



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE



Rosie the Riveters take Honor Flight to Washington

U.S. Representatives Debbie Dingell, MI-06, and Lisa McClain, MI-09, on Monday hosted a group of 11 World War II “Rosie the Riveters,” all ages 97 to 101, at the U.S. Capitol as part of an Honor Flight visit.

This celebration of their service comes during Women’s History Month.

Rosies, symbolized by the iconic “We Can Do It!” image, answered the call to duty during the war, working in factories building bombers, tanks, and other weapons – jobs traditionally done by men.

The original Rosie the Riveter, Rose Will

Monroe, moved to Michigan to build B-24 bombers at Willow Run in Ypsilanti.

“Honoring these amazing ladies of our greatest generation is a promise I made five years ago,” said Bette Kenward, president of the Eastern Michigan Women Ordinance Workers chapter of the Rosie the Riveter Association. “Sharing their inspiring stories and energetic patriotism for this country is truly a privilege.

“These Rosies have done so much and asked for so little in return. I am so grateful for for this opportunity to host their Honor

Flight and could not have done it without the support of so many,” she said.

This is the first Honor Flight trip organized by the Eastern Michigan WOW Chapter of the American Rosie the Riveter Association. A total of 40 Rosies have participated in Honor Flights to date.

Following the visit to the Capitol, the Rosies visited the National Mall, stopping at the World War II and Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorials. The day ended with a reception at Boeing’s headquarters in Arlington, VA, where the Rosies were presented with special Boeing Rosie the Riveter coins in honor of the passage of the Congressional Gold Medal Act, recognizing their work during the war. These coins were flown into space and returned to Earth on Boeing’s Starliner spacecraft.



**The Belleville Area Museum
has been closed by
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1,123 days as of today.
Set for reopening in Dec.**

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SECOND FRONT PAGE



Belleville High School Choir is back, wins top rating in choir festival

By Andrea VanDenBergh

The Belleville High School Choir, led by Choir Director Raquel Searles, is back in a big way after being discontinued during the pandemic.

In the choir's first competition since restarting, the BHS Choir received a Division One Rating, the highest possible, at the DCA Choir Festival at Woodhaven High School on March 16.

They performed two songs, "Bright

Morning Star" and "Wade on the Water."

Senior choir member Josephina Gardner said, "Choir festival was a newfound opportunity to expand the experience of our newly beginning choir. It was an incredible bonding experience and I would do it all again, if I could!"

This triumph came shortly after choir members senior Josephina Gardner, junior Khonye Smith, and senior David Grivas performed at the DCA Solo and Ensemble

Competition hosted by Woodhaven High School on March 11.

Gardner and Smith both received Division One ratings on their solos.

"I felt nervous at the beginning, singing by myself, but eventually I let the singing take over and I let my voice do its own thing. At the end I felt great knowing that I did good," said Smith.

In her first year at BHS, director Searles said, "I didn't know what to expect, being

the new teacher, but the kids have been ready for anything and are so willing to learn. They have trusted the process and are already beginning to see it pay off. I'm really enjoying working with such a talented group of kids and I look forward to all that we will do together in the future."

If you want to see the award-winning BHS Choir, come to their free spring concert at the BHS Auditorium on Wednesday, May 17, at 7 p.m.



Soloists, from left, Khonye Smith, David Grivas and Josephina Gardner.

EGLE reopens public comment on Romulus aboveground operations

Michigan residents have an additional 30 days to provide comment on the relicensing of aboveground hazardous waste operations at the Republic Industrial and Energy Services (RIES) hazardous waste facility in Romulus following the reopening of the public comment period by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

The reopened comment period runs from April 3 to May 3. Written comments on the aboveground hazardous waste activities and the draft renewal license can be submitted to Ronda L. Blayer, Environmental Engineering Specialist, at BlayerR@Michigan.gov or EGLE, MMD, Hazardous Waste Section, P.O. Box 30241, Lansing, MI 48909.

Written comments must be postmarked no later than May 3, and include the writer's name, address, and email; a concise statement of the basis for the comments; and the supporting relevant facts upon which the comments are based.

The original public comment period ran from Dec. 30, 2022, to Feb. 16, 2023, and included a public informational meeting and a public hearing. No public comments were received during that period, however recent events including the delivery of waste from the Ohio train derailment have generated significant public interest in the facility. EGLE is responding to public requests for additional time.

EGLE officials stress that comments must be on the technical and compliance elements of the proposed relicensing. The agency does not have authority under the law to approve or deny the relicensing based on support or opposition alone, nor to decide based on lack of need.

The underground injection system at this location is jointly regulated and licensed by EGLE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The state license does not expire and is not part of the current proposed relicensing.

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Watch the VBT construction from your easy chair

Van Buren Township has come up with a way for you to watch construction on its new Community Center from the comfort of your own home with time-lapse photography.

Michael Japowicz, the township's communication specialist, said it was a team effort to get the camera in place.

He said the Community Services Department paid for the project and Public Services Director Larry Luckett contracted with an electrician and helped oversee the installation.

Japowicz did the research, found the best fit financially, and developed the website components.

The construction is expected to be complete in spring of 2024 so there is a lot of watching left to do. Besides the time-lapse, the website carries live streaming (kind of boring) and still pictures of the inside work which are changed weekly.

To watch the construction, go to the township's website home page (www.vanburen.mi.org) and click on. Japowicz gave a demonstration at the last township board meeting and the pictures were put up on the large screens in the meeting room. It sure caught everyone's attention.

It's kind of hard to watch the work in person because it's behind fencing and behind the township hall, so this is an easy way to see it grow. Thank you, VBT, for sharing this with the community.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

Some people in Sumpter Township are getting mail asking them if they want an absentee ballot for the May 2 election. They are confused because they don't know of any election. Willie Finley called me. He had just gotten out of the hospital and he wanted to know what was happening. He's been a faithful voter for many years and keeps up on things.

He said he called township hall and the reply was confusing. He asked if it was in the paper and was told that they use an online paper, *The Eagle*. He said he hasn't seen that paper in years. It stopped publishing a paper newspaper in spring of 2020.

I looked up the election on the state website and it listed the following elections on May 2 this year: Airport Community Schools, Lincoln Park city, Lincoln Park Public Schools, Northville Public Schools, Woodhaven-Brownstown School District and Wyandotte city.

Mr. Finley and his neighbors must be in the Airport Community Schools district. In its election the school district is asking for permission to borrow \$64,240,000 and have those taxpayers in its district pay it off over 26 years, with 2.85 mills in 2023 and estimated simple average millage over the years of 3.63 mills.

It is confusing. Sumpter Township is served by five school districts: Airport, Van Buren, Lincoln, Huron, and Milan.

Two sisters who grew up in Romulus and now live in Dearborn dropped by to see us while they were in the building getting their taxes done across the hall at Belleville Tax & Accounting. They said they subscribe to the *Independent* and look for the Romulus stories. There aren't many. I told them I

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



wished Romulus had its own paper and they agreed that they missed the old *Romulus Roman*. It was nice to meet them and I said I'd try to put in a few Romulus stories when I have room.

A man who grew up in Sumpter and now is a university professor in California called to ask for help with information for a book he is writing about black pedagogy. He was especially interested in Bessie Hoffman school details. I told him the late Clarence Hoffman told me the school was named after his mother who was the first black school board member in the Lincoln School District. Our caller said he was sorry to see it in such disrepair and disuse. It hasn't been used by the district in several years.

Our caller said he had talked to others in the community and some had sent him information. They also said he should talk to me. I gave him some information on who might know more about schooling in Sumpter. It was interesting to talk to him.

My son Jim operates a couple of weather stations and at 4:20 p.m., Saturday, March 25, it registered a wind gust of 89.5 mph with wind speed of 2.5 mph and he thought, surely, his equipment had made an error. Then his other weather station reported a similar wind gust. The wind gust reports were sent out on the internet as an Ambient Weather Alert when wind gusts are more than 60 mph.

While I was out delivering papers last week Ken Smith told me he had sold the Douglas Carpets building to Osier Electric. He said he'll be out of there in June.

We received an email from a reader: "I was overjoyed to read the letters of memories that you published in recent issues. When one reads of the happy times of living and shopping in Belleville, our current troubles and worries seem to kinda' fade away. First, I confess that there have been times over the past few years, and most currently, when I have been thoroughly disgusted with this, our current generation. Just before reading your published memories, I wanted to ask your advice on a weekly 'column' dedicated solely and entitled: 'Remember When.'"

That would be fun, but the *Independent's* goal is to print news, that means new stuff that readers might need to know. Our space is so limited these days that we don't have extra space.

The Ypsilanti Historical Museum publishes "The Gleanings" a few times a year. People write well-researched articles on families and houses and events in old Ypsilanti. Maybe after the Belleville Area Museum is up and running again we could get something historical like this published.



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BELLEVILLE-AREA INDEPENDENT

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Letters

All who served will never be forgotten by us

To the editor:

Pointman Int'l Ministries, a Veterans Outreach of River of Life Church, 16650 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI, would like to thank the Vietnam Veterans and their families that attended the Vietnam Veterans Day commemoration ceremony held at the Belleville High School Main Auditorium on Friday, March 24, 2023.

We would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to the following people who participated in helping us show those veterans who came that they are deserving of being recognized as valued citizens of our community and that they are highly respected by many people and loved by families, friends, fellow workers and acquaintances.

First and foremost, Pointman Int'l Ministries LZ River of Life Outpost appreciates our Sr. Pastor Eddie Marcum for giving the invocation prayer and Bible reading for the ceremony.

Next, from Belleville High School, Mr. Brian Roberson, assistant principal, who had a big part to do with the coordinating of students involved, along with Capt. Bates, Commander of ROTC cadets, along with Mr. Rupnow, providing technical assistance for video and audio needs. Appreciation goes out to Mr. Peter Kudlak, superintendent of Van Buren Public Schools. Thank you for being there.

Mr. James Richendollar, former superintendent and teacher, coach and principal of North Junior, South Junior, and Belleville High School. Thanks to you for being there.

Next, community leaders: Sumpter Township Deputy Supervisor Mr. Tim Rush and Township Manager Mr. Anthony Burdick. Great job from both of you.

Next, Van Buren Township: Mr. Kevin Martin, board of trustees. Thank you for being involved.

Next, Mr. Glenn Silvenis, former mayor of the city of Belleville, and Janet Shobbrook Millard, *Belleville Area Independent* and Central Business Community. Thank you for being involved.

These people showed their faithfulness and concern to the veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice that they gave for our country over 50 years ago.

LET US DECLARE THAT ALL WHO SERVED WITH NEVER BE FORGOTTEN BY US.

LeRoy Paige
Pointman Int'l Ministries, Leader
River of Life Church, 16650 Sumpter Rd.

John Toth is at new job enjoying retirement

To the editor:

I am here enjoying retirement. I would prefer to keep the new job out of the paper.

I will say this about Sumpter Township, I will greatly miss the community that I grew to love and felt their love in return. It was an honor to serve the community in the capacity that I did.

I chose to police and live in the 481 and my children attended Belleville High School. My family was a part of the community and interacted with the community that I policed. Policing in the community that you live in can be difficult, because of relationships you build include your family.

I will never forget the tragedy that fell upon the Sampson/Tanner family, or how it impacted the community and my family. Forrest was an assistant coach with Belleville High School Wrestling and my oldest son wrestled for Belleville. Forrest was an influence on my son, and I spent many Saturdays at tournaments watching Forrest coaching my son and I also got to spend time talking with Forrest on those Saturdays.

I remember my son's reaction when I told him that Forrest had been murdered. It is painful to see how it affected him and community. The Sumpter Police Department did their best to serve those families in their time of great need. I will end with police officers are Knights in Blue that are sworn to serve their community.

I look forward to serving the community in new ways: volunteering with Ken, Steve, John and Beebe at Music Lakeside Thursdays through the months of July and August. So come out and enjoy what we got cooked up this summer, and let's not forget Goat Fest.

John Toth

Editor's Note: We tracked John Toth down at his new job after he retired from Sumpter Township Police Department and he was kind enough to send this reply.

'Thank You' to the man in the red sweatshirt

To the editor:

Just a simple "Thank You" to the man in the red sweatshirt at Walmart on Monday, the first day of spring. I hope you read this and know you are in my prayers for the act of kindness. It will be repaid to you someday.

The Chatty Old Lady
Sally Powell, Wayne

*To build a better world,
start in your own community!*

BYC dock postponed again by VBT Board of Zoning Appeals

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After almost two more hours of discussion on the issue, at its regular meeting March 14 the Van Buren Township Board of Zoning Appeals again postponed action on the Belleville Yacht Club's request for an exception to the 40 foot maximum dock length set by ordinance.

The BZA also had postponed action on the BYC request at its Jan. 10 meeting, where a public hearing was held, and then did not hold a February meeting. The planning commission also held a public hearing on Jan. 11 on the dock site plan and reviewed a revised preliminary site plan at its Feb. 8 meeting.

At the March 14 BZA meeting, the problem was that three board members said they were voting in favor of the BYC's request and three said they would vote against it, leaving a perceived tie.

In most governmental bodies, a tie vote means the motion does not pass. VBT Director of Planning and Economic Development Dan Power was given a five-minute recess in the BZA proceedings to research whether a full board was needed to vote on the issue.

According to the board's Rules of Procedures, the board is made up of seven members and two alternates, but the agenda listed only six members, who were all present.

The only missing member was alternate Charles Larocque. An alternate would vote if one of the members is absent. Larocque was reappointed to the BZA by the township board at its Nov. 11 meeting. He was not identified as an alternate in the appointment.

Planning commissioner Gerald Cullin was in the audience ready to vote if the preliminary planning commission appointee Jeff Jahr could not.

In the BZA Procedures rules, Section 7, on voting: "Any decision made by the

BZA shall require a majority vote of the membership of the BZA..."

After the break, Director Power told the BZA that for the request to be granted needs a "majority" present and there was less than a majority of BZA present. To pass a motion needs a majority vote of members of the BZA.

"The decision of the BZA is final and can only be changed through an appeal to circuit court," Power said.

BYC representative Scott Jones had presented a different proposal at this meeting, reducing the BYC request for 120 feet for the dock to 85.3 feet and a new dock configuration. He also said side setbacks had been revised from the previous 12 feet to 21 feet.

When BZA member Aaron Sellers asked what was different from last time when Jones said that EGLE [Environment Great Lakes and Energy] told him his layout was safer, Jones said the BYC took into consideration the public comments on safety and reduced the number of boats to 16 and got rid of the T-docks which were encroaching on BYC neighbors.

Jones said they would love to have more than 16 boats. When Seller asked how many boats they can have now, Jones said 16.

Chairman John Herman said they have had their public hearing and normally they

don't have public comment on this part of the agenda, but he invited members of the audience with something new to say to come forward.

Jeff Riggs of Potter Dr. in Belleville said he liked the reduction in the length of the docks. He said the Denton Road bridge could be shut down to boat traffic for construction and when that happens a vast amount of the lake traffic will be in front of the BYC, Sandy's Marina, and the DNR boat launch next to the BYC. He suggested the BYC redesign the docks further to get down to 50-ish feet.

Sellers asked if it is safe to assume the bridge will be closed. He said it is now passable.

Power said he will check and can report back at the next meeting.

Jack Ridenour of Harmony Lane handed each BZA member a printout of a 2011 story in the *Independent*. He said Jones and the BYC had requested a marina be built on his property on North Liberty Street and the story quotes then interim director of VBT Planning and Economic Development Terry Carroll saying VBT did not have the authority to grant a marina because of the FERC [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission] license.

He said now the township has a lake ordinance and he questions what authority VBT has to grant this request. There were

only four things the township could grant on the shore and a marina wasn't one of them.

Sellers asked Power if he was confident the BZA could rule on the exception. Power said there was a lot of discussion on lakeshore use between 2014 and 2016 and an ordinance was passed. He said it still is likely to require FERC and EGLE approval.

Power said the regulatory bodies allow the township's vetting of the ordinance before the plan is submitted to those agencies.

"Maybe we can't approve construction without FERC and EGLE approval," he said, adding, "There is authority to go through this process." He said in 2011 there was not an ordinance and there was an opinion that the township could not give approval.

Kathleen Walsh of Harmony Lane said the ordinance was written after 2011, but the FERC contract has not changed. She said she had a copy of it. She said things have been constructed on the lake without approval and nothing happened to those violating the ordinance. She asked that nothing be started until all the state and FERC regulations are met so the township doesn't authorize violation of the contract.

Corey Gibson of East Huron River Drive said he is happy the requested length

(continued on page 7)

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Obituaries



Philip Fredrick Brigandi

PHILIP FREDRICK BRIGANDI

(September 24, 1944 – March 25, 2023)

Philip Fredrick Brigandi, age 78, resident of Belleville and formerly of Boston, Massachusetts, for many years, passed away at home surrounded by family on March 25, 2023. He was born on September 24, 1944, in Boston, MA to Salvatore Brigandi and Sally (Ferra) Brigandi.

After he graduated from high school and went on to become the owner and manager of many different establishments moving him around the country from Boston to his final stop in Michigan. He owned and operated the Brass Belle, Belle's Connection, and Belle's Chicken all of Belleville, MI in the '80s. He was also the owner of three well-known local bars, 3 Nicks Taproom, 3 Nicks Scoreboard and 3 Nicks Sports Bar. He opened the first location in Detroit in 1993. Philip was a very hard worker and put his everything into his business. He was truly a legend in his industry and well-loved by his colleagues and other business owners in the industry. Philip was married to the love of his life, Deborah, for 33 years. He truly loved all of his family.

Philip is survived by his children, Phil (Nancy) Brigandi of Riverside, CA, Kevin Brigandi of Dearborn, MI, Nick Brigandi of Brownstown, MI, and Nicole (Ryan) Cox of Belleville, MI; his sisters Linda Brigandi of Cape Cod, MA, and Anna Milano of Windham, NH; his grandchildren, Alex Brigandi and Nicholas Brigandi of Monroe, MI, Mateo Cox, Augustino Cox and Lorenzo Cox all of Belleville, MI, Erica Bessermin of San Bernardino, CA, Rebecca Brigandi, Aimee Brigandi, Shania Brigandi all of Riverside, CA; and his great-grandchildren Josiah Bessermin, Aidan Bessermin, Kylee Bessermin of San Bernardino, CA and Jaxson Brigandi of Riverside, CA; as well as many nieces, nephews, special friends, employees that were also like family, and beloved customers. He was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved wife Deborah Costa-Brigandi in 2020.

According to Philip's wishes, dignified cremation rites have been accorded with the David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111.

The family is planning a celebration of life party to be held at Phil's Dearborn location, 3 Nick's Sports Bar, 4822 Greenfield Rd., Dearborn, MI on Sunday, April 30, with more details to follow.

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VBTBZA

(continued from page 6)

is no longer at 120 feet. He said all the public hearings and work by the township have been a waste of taxpayer money. He pointed to the tiki lounge which was built first before getting permits. And the docks were 50-ish feet and went to 80 feet without permission.

Herman said they have a non-conforming dock now and they want to improve it and clear the site.

"They got to this point without permits," Gibson insisted.

Linda Ridenour, of Linda Vista, said there is a difference between non-conforming and built without permits. She said she believes there is nothing wrong for a municipality to take it down if it was built without a permit. She said she had been a code enforcement officer for 15 years.

She said the Remerica office she drove by on the way to the meeting is private property next to Harris Park. She said if the business wants Harris Park as a private park, would the township give it to a private group for use?

"I don't think that's fair," she said, noting the BYC operates all winter long without a boat dock and they do just fine.

She said 40 feet is less lake access than most of the people on the lake have. She said Johnny's, Sandy's and Hayward's would want more access, too.

Ridenour said she was on the ordinance writing committee and the intent was 40 feet. No question. She said people can put up a dock as long as they want for personal enjoyment up to that point.

Peter Creal said this dock has caused a division in the community. There are passionate people who are against the project but praise the BYC for all the good things it does in the community.

He said he is not a member of the BYC and he listed many of the positive things the private club does. He said it is a positive energy in the community. He said Jones is a visionary and founding member of this club who chose to invest in the community.

Then, BZA chairman John Herman went around the board table to get statements from each of the BZA members present.

"I do not believe the new proposed length will be a problem," said Aaron Sellers. "I would vote yes."

Jeff Jahr, planning commission representative, gave a lengthy presentation on each of the five items listed by Power as needing to be addressed and concluded that all five were lacking and he would not be voting for the exception.

He said the docks that were in place when the ordinance passed were legal non-conforming. One was removed and replaced with 85 foot dock that is not permitted. It is not legally non-conforming.

"I have a copy of the FERC license and I strongly suspect ... that anything is going to have to have FERC approval," he said, stressing he is not a lawyer. "It makes it a federal project." The lake goes through the hydropower plant, he said. The license

(continued on page 8)

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VBT goes into mediation in law suit against Visteon over bonds

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At the March 14 meeting of the Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority, LDFA vice chairman Doug Peters gave an update on the township's lawsuit against Visteon Corporation in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara said on June 6 the township will go into voluntary mediation and the two sides agreed on a federal judge they both trust to do the mediating. Both sides will share the cost.

Peters, an attorney, said both sides will give information to retired Judge Gerald Rosen, who was Chief Judge of Federal Court in Michigan's Eastern District and was part of the Detroit bankruptcy.

"This is the best chance for Visteon to settle," said Peters. "If not, I recommend we go to trial." He said Visteon does not appear to want to settle.

Supervisor McNamara said Peters, McNamara and others will be locked in a room with others for the mediation. He said three members of the board will be there. He said he wants to make sure the board has enough votes for a decision, but not too many sitting together that would be an unlawful quorum.

When Peters asked if the legal bills are being charged to the LDFA, McNamara said they were.

The March 14 meeting featured the Informational Meeting required under Public Act 57 of 2018. Two such meetings are required each year.

The 2022 Synopsis of Activities also is required to be placed on the LDFA website.

The LDFA was formed to finance and construct eligible public improvements for Visteon Village which was completed in 2004. The LDFA established a development plan and tax increment financing plan which identified the improvements, estimated the costs of the improvements and estimated the amount of tax revenue the authority would capture based on the proposed improvements.

In order to finance the construction of the public improvements, the LDFA issued \$28 million in bonds to cover the costs of the improvements and those bonds were guaranteed by the township's ability to tax.

The primary focus of the LDFA at this time is the payment of the debt obligations as a result of those public improvements.

Due to economic conditions the LDFA will not capture sufficient tax revenue to cover scheduled debt service and due to the shortfall, which occurred on Oct. 1, 2019, the LDFA was loaned \$700,000 on Sept. 4, 2019 by the township to assist with the bond payment.

As of Dec. 31, 2022, the township has loaned the LDFA \$6,175,000 and accrued \$100,058.85 in interest on the loan for a balance of \$6,275,058.85.

The LDFA and township continue to pursue legal action against Visteon because of the shortfall. It is Wayne County Circuit Case #19-016479-CB before Judge Edward Ewell, Jr.

Court Watching:

Tynisha Shanell Lockhart, 38, of Inkster and Jason Aaron Criss, 20, of Van Buren Township both are charged with breaking and entering a building with intent, assault or assault & battery, and malicious destruction of a building between \$200 and \$1,000 on Feb. 25 in Van Buren Township. Personal bond is \$2,000 for Lockhart and \$5,000 for Criss.

Both had probable cause conferences on March 15 which were adjourned until March 29.

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Van Buren Township offers time-lapse coverage of construction

Van Buren Township has installed a time-lapse camera to capture construction of the new Community Center.

This camera allows community members to view time-lapse videos of the Community Center's progress and provides a live stream of the construction.

Both features are accessible from the township's website homepage, vanburen-mi.org and the Community Center page. In addition, interior pictures are being added monthly to the Online Photo Gallery.

Van Buren Township held a groundbreaking ceremony on Jan. 31 and the project is expected to be completed by spring, 2024, adding 21,763 square feet to the current center.

The many new features include a black box theater, child watch area, elevated

walking track, gift shop, group fitness area, gym, individual fitness area, outdoor plaza, and senior center spaces.

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman
Susan Ireland, who worked for Van Buren Township for 38 years until her recent retirement, was honored at the March 21 regular meeting with a proclamation that had been signed by the entire township board. Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara did the presentation. She also received another award from the Downtown Development Authority, on which she had served since it was formed and mostly recently had been the executive director. Ireland said she took a job at the township to just get through her college degree, and then never left. Board members standing in back are, from left, Trustee Sherry Frazier, Treasurer Sharpy Budd, and Trustees Kevin Martin and Bryon Kelley. Absent from the meeting were Clerk Leon Wright and Trustee Donald Boynton.



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Jennifer Zaenglein, director of recreation, and Jason Locke, director of parks, show off the plaque Van Buren Township won at the annual conference of mParks (Michigan Recreation and Park Association). The "Innovative Programming" award went to the VBT Recreation Department for The REAL summer employment program for youth, with special thanks to Human Resources Director Nicole Sumpter who created The REAL program from the ground up. Director Zaenglein said Director Sumpter shaped The REAL for youth for participation in life. She said the Recreation Department took over The REAL last year and included "finding your life purpose" and suicide prevention. She said The REAL went to Haggerty School last summer to interact with the senior citizens, which was very successful. The REAL is a six-week, youth summer employment program, with 20 hours of work a week. "It's not just a go-out-and-do-lawns," said Supervisor Kevin McNamara.

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— Gore Vidal

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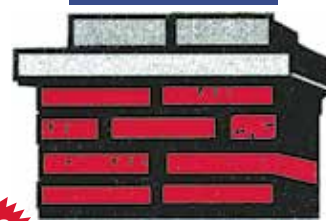
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Sumpter Twp. Board delays adoption of 2023-24 budget

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Sumpter Township Board of Trustees took the recommendation of Township Manager Tony Burdick to delay the adoption of its 2023-24 budget from its March 14 meeting to the March 28 session.

Burdick told the board on March 14 that they got valuable input on the proposed budget and he and staff asked to allow them to go over it and bring a modified budget back at the next meeting. He asked the board to table the budget approval and it did.

Trustee Matthew Oddy, who was chairing the meeting in the absence of Supervisor Tim Bowman, said budget changes were recommended at the last meeting.

Trustee Don LaPorte said the board set

requirements for a balanced, razor-thin budget. He said board members wanted funds available for upcoming needs, but not an unnamed, rainy day fund.

The original March 14 agenda carried an item entered by Supervisor Bowman for \$7,000 raises for board members and \$2,500 raises for deputies. This was removed from the agenda before the meeting and a new agenda published.

For the March 28 meeting, the agenda carried an item for 5% raises for each board member, which was followed by approval of the 2023-24 budget. (The *Independent* deadline does not allow a report on that meeting yet.)

The 2022 salaries provided by the township to the *Independent* showed the supervisor with a basic salary of \$38,000,

the clerk and treasurer with \$30,000 each, and the trustees with \$21,999.90 apiece.

In other business at the March 14 meeting, the board:

- Approved identifying and appointing Focus Group(s) to review and provide input and options for all proposed township recreation, development, and facility considerations. Township Manager Burdick will coordinate the project and make recommendations to the board;

- Approved directing the contracted internal auditor and accountant to review the water and sewer rates and the annual Carleton Farms landfill volumes;

- Approved the proposal submitted by Bureau Veritas to provide a township facilities assessment and space utilization report;

- Accepted the retirement of Sgt. James Cayce with a final active duty date of Feb. 28 with the employment separation date on or about April 21, with regrets;

- Approved promoting patrol officer Bart Devos and detective George Salajan to the ranks of sergeant effective March 15 at the rate of \$38.45 per hour and then they were sworn in;

- Approved countering the offer to purchase 69.36 acres on Martinsville Road, accepting the price of \$270,000 with buyer Laing to remove contingencies, pay for his own survey and 60 days due-diligence with the township attorney to draw up the agreement;

- Accepted the retirement of Det./Lt. John Toth with the final active-duty date of March 15 with the employment separation date on or about April 10, with regrets. This item was added to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting and Det./Lt. Toth was not present at the meeting; and

- Passed the township employment confidentiality agreement on a 5-1 vote with Trustee Peggy Morgan voting no and Supervisor Bowman absent.

At the workshop before the meeting Jon Johnson of Burnham Flower gave a presentation on the new contract for property and liability insurance as of April 1. He said there was about a 10% increase in price to \$111,800 based on the increase

in value of assets. He said they added 8-9% value on all structures and vehicles also went up.

Birthdays

March 22 – Mary Walter

March 30 – Thekla Szlinis, Derek Johnson

March 31 – Mary Strobe, Jennifer Winter

April 1 – John Smolinski, John Hackett, Dan Martin, Sharon Warring, Liz Hall

April 2 – Chuck Nerswick

April 3 -- Chelsea Hackett, Carol Bird

April 4 – Jaclyn Villas, Tina Marie Buxton, Robert Kenyon

April 5 – Marie Monge

Do you have a birthday soon? Does someone you know have a birthday? Let us know and we will print the name as soon as possible. For more information, call (734) 699-9020.

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, March 30 – Sumpter Township Zoning Board of Appeals, 6 p.m., to consider a dimensional variance to allow for a property split.

- Monday, April 3 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, April 4 – Van Buren Township work/study at 5 p.m. and board meeting at 6 p.m.

- Monday, April 10 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons

- Tuesday, April 11 – Sumpter Township Board of trustees, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, April 12 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

- Thursday, April 13 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

- Monday, April 17 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.



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Court Watching:

Erica Works goes to hospital instead of court on Belleville gun charges

Erica Renee Works, 26, of Belleville was due to be arraigned on March 22 by 34th District Court Magistrate Al Hindman on five weapons charges, but she was taken to the hospital for surgery instead.

She is charged with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault), two counts of felony firearm, and one count of brandishing a weapon in public on March 20 at the entrance to Belle Villa mobile home park at Sumpter Road in the city of Belleville.

Van Buren Township Police assisted.

Her arraignment was reset for March 24 and that didn't happen so she was released from custody and a warrant for her arrest was entered into the Law Enforcement Identification Network (LEIN).

Belleville Sgt. Kris Faull said they expect to pick her up again soon.

"You can observe a lot just by watching."
— Yogi Berra

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2009 PONTIAC G-6 GT HARDTOP convertible. Low miles, loaded, one of a kind. Must see! Private owner. (734) 695-0819 04/06

2006 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE. Low miles, V-8, 4-wheel drive, clean. \$5,150 OBO. Private Owner. (734) 695-0819 04/06

2010 FORD ESCAPE XLT. V-6, all-wheel drive, very clean. Must see! \$5,450. Private Owner. (734) 695-0819 04/06

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

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LOST

ORANGE TABBY lost from Carmell in Belle Villa off Sumpter Road. Answers to Jason. \$100 reward. (313) 772-0906 or (734) 796-4620 04/13

HELP WANTED



INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN REAL ESTATE?
Opportunities are available for Experienced Agents. Training provided for New Agents. Call 734-697-1800 to schedule an appointment.

START IMMEDIATELY!

Laborers, Machine Operators and CDL Drivers needed at Kovalak Excavating in Willis.
Wages are negotiable. Call
(734) 461-6838 or email
kovalak@comcast.net

U-Lock-It Self Storage is looking for an organized, friendly, and courteous individual to fill our Office Assistant position. We need someone who can provide a high level of customer service, has experience using computers and is able to undertake a variety of office support tasks. Your daily duties will include answering phone calls, taking payments, renting units and light cleaning around the office as needed.

This is an ideal position for someone who is retired or looking for part-time work in a clean, friendly environment. Expect to work every Wednesday, approximately 7.25 hours, and every other Saturday, approximately 3.5 hours for an average of around 18 hours biweekly with the availability to work extra hours if time off for the manager is needed. Pay rate of \$18 an hour with a yearly Christmas bonus.

Please stop by our office at 6130 Rawsonville Road to drop off your resume or you can submit by email at support@ulockitselfstorage.com.

LOCAL CAREGIVER, female preferred, for elderly female. Monday-Friday, \$15 /hr. cash, (734) 493-2833 04/20

PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. 3 hours/day, 3 days/week. Duties: data entry, customer service, mail, errands, duties as assigned. \$790/weekly. Email: jamesrichard9881@outlook.com 03/30

"Trust, but verify."
— Ronald Reagan

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Some Belleville residents said they wanted a butcher shop in town and boy did they get one. The Butcher Shop on Main Street in the new Lakeview Center Plaza is family owned and operated with hand-cut and processed beef, pork, and much more. The business manager is Jourdain Blair with Team Blair, her six children (see them in the photo in today's ad), along with a handful of other family members that are ready to serve their community, literally. Located at 510 Main St., the Butcher Shop is providing some of the highest quality Black Angus Beef products (1855 Brand) and Michigan-raised natural pork products available in the industry. Check out their selection of fresh chicken, packaged fish, seafood, and a marketplace of dry goods

including dairy, produce, bread, spices, noodles, and other things you might need to complete your meal. The Butcher shop sells spiral ham and leg of lamb, too, just in time for Easter. They're open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Follow them on Facebook for specials and promotions. They also accept credit cards and EBT. Call (734) 796-2008, see www.bellevillebutcher.com.

Moving the Mitten Real Estate Group in Belleville is offering two free events coming up with an Easter Party & Egg Hunt this Sunday, April 2, from noon to 2 p.m. at their business, located at 337 Main St. The egg hunt will take place at noon across the street in the open lot. You can RSVP at easternsvp.eventbrite.com. For more info, call 1-800-NewHome. On Wednesday, April 5, Moving the Mitten is holding a Home-Buying Seminar and Dinner beginning at 6 p.m. where attendees will learn about the home-buying process, how

to qualify for loans and grants, negotiating skills, and more. Call the number above for more info and visit mtmhomebuyer.eventbrite.com to register.

Congratulations to Atchinson Ford for winning the Ford Motor Company's President's Award for 2022 for the sixth year in a row and the 16th time overall. The corporate award is given to dealerships that show the highest level of customer service, satisfaction, and overall experience. Our hometown dealership also welcomes sales specialist David Collard and Cashier Natalie Smith to its family of employees. Be sure to see their ads in today's paper.

Belleville Faith Community Church on East Huron River Drive will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8, at 10 a.m. for children Pre-K through 5th grade. Enjoy free face painting,

games, crafts, candy, and prizes. Pastors Doug and Connie Valentine also invite the community to their Easter Sunday celebration on April 9 beginning at 10 a.m. with free breakfast followed by service at 11 a.m. Like them on Facebook for all the details. The Belleville Central Business Community's Flop E Bunny Candy Hunt is also Saturday, April 8, at Victory Park, beginning at 12:15 for toddlers to 3 years old, followed by 4-5-year-olds, 6-7-year-olds and 8-10-year-olds. Get free photos with Flop E, from noon to 2 p.m., provided by April Warner Photography. Donations will be accepted. There will be pizza and drinks available along with a used-book sale with Belleville Kiwanis, DJ Unlimited, Kona Ice Truck, and Girl Scout cookies.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Saturday, April 1** – Easter Egg Hunt starts at noon at Graham Park under the pavilion at 24560 Sumpter Rd. Bring your camera/phone as the bunny will be there for photos. Bags are for children ages 12 and under. Children must be Sumpter Township residents. Sponsored by Sumpter Township Parks & Recreation.

• **Sunday, April 2** – Bugles Across America starts at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial on High Street on the lake in the city of Belleville. The brief ceremony honors all veterans, living and dead, with a pledge to the flag, National Anthem, and Taps. Everyone welcome.

• **Monday, April 3** – Tracy Congdon will be at the Belleville Area District Library from 5 to 7 p.m. to offer a free "DIY Direct Mail Marketing Course with Tips." info@localmarketingpromi.com and (313) 379-8282

• **Tuesday, April 4** – "Introduction to Internet Searching" is set for 1:30 p.m. at the Sumpter Media Center at 23465 Sumpter Rd. Learn how to perform basic, effective internet searches using popular search engines. Participants must be proficient using a mouse and keyboard. Registration required.

• **Wednesday, April 5** – "Sister Pie: The Recipes and Stories of a Big-Hearted Bakery in Detroit" will be presented at 6:30 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library by Lisa Ludwinski, founder of the bakery. The evening will include bakery samples and a book signing.

• **Saturday, April 8** – Flop E Bunny Candy Hunt and pictures with the Bunny at Victory Park, noon – 2 p.m. sponsored by Belleville Central Business Community to celebrate the secular Easter season. Fire department and local nonprofits also participate.

• **Sunday, April 16** – Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra performs at 3:30 p.m. at Lincoln High School Performing Arts Center, 7425 Willis Rd., Ypsilanti.

• **Monday, April 17** – "Oddities and Rarities in Michigan" will be presented at 6:30 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library by Michigan travel author Ron Rademacher. Learn about the enigmatic Keweenaw Wall, the ancient artifact in Nahma, the Tomb of the Cow, the Sanilac Petroglyphs, and more.

• **Thursday, April 20** – "Microsoft Excel 101" is set for 10 a.m. at the Sumpter Media Center at 23465 Sumpter Rd. This introductory course will teach you the basics of Microsoft Excel. You will learn how to create an excel spreadsheet and how to use simple formulas. Participants must be comfortable using a mouse and keyboard. Registration required.



They're reading the Independent everywhere

Jennifer Blackburn of Sumpter Township was in Washington, D.C. last weekend where she was reading the *Independent* at the FDR Memorial.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us \$35 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$40 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.

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VBT gets \$4,059 from County Land Bank to tear down dog kennel

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

“It’s not sanitary or safe,” Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara said of the old dog kennel at 39700 Tyler Rd. at the March 21 regular township board meeting in explaining why it is being torn down.

He said it is a blighted building and can’t be used for anything.

Supervisor McNamara said there was a new opportunity in 2023 to seek funding through the county and the state Land Bank Authorities and so they were able to receive \$4,059 through the county.

The next step was for the board to approve a memorandum of understanding to pay for part of the demolition of the former dog kennel. The board voted unanimously to approve. Absent from the meeting were Clerk Leon Wright and Trustee Donald Boynton.

The memo points out funding has been made available by the state and county Land Bank Authorities to support demolition of blighted structures on publicly owned properties in Van Buren Township. The grant is through the Wayne County Land Bank.

It also stated with the necessary demolition around the structure the project will have an estimated total cost between \$8,000 and \$9,600.

In other business at the 37-minute

meeting the board:

- Approved participation in the new national opioid settlements reached with Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens and Walmart and to approve the supervisor to enter into future opioid litigation settlement agreements in coordination with the recommendation from national and local counsel. The memo of understanding approved will address how the \$17.3 billion in funds are to be distributed through the municipalities and counties who agreed to file together nationally;
- Learned about the mParks (Michigan Recreation and Park Association) “Innovative Programming” award to the VBT Recreation Department for The REAL program, with special thanks to Human Resources Director Nicole Sumpter who created The REAL program from the ground up;
- Approved the budget amendment to increase the 2023 amended budget to \$1,078,000 and adjust the reimbursement account to \$987,000 for the Iron Belle Trail project;
- Approved a budget amendment to increase by \$925,000 the funding for the French Landing fishing dock reconstruction project. Supervisor McNamara said last year the township had a problem getting permits for the work, so they will finish this year. Elizabeth Renaud, director of

(continued on page 17)



City of Belleville Public Notice



POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON Wednesday, April 5th, 2023 at 10 am, at J&T Towing, 287 Industrial Park Drive, Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicle(s) will be held:

2007 Ford, Focus, VIN: 1FAFP34NX7W322185

DATE: March 27, 2023

**BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
6 MAIN STREET**

PUBLISH: March 30, 2023

BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111

**BY BRIANA HOOTMAN,
CITY CLERK**

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES MARCH 21, 2023

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Zoom Meeting ID for public participation: 894 2765 4392. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Martin, Trustee Frazier and Trustee Kelley. Absent/Excused: Clerk Wright and Trustee Boynton. Others in attendance: Deputy Supervisor Selman, Recording Assistant Beaudry, Director of Community Services Renaud, Deputy Director of Community Services Dohring, Director of Recreation Zaenglein, Director of Parks Locke, Director of Planning and Economic Development Power, Director of Municipal Services Akers, Director of Public Services Luckett, DDA Director Coburn former DDA Director Ireland and an audience of four (4). **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA:** Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Budd moved, Frazier seconded to approve the agenda with the amendment to Consent Agenda Item #5 with the additional phrase “and to approve the Supervisor to enter into future Opioid Litigation settlement agreements in coordination with the recommendation from nation and local counsel.” Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA: Martin moved, Frazier seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2023, Prepaid List of March 9, 2023, Prepaid List of March 16, 2023, Voucher List of March 21, 2023 and Approval of Resolution 2023-06: Approval to participate in the New National Opioid Settlements reached with Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens and Walmart and to approve the Supervisor to enter into future Opioid Litigation settlement agreements in coordination with the recommendation from national and local counsel. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS: Please call 1-888-ROAD-CREW to report any road or pothole issues to Wayne County as the

Township roads are under the jurisdiction of Wayne County; Household Hazardous Waste Day will be April 1st from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Wayne County Community College Ted Scott Campus; a presentation was given on mParks “Innovative Programming” Award to Recreation for The REAL; the communication team installed time lapse and live stream cameras so residents can watch the Community Center construction process on the Township website and a Proclamation was presented Honoring Susan Ireland for 38 Years of Service to the Community of Van Buren Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Frazier moved, Kelley seconded to approve the budget amendment to increase 2023 Amended Budget 101-755-967-000 to \$1,078,000 and to adjust the reimbursement account, 101-755-967-001 to (\$987,000) for the Iron Belle Trail Project. Motion Carried.

Kelley moved, Budd seconded to approve the budget amendment to increase 2023 Amended Budget 101-755-971-000 to \$925,000 for the French Landing fishing dock reconstruction project. Motion Carried.

Frazier moved, Martin seconded to approve Resolution 2023-04: approval of the final Planned Residential Development (PRD) Plan and PRD Agreement for a revised Cobblestone Creek Condominium Project by Infinity Acquisitions LLC. Motion Carried.

Frazier moved, Martin seconded to approve Resolution 2023-05: Memorandum of Understanding with Wayne County Land Bank Authority for funding to support demolition of a structure on Township property located at 39600 Tyler Road. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Budd moved; Frazier seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Publish: March 30, 2023



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

The Belleville City Council will conduct a Public Hearing on Monday, April 3, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.

The purpose of the public hearing is for public input on two amendments to both Ordinance # 20-001, and the City’s Zoning Ordinance, respectively.

The first amendment, would change the City’s current Ordinance # 20-001, which regulates the business operations of persons licensed by the State to operate Marihuana Establishments within the City. The second amendment to the City’s current Zoning Ordinance, and would include changes to Section 2.2, Section 3.1.15, and Section 4.40.

These proposed amendments are currently available for public review at City Hall.

The Public Hearing will take place at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111, in the City Council Chambers.

**Briana Hootman
City Clerk**

Publish: March 23, 2023 and March 30, 2023

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Van Buren Public Schools will receive sealed bid proposals until **2:00 p.m. on April 18, 2023**, for the Belleville High School Access Control System Upgrade Project. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud via Microsoft Teams meeting immediately following the deadline for submission. Van Buren Public Schools will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for the bid submission.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the main entrance to Belleville High School, 501 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI 48111, on **April 5, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.**

All Bids must be addressed to Van Buren Public Schools, 555 W. Columbia, Belleville, MI. 48111 Attention: Mr. James Williams, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

Bid Security, Cashier's Check or Certified Check in the amount of at least five percent (5%) of the bid must be included along with a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the board, board of directors, or the superintendent of the School District. A sworn and notarized Iran Disclosure Statement must be included. A sworn and notarized criminal background check affidavit must be included and a sworn and notarized non-collusive affidavit must be included. Accepted bidders may be required to furnish Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price.

Bid documents may be viewed and downloaded at:

<https://app.e-builder.net/public/publicLanding.aspx?QS=f805c8e156424d3498dfd87e0f62a632>

Documents will be available for viewing on **March 27, 2023**. Any questions, contact Rob Kakoczki, Plante Moran Cresa, at rob.kakoczki@plantemoran.com.

Publish March 30, 2023

VBT

(continued from page 16)

community services, said they have been working on the park since 2019;

- Approved the final Planned Residential Development (PRD) Plan and PRD Agreement for a revised Cobblestone Creek Condominium Project for Infinity Acquisitions LLC, which is finishing up the Cobblestone Creek Villas, that were first approved in 2005. The revision includes a reduction in the number of units and the exchange of two-story units for single and 1.5-story units. The revisions were recommended by the planning commission;

- Heard Supervisor McNamara say residents who want to complain about bad roads and potholes should call 888-ROAD-CREW. He said the township owns no roads, so that number is what they have to call to report a bad road to the county. He said Wayne County is bringing in a lot of rock starting that week to fix the roads and not just grade them;

- Was informed Wayne County will have a Household Hazardous Waste Day from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 1, at Wayne County Community College's Ted Scott Campus on Haggerty Road. For information, call (734) 326-3936 or see www.waynecounty.com. This is a way to dispose of computers, printers, televisions and other electronic equipment; and

- Watched time-lapse photography of the construction of the new community center as demonstrated by Deputy Supervisor Dan Selman. He said the township is live-streaming the construction work during the day and it's fun to watch. He said it is available on the township website and will go to YouTube. He said the time-lapse is 12 frames per second.

HCMA moves metropark office to Huron Township site

After 70 years, the Huron Clinton Metroparks in this area have moved their park office.

The old park office was located at 17845 Savage Rd., Sumpter Township, in Lower Huron Metropark. Current plans call for the old park office to be demolished. They said the move occurred because the old park office had become too small for normal operations and required updates.

The new park office is located at 23200 S. Huron Rd., Huron Township, in Willow Metropark. The new park office serves Lower Huron, Willow and Oakwoods Metroparks. Services will not be interrupted as the move already occurred in late February.

The park office sells park passes and offers, among other things, rental information, and free park maps. The park office will also be home to the Metropark Police for Lower Huron, Willow, and Oakwoods.

For more information call the Willow Metropark at (734) 697-9181.



City of Belleville Public Notice



City of Belleville

6 Main Street ♦ Belleville, MI 48111-2788

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www.bellevilleonthelake.com



City of Belleville—Department of Public Services

Downtown/Parks Groundskeeper

Do you love and take pride in your community? Would you like to get paid making and keeping it beautiful? We have the job for you.

The City of Belleville is looking for 2 seasonal Downtown/Parks Groundskeepers!

Seeking ambitious, self-motivated employees who will do what it takes to maintain and improve our downtown. Duties include, but are not limited to, general maintenance, weeding, painting, debris removal, and other general labor activities. A valid driver's license, physical, and a successful drug screen are required for employment. High School diploma or GED. Hourly rate is \$16.00 per hour. Previous experience in maintenance or Public Works is preferred but not required. This position is Seasonal and will run from April-October 2023.

If you are interested in applying, please complete the *Employment Application* ON THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE WEBSITE www.bellevilleonthelake.com/apply-for-a-job/ (<https://tinyurl.com/yc5cfdhe>) and mail it or hand deliver it to Attn: City Project Administrator, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111. Or email it to DDA@bellevilleonthelake.com. Previous experience in maintenance/grounds or Public Works is preferred but not required. The City of Belleville is an EOE/Veteran/Disabled/LGBT employer.

Published: March 16, 2023, March 23, 2023, March 30, 2023

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 291 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, March 19:

0246 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Timberview
0301 – domestic, Locust Dr.
0348 – intrusion alarm, Arborview Ln.
0430 – overdose, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0636 – welfare check, Fret Rd.
0713 – larceny from auto, Jeremy Rd.
0949 – intrusion alarm, Woodgrove Dr.
0951 – domestic, Tallgrass Ct.
1037 – assist fire dept., Vernon St.
1045 – vehicle lockout, Amanda Dr.
1054 – parking complaint, Cobblestone Ct.
1058 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1104 – civil matter, Coca-Cola Dr.
1138 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1231 – malicious destruction of property, Robson
1234 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd./E. I-94 Belleville ramp
1551 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr./Quirk Rd.
1634 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1651 – suspicious person/vehicle, Fret Rd.
1731 – hospice death, Harmony Ln.
1748 – civil matter, Anna Dr.
1833 – personal injury accident, Haggerty/Riggs
2040 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Old Rawsonville Rd.
2117 – missing person, Edwards Rd.
2147 – larceny from auto, Bradley Dr.
2211 – mental subject, Doree Ave.
2247 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.

Monday, March 20:

0625 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0654 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0851 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0940 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
1100 – threat, Rawsonville Rd.
1150 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Adams
1209 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1247 – fraud, Reedgrass Ln.
1318 – civil matter, Elwell Rd.
1336 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belleville Rd.
1354 – weapons violation, Parkwood Dr.
1546 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
1604 – misc. complaint
1640 – assist other dept., Carmell
1652 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1726 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1759 – juvenile complaint, Freedom Way
1814 – harassment call, Beckley Rd.
1903 – suicidal person, E. Huron River Dr.
1919 – harassment call, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2023 – private property/property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
2037 – warrant arrest, Michigan/Hannan
2042 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2325 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

Tuesday, March 21:

0119 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0255 – malicious destruction of property, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0353 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
0524 – suspicious person/vehicle, Lake Villa Dr.
0652 – 911 welfare check, Denton Rd.
0710 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0928 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Park Estates
0947 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1231 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belleville Rd.
1248 – harassment call, Belleville Rd.
1307 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1314 – animal complaint, Brookside Dr.
1355 – larceny from auto, Rayna Ct.
1412 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
1658 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1704 – fraud, Ecorse Rd.
1745 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1833 – suspicious person/vehicle, Village Green
2110 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
2139 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd.

2152 – personal injury accident, Michigan Ave.
2224 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
Wednesday, March 22:
0904 – civil matter, Brandi Dr.
1049 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
1107 – welfare check, Maple Dr.
1204 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1318 – family trouble, Lake Crest Dr.
1327 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1328 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1355 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1358 – missing person, Belleville Rd.
1430 – family trouble, Sheldon Rd.
1510 – animal complaint, Martz Rd.
1534 – vehicle lockout, Village Green Ln.
1622 – private property impound, lighthouse Dr.
1638 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
1738 – threat, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1845 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse Rd.
1858 – animal complaint, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.

1932 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2153 – threat, Sumpter Rd.
Thursday, March 23:
0008 – noise complaint, S. Woodbury Dr.
0908 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
0943 – suicidal person, Oak Ln.
1957 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1115 – family trouble, Beacon Trl.
1130 – suspicious person/vehicle, Kent Dr.
1236 – fraud, Hannan Rd.
1347 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Denton
1458 – suspicious person/vehicle, Victoria St.
1522 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1530 – juvenile complaint, McBride Ave.
1636 – assist other dept., Oak Ln.
1643 – suspicious person/vehicle, Cobblestone Dr.

/ Togowtee Pass
1658 – neighbor trouble, Chatsworth Dr.
1704 – larceny, Brookside Dr.
1704 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
1704 – larceny, Brandi Dr.
1732 – domestic, Michigan Ave.
1739 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.
1811 – animal complaint, Bemis Rd.
1853 – suicidal person, Woodgrove Dr.
1942 – property check, Belleville Rd.
2034 – threat, Belleville Rd.
2129 – parking complaint, Lake Villa Dr.
2244 – warrant arrest, Brandi Dr.

Friday, March 24:

0109 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0309 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
0656 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1033 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Sumpter Rd./Bemis Rd.
1109 – assault & battery, Haggerty Rd.
1201 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1250 – intrusion alarm, Bayshore Dr.
1325 – fraud, Southport Apartments
1327 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1352 – animal complaint, Metropark
1607 – traffic offense, W. Huron River Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.

1617 – suspicious person/vehicle, Tompkins St.
1638 – 911 welfare check, Oak Ln.
1646 – welfare check, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
1811 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1823 – domestic, Maple Dr.
1836 – domestic, Country Walk Blvd.
1906 – harassment call, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1905 – welfare check, Vernon St.
1927 – parking complaint, Briarcliff Dr.
1912 – 911 welfare check, Birch Dr.
1935 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1945 – harassment call, Peachtree Ln.
1951 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1953 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
2057 – intrusion alarm, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2233 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bayshore Dr.
2237 – suspicious person/vehicle, Village Green
2320 – mental subject, Maple Dr.
2324 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr./Denton Rd.
2345 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.

Saturday, March 25:

0046 – missing person, Stamford Rd.
0059 – property damage accident, E. I-94/Haggerty

0243 – hospice death, Quirk Rd.
0500 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
0637 – road hazard, Ecorse/I-275
0943 – larceny from auto, Madison Dr.
1001 – larceny from auto, Madison Dr.
1030 – assist fire dept., Oak Blvd.
1113 – suspicious person/vehicle, Jackson/Hayes
1115 – follow up by officer, Stamford Rd.
1158 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belleville Rd.
1215 – animal complaint, Martz Rd.
1228 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1253 – unauthorized driving away of auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.

1431 – follow up by officer, W. Adams
1512 – property damage accident, Amanda Dr.
1609 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1622 – traffic offense, Harbor Ln.
1642 – intrusion alarm, Colonial Rd.
1647 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1647 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1656 – intrusion alarm, Van Born Rd.
1822 – domestic, E. Walden Dr.
1935 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
1942 – assist fire dept., Fret Rd.
2014 – shooting, Renton Rd.
2019 – animal complaint, Ladonna Ln.
2033 – motorist assist, Haggerty/S. I-94 Service
2044 – mental subject, Belleville Rd.
2049 – breaking & entering, Oak In.
2151 – 911 welfare check, Lake Villa Dr.
2248 – misc. complaint, Rawsonville Rd.
2313 – personal injury accident, E. I-94/Haggerty

Also on this week's log are 87 traffic stops, 27 of which were on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 19:

0001 – welfare check, Edison Ave.
1219 – family trouble, Third St.
1315 – 911 welfare check, Second St.
1627 – juvenile complaint, Carmell St.
2003 – traffic stop, South St.
2219 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave.
2230 – family trouble, Harbour Pointe Dr.

Monday, March 20:

0555 – traffic stop, Main St./Denton Rd.
0826 – domestic, Carmell St.
1012 – domestic, E. Thornhill Ct.
1349 – intrusion alarm, Water Works
1638 – weapons violation, Carmell St.
1833 – trespassing, Fourth St.
1929 – trespassing, Fourth St.
1956 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd./Owen St.
2025 – trespassing, Fourth St.
2122 – traffic stop, Main St./Roys St.
2149 – welfare check, Menlo Park Dr.

Tuesday, March 21:

0441 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Liberty
0543 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
0635 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./tracks
0747 – property damage accident, South St./E. Davis St.

1503 – abandoned auto, S. Industrial Park Dr.
1606 – animal complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1807 – prisoner transport, Tyler
1852 – trespassing, Fourth St.
2021 – traffic stop, High St./Main St.
2022 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
2041 – traffic stop, South St./Main St.

Wednesday, March 22:

0510 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Quirk Rd.
0616 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
0633 – traffic stop, Main St./E. Huron River Dr.
2058 – traffic stop, Main St.
2126 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.
2345 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd.

Thursday, March 23:

0847 – intrusion alarm, Savage Rd.
1419 – welfare check, South St./E. Columbia Ave.
1630 – property damage accident, Victorian Ln.
1947 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
2234 – misc. complaint, N. Liberty St.
2304 – noise complaint, Bedell St.

Friday, March 24:

0108 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.
0141 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd./Industrial Pk. Dr.
1115 – disorderly, Sumpter Rd.
1424 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.

1934 – traffic stop, Main St./Roys St.
2008 – traffic stop, High St./Main St.
2049 – misc. complaint, N. Liberty St.

Saturday, March 25:

0433 – intrusion alarm, N. Liberty St.
1100 – traffic stop, Madelon/E. Huron River Dr.
1507 – traffic stop, S. Biggs/E. Huron River Dr.
1616 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./Church
1754 – traffic offense, E. Huron River Dr.
1756 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./Madelon
1926 – traffic stop, South St./Main St.
1953 – traffic stop, Huron River Dr./W. Columbia
1957 – intrusion alarm, W. Davis St.
2040 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
2141 – traffic stop, High St./W. Huron River Dr.
2151 – traffic stop, High St./Brain St.

There were 27 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 19:

0035 – fire dept. assist, Oregon St.
0214 – suspicious person, Mulberry Dr.
0849 – citizen assist, Rawsonville Rd./Bemis Rd.
1110 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
1126 – suspicious circumstance, 42000 bl. Willow
1424 – civil matter, 19000 bl. Clark Rd.
1448 – suspicious vehicle, Magnolia Dr.
1543 – mental health call, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.
1603 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1657 – harassment complaint, Mulberry Dr.
1704 – welfare check, Utah Ct.
1851 – breaking & entering report, Rustic Ln.
2008 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2133 – suspicious vehicle, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Sumpter Rd.
2347 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.

Monday, March 20:

0019 – fire dept. assist, E. Arizona St.
0322 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
1044 – citizen assist, Rawsonville Rd./Wear Rd.
1401 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1422 – 911 hang up, Hampshire Dr.
1540 – citizen assist, 4200 bl. Willow Rd.
1616 – breaking & entering report, Rustic Ln.
1652 – fire dept. assist, E. Arizona St.
1808 – mental health call, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
2109 – juvenile matter, Rustic Ln.

Tuesday, March 21:

0658 – noise complaint, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
0820 – ordinance violation, 29000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0928 – fire dept. assist, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1011 – animal complaint, Judd Rd./Sumpter Rd.
1035 – larceny, Mulberry Dr.
1120 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico St.
1319 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1447 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1512 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1519 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.
1540 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1551 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1556 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1914 – suspicious person, Edgewood Dr.
2025 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.

Wednesday, March 22:

0136 – follow-up investigation, Mulberry Dr.
0534 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
0913 – juvenile matter, Carriage Ln.
0922 – property damage accident, 28000 bl. Clark
0927 – suspicious circumstance, Rustic Ln.
1035 – civil matter, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1114 – animal complaint, Elwell Rd./Judd Rd.
1156 – animal complaint, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1201 – traffic complaint/hazard, 49000 bl. Judd
1338 – assist other agency, 21000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1340 – fire dept. assist, E. Arizona St.
1425 – felony warrant arrest, out of township
1459 – suspicious vehicle, Deborah Ct. / Martinsville Rd.

1556 – felony warrant arrest, Martinsville/Willis
1605 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sherwood Rd. N.
1628 – juvenile matter, Rustic Ln.
1715 – 911 hang up, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1737 – animal complaint, Willow/Carleton West
1949 – civil matter, New Mexico St.
2202 – reckless driver, Carriage Ln.
2228 – fire dept. assist, 8900 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2323 – suspicious circumstance, Rustic Ln.

(Continued on page 19)

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Court Watching:

Suspect arraigned for 2021 murder of woman in Westlake apartment

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

John Brian Green-Johnson, 32, with a Detroit address, was arraigned by 34th Court Magistrate Al Hindman on March 23 on a charge of homicide-open murder and felony firearm in the death of a Van Buren Township woman on May 9, 2021.

He was arraigned by zoom while in custody at the Van Buren Township Police Department. Bond was denied and he was remanded to the Wayne County Jail. A probable cause conference was set for April 5.

He originally was arrested on May 9, 2021, said Van Buren Township Detective Dale Harrison. In 2021, he was charged federally for a weapons offense, a parole violation, and sentenced to serve two years jail time. He was then extradited back to Michigan for the Van Buren Township



John Green-Johnson

murder case. Wayne County issued the murder warrant while he was in federal custody, Det. Harrison said.

The defendant had previous addresses in Westlake Circle in Van Buren Township and in Romulus.

Also on March 23, Magistrate Hindman arraigned Green-Johnson on a bench warrant for failure to appear at a 2021 court session on a charge of domestic violence-aggravated assault in Romulus on Feb. 8, 2020. The pretrial on the bench warrant also is set for April 5.

On Sunday, May 9, 2021 at about 4 p.m., the Van Buren Township Police Department began receiving information regarding a potential homicide that occurred within the township.

VBT Police Chief Jason Wright said after many steps and much investigation, the body of 29-year-old Amber Nicole King was found in a storage unit in the City of Westland.

Chief Wright said police determined that a suspect had shot a female in an apartment at the Westlake Apartments. The female victim's identity was unknown initially and her body had been moved. However, officers had a suspect's name.

Chief Wright said officers were able to locate the scene of the homicide at Westlake. A search warrant was obtained and VBT Police requested the assistance of the Michigan State Police Forensic Unit to process the apartment.

Further investigation led VBT Police to Monroe County where the Monroe County Sheriff's Department located and arrested a male suspect, who was a VBT resident. Acting on information, Van Buren detectives subsequently executed a search warrant on a storage unit in the City of Westland where the female victim was found.

The victim was a 2011 graduate of Belleville High School. She was survived by a son and many relatives in the Belleville area.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

Thursday, March 23:

0113 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
0206 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0410 – suspicious vehicle, Karr Rd./Judd Rd.
0824 – personal injury accident, Savage Rd./Bemis
1302 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
1404 – fire dept. assist, Nevada St.
1501 – citizen assist, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1537 – assist other agency, 27000 bl. Dupre Dr.
1602 – juvenile matter, Rustic Ln.
1824 – family trouble, Second St.
1840 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
1909 – suspicious circumstance, Greenmeadow Dr.
2011 – neighbor dispute, Carriage Ln.
2030 – follow-up investigation, Greenmeadow Dr.
2102 – fire dept. assist, Birch Dr.

Friday, March 24:

0653 – citizen assist, 8500 bl. Meadow Springs Ln.
1026 – assist other agency, Sumpter Rd./Bemis
1440 – suspicious circumstance, Wayside Dr.
1452 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1649 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
1741 – suspicious circumstance, Carriage Ln.
1800 – follow-up investigation, Carriage Ln.
1932 – suspicious circumstance, 25000 bl. Elwell
1944 – family trouble, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1947 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
2109 – family trouble, Utah Ct.
2117 – 911 hang up, 41000 bl. Willow Rd.
2316 – property damage accident, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, March 25:

0059 – family trouble, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
0521 – fire dept. assist, Brookview Dr.
0522 – suspicious circumstance, Rustic Ln.
0603 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.
0906 – follow-up investigation, Rustic Ln.
1122 – alarm, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1452 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1522 – traffic complaint/hazard, Sumpter/Bemis
1616 – family trouble, Timberlane Dr.
1712 – fire dept. assist, Willow Rd./Elwell Rd.
1742 – shots fired, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1756 – family trouble, Edgewood Dr.
1828 – juvenile matter, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1829 – juvenile matter, Virginia St.
2051 – suspicious vehicle, Mulberry Dr.
2152 – citizen assist, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.

Also on this week's log are 161 patrol checks, 46 traffic stops, and eight misc. details.



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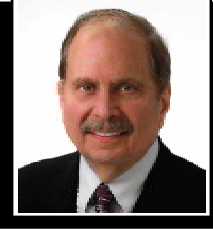
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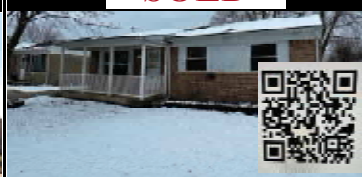
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