding a free Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday, March 28, beginning at noon at Graham Park. The Easter Bunny will be making an appearance, too.

The Annual St. Vincent DePaul Charity Basketball Game also is being held this Saturday, March 28, at 7 p.m. at the BHS Gym. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are $10 per person and free for kids 10 and under. Teams are made up of a Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren Police team against a Fire team from those departments. There will be door prizes, a Chinese Auction, and raffles for a 50" TV, RCA tablet, bikes, Razor-sparks, American Doll, sports equipment, 50/50 raffles, and a whole lot more. Food and drinks will be available.

Perspective Eyecare on Belleville Road is offering a spring special. For a limited time choose from a pair of Polaroid sunglasses with single vision plastic polarized lenses for just $259, or take $50 off any pair of prescription sunglasses. Offer expires 4/30/15. Call for details. (734) 699-1010

The Belleville Cougars are holding Open Registration for Football and Cheer for the 2015 season. Walk-in registrations are being accepted on Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wayne County Community College Western Campus on Haggerty Road. A second registration day will take place on Saturday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration forms can be downloaded at the league’s website at www.bellevillecougars.com.

KellyCare of Belleville is professional home care providers offering loving care when you’re not there, such as companionship, transportation, showers, meals, 24-hour care, and other activities. Call Care Manager Tammy Kelley at (313) 600-2026, or Randy Kelley at (313) 729-5378.

A Children’s Sewing Workshop is being held this Saturday, March 28, at the Belleville Area Museum. Workshop times are noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. The cost is $1 per child and pre-registration is recommended. The classes are geared for children ages 7-12 years old. The classes coincide with the month-long quilt show going on at the museum. Call (734) 697-1944.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytch at (734) 699-9020. There is no cost to be in this column.

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, April 2 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees’ open meeting at 4 p.m. to discuss with the public Visteon bonds and what the township is going to do about it.
- Monday, April 6 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 17, 2015

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room, Presence: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McLeanahan and Trustee Miller. Others in attendance: Secretary, Sumpter, Planning Director Knowles, DPW Director Taylor, IT Director Steve Rankin and an audience of seventeen (17).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Bud moved, Hart seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Hart moved, Miller seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. [Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2015; Work Study Session Minutes of March 2, 2015; Closed Session Minutes of March 2, 2015; Prepaid List of March 6, 2015; Prepaid List of March 12, 2015; Voucher List of March 17, 2015; Approval of the agreement between The County of Wayne and Van Buren Township for improvements to Quirk Park]. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

CORRESPONDENCE: The Senior Alliance-Open on Services for the Township Fiscal Year 2014; Clerk Wright gave a presentation on the May 5, 2015 Special Election Public Service Announcement (PSA) to educate Township residents on the Ballot issues and to showcase Cable Director McCracken along with her staff Nicole Biefield and Ron Carnacchi. The PSA will air on VBT 12, U-Verse, and the Clerk's Face Book page on the Township website.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident comments included: a request for an additional public comment section on the Board Meeting Agenda; that the Board is not considering the audience when asking to comment on the agenda before the items are presented. Supervisor Combs and Clerk Wright commented that Van Buren Township Citizens have access to the Agenda prior to the meetings; that an open door policy is always available for questions so proper comment can be discussed during the Board Meeting under Public Comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: 1. Jahr moved, McLeanahan seconded to consider approval of the first reading of Ordinance 03-17-15 to Amend the Township Zoning Ordinance rezoning approximately 1.99 acres of land (Parcels V125-83-018-02-006, -007, -008, -009 and -010) located on the northeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Denton Road from C-1 (General Business); Motion Carried
2. Clerk Wright moved, Hart seconded to consider approval of the request for special land use approval by Belleville Development, LLC for the establishment of a Drive-Through Restaurant at 10705 Belleville Road; Motion Carried
3. McLeanahan moved, Jahr seconded to consider approval of Resolution 2015-06 the proposed Maintenance Agreement on the Downriver Sewage Disposal System; Motion Carried
4. Buddy moved, Hart seconded to consider approval of the purchase of BS&A Software to replace the remaining Springfield Software Modules of Finance, Cash Receipts’, and Utility Billing; Motion Carried

REPORTS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor Combs announced the Van Buren Township Hall is hosting the Hoppin’ Hallabaloof & Magic Show Saturday March 28, 2015. The Hallabaloof starts at 1p.m and Magic Show 3p.m.; Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Presents Frog Night Friday, April 17 at 6p.m. - 8p.m. A $2 per person pre-registration is required; Yard Waste Pick-Up begins April 5, 2015 and will run through the week ending November 28, 2015; Trustee Miller announced the 2nd Annual St. Vincent DePaul Charity Basketball Game between Van Buren, Belleville, and Sumpter’s Police and Fire Department on Saturday March 28, 2015 at Belleville High School Gym. Doors open at 6 p.m. game starts at 7 p.m.; Clerk Wright announced absentee ballot applications for the May 5, 2015 Special Election were mailed out to voters on the permanent Absentee application list on March 2, 2015; The Township Administrative office will be closed Friday April 3, 2015 in observance of Good Friday; The Department of Public Works will conduct the annual clean-up of the Townships Cemeteries on March 23, 2015 through April 2, 2015, all receplicants placed on the graves if not discarded was March 20, 2015.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Resident stated that item #5 under new business to consider approval of the purchase of BS&A Software is a topic that the audience should have had a chance to comment on prior to the Board Vote on approving the purchase; that the Landfill will start to accept blight from the City of Detroit causing the life expectancy to gear down faster. Supervisor Combs asked how the information was received as it is not correct. Trustee Hart reassured the resident that he has researched the information and will stay on top of the issue to ensure compliance.

Resident stated that they would like to see more ordinances created and enforced to prevent vehicle blight in the Haggerty Subdivision; that they have contacted Lt. Bazzy and informed him of the issues. Resident also gave pictures of the problems. Supervisor Combs stated that she will be diligent in getting the problem resolved.

Resident stated that they are pleased to see a cohesive board; that the report in the Independent labeled “7th Annual Report to Taxpayers” opened his eyes to the blended rate policy of the Township; that they were disappointed with the leadership, not so much as for the wages but for the mismanagement of employee’s welfare. He stated that working those hours take away from family time and other qualified candidates could do the job; that other options should be discussed regarding the possible elimination of blended rate officers.

Audience member spoke about the ways to help Van Buren Township move forward in the process of allowing Medicinal Marijuana dispensaries and Grow Facilities set up and offered a tour of their facilities in the City of Ypsilanti to the Board.

Audience member offered services from his organization to help facilitate the caregivers and dispensary processes; that they would like to see an upcoming agenda on Commercial light industrial buildings for Medicinal Marijuana; Supervisor Combs stated that she really appreciates the offer and would like to gain insight on the subject.

Audience member wants the Board to keep an open mind on the Medical Marijuana dispensaries and grow facilities as she is also looking for a building to house her Sweet Dreams business; that since Van Buren Township prides itself on being there for the aging community and for the residents to save the Board that Senior Citizens are her primary clientele. Trustee Miller stated she looks forward to delving into the topic and has seen documentaries on the benefits.

Director Knowles stated that the topic of Medical Marijuana is the clear indicator on the importance of getting this process in effect for the Township; Clerk Wright stated that the Township respects the constituents voice on this matter and he too is looking to move forward.

Audience member stated he is a journalist and was very proud to see so many on the Board at the meeting in agreement to start the process of Medical Marijuana businesses within the Township; that since surrounding communities have already implemented ordinances and cannabis laws, Van Buren Ordinances can use their format for Ordinances; that laws and ordinance can also be found on his site at thecompassionchronicles.com.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor
Publish: March 26, 2015
VBT approves $157,516 in BS&A Software to replace Springbrook

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees approved the recommendation of IT Department Director Steve Rankin to replace the remaining Springbrook Software used by the clerk, treasurer and water and sewer departments with BS&A Software at a cost of $157,516.

This was at the regular board meeting on March 17.

Supervisor Linda Combs said the financing will be covered by the water department and general fund. A big Michigan Municipal Risk Management Association refund is expected and will be set aside to probably cover the whole cost, she said.

VBT has used Springbrook since 2003 for performing finance, utility billing, and cash receipts related duties. At the time of the purchase in 2003, BS&A did not have those modules developed, Rankin said.

There have been problems with Springbrook for years and BS&A performed an on-site demonstration for the three departments on March 4 of these modules and all the departments agreed this would be a big improvement to make their jobs more efficient.

In addition, this would allow the township to use one vendor/one system for its main business software applications and would streamline service / support / dispute issues, Rankin said.

It is expected to take through October / November to migrate completely to BS&A and so Rankin said he will look into seeing if Springbrook’s annual maintenance cost of $190,079, due in June, can be prorated for the months of actual use remaining.

BS&A is located in Bath, MI (near Okemos) while Springbrook is in Washington state and often when VBT employees are having trouble with the software Springbrook employees are still sleeping with a three-hour time difference.

Trustee Jeff Jahr noted that the board did not have a study session on this move, although it was discussed during the budget sessions last year.

“It’s a good move, we’ve got to go forward, but we have to keep our eye on the budget…” Trustee Jahr said. “But, $150,000 is a lot of money … The well is running dry … We have to look at our expenditures.”

Rankin said as far as the IT budget, he has cut money and, “I take pride in saving money. This issue? I can’t crow about it. I treat it like it’s my money and I know it’s the taxpayers’ money.”

He said it’s a long-term investment. VBT has spent 12.5 years with Springbrook and he expects VBT to be with BS&A that long or longer.

Treasurer Sharry Budd made the motion to approve the switch to BS&A, adding, “This is something I’ve wanted for a long time.”

Also at the March 17 VBT meeting, the township board:
• Approved an agreement between Wayne County and VBT for improvements to Quirk Park. They will be putting in two dugouts at a total cost of $18,322. Wayne County will pay $10,000 from the county millage and Van Buren Civic Fund will pay $8,322;
• Postponed considering the request by Elro Corporation to approve a five-year extension of the Planned Residential Development (PRD) agreement and final preliminary plat for the Bedford Cove subdivision to expire April 9, 2020 and to require a written report from the developer every two years. VBT Director of Planning and Economic Development Jack Knowles said Elro’s attorney has some revisions and would like to wait until the April 7 meeting;
• Approved first reading of an ordinance to rezone five parcels of about 1.99 acres of land at the northeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Denton Road from C (Local Business) to C-1 (General Business);
• Approved special land use approval by Bellevue Development LLC for the establishment of a drive-through restaurant at 10705 Belleville Road, site of the former Big Boy restaurant, with only one driveway. There will be three restaurants in the new building with the northermost a drive-through;
• Approved the Maintenance Agreement on the Downriver Sewage Disposal System;
• Heard Aimee Page, RN, of The Senior Alliance give a report on the valuable services the Area Agency on Agency gives to the seniors of VBT;
• Heard Val Wasser of Haggerty Sub tell about the conditions around houses that are being flipped, with a woodchipper in front of a house for a year. People coming out who never owned a house before. Boats in the yards and travel trailers. He said if the township nipped the blight in the bud it would be helpful. Combs said this isn’t the first complaint from Haggerty Sub and she will get Lt. Charles Bazzy on it;
• Heard a resident compliment the board that is in place with everyone doing a great job.
• Heard from several medical marijuana provisionary center supporters, with Jamie Lowell inviting the board to visit his Compassion Center in Ypsilanti. He said they heard that VBT was considering a moratorium to put an ordinance together and they wanted to help. Martin Yono of Wixom asked the board to form a program for caregivers to grow medical marijuana. He said he owns a chain of hardware stores and a Kelly Services for medical marijuana. He asked about a building on Martz Road behind the gas station on Rawsonville. A caregiver wants to go in there and grow medical marijuana to take to compassion centers. Tonya Mora said she is starting a company called Sweet Dreams which mixes organic oils with marijuana oil. She is looking for a building so she can open. She said she was a corrections officer for 14 years and her brother is a MSP trooper;
• Heard Director Knowles say he thought the moratorium on medical marijuana provisionary centers would be on the agenda that evening, but, “I didn’t plant these people in the audience. It is a small part of what I’m experiencing each week,” Knowles said; and
• Heard Rick Thompson, who said he was a journalist, say a lot of communities have gone before them so VBT can steal shamelessly from their ordinances. He said seniors are a very big number of marijuana users.

City of Belleville Public Notice

City of Belleville
NOTICE OF AMENDED STATEMENT
2012 Community Development Block Grants

Following a public hearing on March 16, 2015 the City Council reprogrammed part of the 2012 CDBG funds which were not needed to complete Barrier Free Improvements project, to fund an ADA Accessible Playscape in Village Park as follows.

1 Barrier Free Improvements
Location Various City facilities
Activity ADA evaluation & modifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Original</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$4,800</td>
<td>- 2,275</td>
<td>$2,525</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Village Park ADA Accessible Playscape
Location city-wide
Activity ADA Modification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Original</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADA Playscape</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>+2,275</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Park</td>
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Lisa Long
City Clerk

PUBLISH: March 26, 2015

"If a black cat crosses your path, it signifies that the animal is going somewhere."
– Groucho Marx
On March 20 at about 1 a.m., a 20-year-old African-American male resident of Rustic Lane North, in the Rawsonville Woods mobile home park, was walking home inside the park when he was attacked by two unknown males and stabbed numerous times about his torso and groin area. He was transported to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, with life-threatening injuries, including collapsed lungs and damage to his carotid (neck) and femoral (groin) arteries. He underwent emergency surgery and is now recovering in serious, but stable condition.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Belleville Township Police Detective John Toth at (734) 461-4833, ext. 305.

To leave an anonymous tip, contact Crime Stoppers at the following link: https://www.tipsubmit.com/WebTips.aspx?AgencyID=430.
Free clinic, fund raiser coming up for VBCS

To the Editor and Soccer Members:

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Coach event this past Saturday at the Wayne County Community College. I would like to thank Pryde Athletics for coming out and working with both the players and the coaches. I also want to thank the WCCC for the venue and for all of their support! It was a wonderful event and a great success!

This Friday, March 27, we will be having a FREE players clinic at Pryde Athletics. Please come and join this FREE clinic from 5-6 p.m. make sure to have your player wear tennis shoes and bring a soccer ball with them as well. We hope to see you there.

Please join our Van Buren Community Soccer Association at Lodge Lanes in Belleville for our bowling fund raiser this Saturday, March 28, from 2-5 p.m. Tickets are $20 per adult and $15 per child 12 and under. Tickets will be sold at Pryde Athletics this Thursday, March 26, from 6-7 p.m. Tickets can also be purchased at the door and will be $25 per adult and $20 per child, so get them before. We will have raffles, donation baskets, bowling, pizza and fun for the whole family. What a great way to bring our community together!

We would like to thank Atchinson Ford, Pryde Athletics, Twisted Rooster, Egan’s, and all our teams and families who have donated baskets to our fund raiser so far. If you would like to donate a basket to help market your business, please email us at vanburensoccerbelleville@yahoo.com.

A few reminders:

- Spring Season is scheduled to start April 18. If you have not heard from your coach for the Spring 2015, please contact us right away to get your coach in contact with you.
- Saturday, May 30, from 10 a.m. to midnight is Relay for Life. Email us if you are interested in being a part of this amazing cause.
- Please let us know if you have questions or suggestions to share as we are always welcome to new ideas.
- If you see a fellow VBCS player, family, or member around, just say HELLO.
- Always remember to check us out on Facebook, as well.

Soccer Rules! Thanks!

Angie McCluskey
President Van Buren Community Soccer
And All Board Members

VBT Trustee Miller donates funds to BACA

To the Editor:

As part of her election platform during her 2012 run for Van Buren Township Trustee, Regina (Reggie) Miller pledged to give back to the community by donating her salary to a number of local community organizations.

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts was among the organizations that Trustee Miller pledged to help. Trustee Miller did indeed donate one-quarter of her salary to BACA for the last two years and she continues to fulfill her pledge into this third year of her tenure as BACA has recently received another generous donation from Trustee Miller.

The board and membership of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts expresses their sincere gratitude for Trustee Miller’s generosity.

Kim Tindall, Corresponding Secretary
Belleville Area Council for the Arts

Ryan Youmans of Van Buren Township was presented with his Eagle Scout award and also an Eagle Bronze Palm on March 17 at Trinity Episcopal Church. Shown with Ryan is his father Charles Youmans. Ryan is a member of Boy Scout Troop 231 and has earned 47 merit badges. He is a junior at Belleville High School’s New Tech program and recently won $500 in the Soup Project with his plan to bring canoeing to Belleville Lake on Oct. 3.

He is in the concert and marching bands at BHS and also on the varsity swim team. Ryan is an NRA Instructor in both shotgun and rifle and has worked his way up to Expert. He aspires to be a Wildlife Conservation Officer or pursue a career in Law Enforcement.
SPRING IS COMING!
Check Out These
HOT DEALS
AT ATCHINSON FORD!

2014
FOCUS SE
24 month lease for
$359/mo.
REBATES UP to $4,500.
BUY AS LOW AS $14,484

2015
FUSION SE
24 month lease for
$110/mo.
REBATES UP to $3,500.
BUY AS LOW AS $18,674

2014 EDGE SEL
Leather Seats. 24 month lease for
$209/mo.
REBATES UP to $4,500. BUY AS LOW AS $27,749

2015 ESCAPE SE
24 month lease for
$108/mo.
REBATES UP to $3,000. BUY AS LOW AS $20,680

2014 F-150
SUPERCREW XLT
4x4, Leather Seats
24 month lease for
$324/mo.
REBATES UP to $6,000.
BUY AS LOW AS $33,443

2010 CHEVY
HHR LS
$6,995

USED CAR SPECIAL

NEW DETAIL SHOP NOW OPEN!