



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 31.3 Thursday, January 16, 2025

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

## School Board reelects Pearce president, Gerick secretary

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

At Monday's organizational meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, the board unanimously re-elected Amy Pearce as president and Darlene Loyer-Gerick as secretary.

The board also elected Dionne Falconer as vice president and Calvin Hawkins as treasurer, new positions to them both.

The election came after 34<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Lisa Martin swore in three new members – Victor DeLibera, Wade Fields, and David Shall – along with Falconer who was reelected in November.

The board also set the regular meeting dates as generally the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. with changes for holidays and the meeting places at the Belleville High School Commons or the Administration Building.

The board approved the depository recommendations for existing accounts primarily at PNC Bank and investment accounts at Huntington Bank, UMB, and Michigan Class, plus approval of investment authority in the director of finance or the superintendent.

Also, the district employee designated to post board meeting notices under the Open Meetings Act is the superintendent's office and School Supt. Pete Kudlak said that is being done by his assistant Debbie McWilliams.

President Pearce assigned board members to committees for the year.

- Facilities Committee: Hawkins, Gerick, Wade
- Finance Committee: Pearce, Falconer, Shall
- Health Advisory Committee: Hawkins, Falconer, Shall
- Policy Committee: Pearce, DeLibera, Fields
- School Improvement Committee:

(continued on page 3)



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

Before Monday's organizational meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 34<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Lisa Martin swears in those elected to the board in November. From left are: David Shall, Dionne Falconer, Wade Fields, and Victor DeLibera. Falconer was reelected and the others are newcomers.



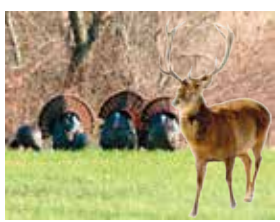
The 2025 Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education pauses for a picture on Monday. From left, seated, are secretary Darlene Loyer-Gerick, president Amy Pearce, vice-president Dionne Falconer, and treasurer Calvin Hawkins. Standing, from left are trustees Victor DeLibera, Wade Fields, and David Shall.

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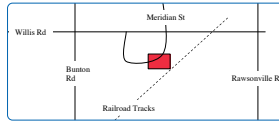
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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## School Board

(continued from page 1)

Gerick, Pearce, DeLibera

Two members for each month were also placed on the 2025 Reinstatement Committee.

This concluded the organizational meeting and the board opened its regular meeting.

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

- Heard Supt. Kudlak explain that January is School Board Recognition Month and he thanked all the board members for their service in the past and to come in the future and presented each board member with a new computer case with the Michigan Association of School Board logo on the side;

- Learned the teachers and the administration will be negotiating the new teachers' union contract using Interest-Based Bargaining which is a collaborative negotiation method that focuses on identifying mutual interests and problem-solving, rather than adversarial approaches. President Pearce said VBEA union president Aaron Lange told her he is very pleased with the process. Kudlak said this method focuses on brainstorming a solution instead of "our side and your side." He said union negotiators and administrators will sit every other person at the bargaining table;

- Approved the purchase of 50 staff Chromebooks from Cluth Solutions for the total amount of \$24,249.50 with Google licenses. Sean Garland said they are needed for deployment to district instructional support staff to cover new staff and break/fix needs;

- Approved the purchase of four cars and 132 Chromebooks from Sehi Computing for the total amount of \$41,699.28. Garland said this will add a Chromebook cart with 33 Chromebooks in it to each elementary school to bolster device counts and replace the building iPads as they are phased out of use. Director of Instruction Jeff Moore said this will make it one on one from the third grade up and pretty close to that in K, 1, and 2. DeLibera asked if there shouldn't be a line item in the motion, telling where the funds are coming from, and Garland apologized, saying he usually has that in the request, but failed to get it in this time. He said the funds are coming from the Sinking Fund;

- Heard Kudlak explain the 19 pages of Board Operating Procedures are in the board packet and this document is reviewed and approved every two years. He asked board members to read through the procedures and call him or the board president with any questions or suggestions so they can vote on the document at the next meeting. He told the board members

they get a board packet the Wednesday before each meeting;

- Acknowledged that the district is looking into applying for an EPA Clean Bus Energy Grant for additional electric school buses. Finance Director Priya Nayak said the district already received \$1 million for two buses and infrastructure to support their use;

- Approved hiring the following instructional employees: Alyson Barr as Belleville High School social studies teacher as of Dec. 16; Joelle Summers, Rawsonville Elementary School social worker as of Jan. 13; and Kayla Koepf, Tyler Elementary School third-grade teacher;

- Approved the terminations of Matthew Collier, after a year in the transportation department as of Dec. 13 and Doris Atchinson after two years in the transportation department as of Dec. 16. Also approved was the resignation of Stephanie Battle as a non-instruction staff member at Rawsonville Elementary after six year of service as of Jan. 10;

- Approved hiring Jasmine Hanson as a paraprofessional at the Early Childhood Center as of Dec. 11, Crystal Murphy as a paraprofessional at Rawsonville Elementary School as of Jan. 6, and Emily Witt as a school bus aide as of Jan. 6;

- Heard Director of Instruction Jeff Moore say his office is wrapping up a lot of grants. He said after they get a grant they have to figure out what to do with the surplus of money. He said the high school will have exams on Jan. 29 and 30 to close out the first semester and Jan. 31 is a personal development day for all the school staffs and no school for students;

- Heard director Nayak say the W-2 forms will be available online by Jan. 23 for employees. She also announced that BHS and Edgemont Elementary have been chosen for a food service review by the state;

- Heard Pearce and Kudlak promote the Feb. 1 Wild West Winter VB Education Foundation event at the BYC to earn funds that all go to the schools. Raffle tickets are available now at \$20 each and someone could win a trip. The foundation board is looking for sponsors;

- Heard Gerick say the scholar awards will be given out at 5:30 p.m., Feb. 19, for those who achieved their goals in the Tiger Village program. Donations for the project are being accepted;

- Heard Pearce announce a board workshop is being set for sharing of information and discussion on Feb. 3 at the Administration Building. Gerick said she will be in Maryland then and so Pearce said the date will be changed. It will be an open meeting;

- Heard Kudlak say Red Rover is "a big deal" and by moving to that system, employees are punching in and punching

out and people are being paid when they work, not all year long. He also announced both bowling teams are doing well, the girls basketball team is No. 1 in the state, and the boys are also doing very well;

- Heard Pearce announce that George Devore, a retired BHS teacher and coach, died overnight Friday and this is a huge loss for the community. Arrangements

## Keystone Academy board defends school discipline practices

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

At the end of the Jan. 9 meeting of the Keystone Academy Board of Directors, president Steve Harsant asked for another item to be added to the agenda.

At the Dec. 12 board meeting, grandparent Tom Griffin and his granddaughter, Keystone eighth grader Chloe, came to the meeting to talk about discipline Chloe had received.

He said she was suspended for three school days and removed from the cheer group. Griffin said he felt the discipline was rough for the offense, which was not specified.

He said he met with principal Jorvonna Drain and agreed with the suspension. Drain told the board it was the student's second Level 5 offense.

Griffin said his granddaughter is an A/B student and it would be great for her to be back on the cheer team.

Griffin asked the board to look into the school's discipline and board president Harsant that the board will review the school's discipline policy, as requested. "We'll take a look at it and get back," Harsant said.

The new item on the agenda was Harsant's response.

He passed out copies of a typed statement, titled "Keystone review of Student Discipline Policy," which read:

"The Board has recently completed a thorough review of all Board policies, including the Student Discipline Policy. The newly updated policies are designed to both support the school's moral focus and contribute to the school culture of excellence. Both the Board and School leadership are committed to implementing all policies fairly and consistently."

Harsant said he had an ad hoc meeting on looking at the discipline and found it important to put his thoughts on paper.

Andrew Roth, the National Heritage Academy representative at Keystone for the past six years, said he found out the grandfather wasn't the legal guardian and they shouldn't have listened to him talk at that meeting.

At the beginning of the Jan. 9 meeting, Roth asked to remove from the minutes of the Dec. 12 meeting the student's

are by Michigan Memorial Home and the funeral is on Jan. 16; and

- Went into closed-door session at 8 p.m. to consider the potential reinstatement of Student 23-24-0005 for the 2024-25 school year. After the closed-door hearing, the board voted to reinstate the student with conditions and then adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

identification number, which was used by Roth in the minutes to refer to both the student and the grandfather.

After reading Harsant's comment, board vice-chairman Christine Mihaly said when her students were at Keystone she signed the student policy handbook agreement every year. The handbook is on the Keystone website for public review.

Keystone principal Drain said, "I appreciate the board for their trust in my implementation of board policy."

Harsant said if there is no opposition from the board, he would take it the board approved with his comments. There was no opposition voiced.

Harsant said, "The greatest gift to that girl is to learn what accountability is."

In other business at the 50-minute meeting, the board:

- Unanimously reappointed Christine Mihaly and Kimberly Kowalski to three-year terms on the board;

- Was advised about the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary symposium of NHA July 14-16 in Grand Rapids at a board cost of about \$200 each. Several members showed interest in attending, but no action was taken;

- Took no action on an agenda item to approve funds for board members to attend the 2025 National Charter Schools Conference in Orlando, June 29-July 2;

- Heard Drain explain that for the past two years Keystone had received an "A" in all three categories of growth, proficiency and performance amongst peers and was named a MI Reward School. Now the Michigan Department of Education has changed to an accountability system with scores from 0 to 100 based on proficiency, growth, graduation rate (when applicable), English Learner Progress, School Quality and Student Success. Keystone's overall index score was 93.3, up a half point from last year. She said they are only 6.7 points from a perfect score. As part of the overall score, Keystone's Growth Index was 100%, Proficiency Index, 85.53%, and School Quality and Student Success Index was 91.69%. She said due to an increase in student absences last school year, this final score decreased by four points;

- Learned nine students placed first,

(continued on page 7)

# O P I N I O N S

## Editorial

### Another business closes its doors in city's downtown

Gloria Jean's Café and Bakery shut its doors for good on Saturday, making yet another business gone from downtown Belleville. She had been in the new shopping center next to the bridge.

Recently, we've seen vacated the two storefronts long occupied by the antique shop, the hardware store closed, and CVS pharmacy shuttered. Others, reportedly are teetering on the brink of closing. The Bayou Grill restaurant has been closed for a while and now it is for sale. The long-occupied funeral home on Main is empty and for sale.

We do have a Thrifts and Gifts store that recently moved into 430 Main St., one of the antique shop locations, and it is bringing a lot of foot traffic.

Also, Perspective Eyecare renovated the vacant Douglas Carpet store and moved in. HealthMarkets renovated the former credit union just down the street and moved in. They both did great jobs with their buildings and the city is happy to have them in place.

On Jan. 17 there will be a grand opening and ribbon-cutting at Twisted Willow Soap Co. at 331 Main St., where the Deering insurance business used to be. That's good news.

We have several other vacant storefronts on Main Street that need to be filled with retail stores that will bring foot traffic. The stores that are doing well are lonely as they operate on Main Street with vacancies around them. What's the answer?

### EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

At the Jan. 9 Belleville Planning Commission meeting, city manager Jason Smith told me that he was getting married. He said they will do something locally, probably around Feb. 15, and then get married on the beach in Florida. They will honeymoon in Bermuda.

Jason promised to get me some pictures of the beach wedding to share with our readers.

\*\*\*

We received a Nixel alert from Sumpter Township Police on Friday morning concerning a "small WWII reenactment event taking place tomorrow, Saturday, Jan. 11, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the 20000 block of Martinsville Road. Please note that blanks will be used during the reenactment, which may produce loud sounds resembling gunfire."

Police said they are making this announcement to alleviate any concerns about these noises for those in the surrounding area. They said the homeowner reported that his immediate neighbors are already aware of the event.

\*\*\*

A reader said he has been watching the work on the Denton Road Bridge every day and they are making progress at its demolition. He says the deck is gone now.

But, at the beginning, when the big trucks, end loaders, and cranes arrived they all drove across the bridge without a problem. He said when Wayne County closed the bridge saying it was too unsafe to drive over, that wasn't true. All those big, heavy vehicles drove back and forth and it never caved in.

Remember, after the county closed the



bridge, people used to walk over the closed bridge without problems. Students walked home from school over the bridge. Never fell in. Joggers jogged.

It was all make believe, our reader said.

\*\*\*

We received a tip that Van Buren Police were looking for someone who was shooting at his girlfriend up in the Old Haggerty Road area north of the lake about dinner time Thursday evening. When I checked with VBT Police Chief Jason Wright, the explanation was that although there was a lot of activity, "nothing happened" and there was no criminal activity.

It all started when a third party called dispatch saying a man was going to his girlfriend's house to hurt her with a gun. When police got there, nobody was home but down the street there were two men in a truck in a driveway of the home of one of the men. The man who supposedly was going to hurt his girlfriend, took off running and told the other to leave, too. He had an orange shirt on so police were looking for a man in an orange shirt.

Chief Wright said police searched a few garages and even went inside some of the homes nearby when asked by residents to search them before they entered. He said the Metropark police used a drone to try to help with the search for the man in the orange shirt. Somebody told those having dinner at the BYC that they were looking for someone in an orange shirt.

Police finally found the man who supposedly was going to hurt his girlfriend. He had lived in the same house as the girlfriend for eight years and they had children together. He said he wanted to pick up some of his stuff from the house since they had an argument the night before. He had a gun in the house, but never threatened anyone with it or shot it. That's where the gun came in, the chief said.

Chief Wright said the man is gone, his friend is gone, and there was no criminal activity. It all was a spinoff from the argument the night before. "Nothing happened."

\*\*\*

I got another tip on a lot of police and fire vehicles at the former Haggerty Elementary School on the afternoon of Jan. 6. Turns out it was a practice session for the Western Wayne SWAT team.

\*\*\*

A reader called to say that there is a white squirrel that lives in a hole in a tree behind her house on Dewitt Road. She says she's never seen a white squirrel before, although there are a lot of black squirrels around.

\*\*\*

The acceptance of the retirement of Sumpter Township administrator Anthony Burdick was on Tuesday's township board agenda, effective Jan. 31.



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**BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT**  
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**Editor: Rosemary K. Otzman**  
 Home phone (NO ADS, PLEASE!): 697-1294

**Advertising Manager:**  
 Janet Millard

**Bookkeeper: James Otzman**

**Production Manager:**  
 James Otzman

**Office Manager: Yvette Gorecki**

**Editorial Cartoonist: Kathryn Wood**

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 Would \$10,000 cover your Christmas 2024 expenses?  
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 Also, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>-place winner would win you more than double your ticket cost.  
 The drawing will be held Feb. 2, 2025, (in just over two weeks), you need not be present to win, and we're getting close to selling out all 300 tickets. Ticket price is only \$100 each.  
 If you're interested, contact me, Pete Pitzen, via email at [petepitzen2@att.net](mailto:petepitzen2@att.net), or call (734) 699-8563, leave a message if necessary. I'll do whatever I can to provide a ticket (if not all sold yet).  
 Pete Pitzen  
 Belleville

**Musings**  
 By Janet Millard  
 Independent Advertising Director



The Van Buren Eagles give the community many opportunities to enjoy their dinners and some very worthy fundraisers. I particularly enjoy it when Anthony Richendollar DJs. They have a fundraiser scheduled for Jan. 25 that should be on your calendar. It is called the President's Fundraiser and is raising funds for Trinity Health Inspirit Salon & Spa. This is new to me and I assume to many of you also unless you have been through a cancer treatment at St. Joe (Trinity Health). I suppose someday I'll get use to the name change but not anytime soon! Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. for only \$25/person or \$40/two. See "Things to do" for a complete list of dinner opportunities at the Eagles Hall on Beck Road.  
 \*\*\*

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts (BACA) has announced that The Missoula Children's Theater will be returning this summer. Actors from Missoula, Montana will bring costumes, scripts and props to produce "The Jungle Book." BACA has signed a contract to hold a summer camp from July 21-25 for students from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. At the end of the week, two performances will be presented at McBride Middle School. Auditions will be held on July 21. Fifty to sixty local students will be cast to appear in the show. More information will be available at the BACA website: [bacaart.org](http://bacaart.org) or on Facebook: Belleville Area Council for the Arts-BACA. Thanks so much to all who purchased raffle tickets last year to help bring back this exciting acting experience for our local children.  
 \*\*\*

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

**Volunteers needed to help search watershed for winter stoneflies**

The Huron River Watershed Council is seeking volunteers to search the watershed for winter stoneflies at 9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 18.  
 Bundle up in your winter gear, grab your family and friends, and volunteer to help HRWC look for these elusive bugs that indicate water quality throughout the watershed.  
 Volunteers will be placed on a small team of volunteers, some experienced, to search for stoneflies on two selected stretches of stream or river. Only experienced volunteers will get in the water.  
 Starting times are either 9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. The event takes about four hours. Dress for the weather to be outside for a couple of hours.  
 Volunteers start by meeting at HRWC's office at 117 North First St. in Ann Arbor. Assignments will be made there.  
 Questions? Contact Jason Frenzel at [frenzel@hrwc.org](mailto:frenzel@hrwc.org). Or see [www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org).

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Monday, Jan. 20 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Tuesday, Jan. 21 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., and workshop at 5 p.m. if needed. Also, Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 23 – First open house for the Belleville Road Widening Project at 6 p.m. in the Van Buren Township Hall board room, 46425 Tyler Rd. Learn more about the project and offer your input. Information: [mcoburn-dda@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:mcoburn-dda@vanburen-mi.org) or (734) 699-8941.
- Tuesday, Jan. 28 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 3 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 29 – Joint meeting between the planning commissions of Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter.
  - Monday, Feb. 3 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
  - Tuesday, Feb. 4 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., and workshop at 5 p.m. as needed

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More looking back:

# 30 years ago, this is what was happening in the tri-community

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

We are celebrating completion of our 30<sup>th</sup> year of publication by printing stories from our earliest issues to show what was happening in Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter.

In our second issue of the *Independent* on Jan. 12, 1995, which had 12 pages, our front-page story was headlined: "Furor erupts over firing."

This was the story about how Van Buren Township officials fired Jennifer Delano as senior center director.

The firing sent waves of anger through the senior citizen community and emotions boiled over at the monthly Birthday Monday celebration. Sixty-five seniors were seated and many more stood along the walls. They hurled questions and accusations at township officials.

Michael Long was named community services director the previous October to take the job of Phil Belcher, who also was fired. Long took the brunt of the senior anger. He spoke after acting director Linda Combs made some announcements.

In response to the seniors' questions, Long said it was time to take the department in a new direction. When they pressed him on what that meant, he said it meant more attendance, saying more programs will be offered so more people will participate.

Township supervisor Dave Jacokes later said he wanted to apologize for the change and, "It's hard." He said he couldn't get into great detail about the reasons for the firing because it's a personnel issue and he wanted to avoid litigation.

"I thought going in we had some real good programs, but I interfaced with other senior directors and found our program on the low side of the scale," supervisor Jacokes said.

He said he wanted the 800 seniors involved at the center to have something to do all day long.

Donna Collins, a volunteer, asked Jacokes if he talked to the senior directors or the supervisors and mayors of the communities and he replied he talked to them all.

Collins said she has been in the senior office and heard those same directors calling Delano for advice on how to run their programs because they admired Delano's program.

"I think you should have let her go out

with a little dignity," Collins said. "She deserved that after three and a half years. She deserved that dignity." The audience erupted in applause.

"She was worried about the seniors," Collins said. "She asked me to call this one because she had a heart problem and to check on another one with high blood pressure. She was more concerned about the seniors than anyone at township hall."

Delano, a registered nurse, was known to regularly take the blood pressure for her seniors.

At the fiery meeting, a woman called out, "There are a lot of seniors who can't afford all these programs. Are you going to do new things we can't afford?"

Another woman said, "She wanted to do things and said she had to ask the township and they wouldn't let her do them."

After the meeting, Delano said she was called to Long's office at 2:30 p.m. the previous Friday and told to be at Long's office on Monday and to bring Combs with her. She assumed it was to talk about the new method of handling money.

She said, "When I walked into the township hall, nobody would look at her so they all knew."

She said she actually knew since October that it was coming, but hoped somehow it wouldn't happen. After Belcher was fired, he called Delano on his car phone and told her he got fired for refusing to fire her. He told her to be careful, she said.

"Yes, I was hurt," Delano said. "But I knew I could go back to nursing and get a job anywhere in the world."

Delano said Belcher recommended she have a three-year contract and he was let go a week later.

"The seniors liked Mr. Belcher. He came to the senior center and got to know them. He came to all the meetings," she said.

While some seniors tried to get Delano to sue the township, she said, "Would I sue? I don't think so. I'm trying to have as much dignity as possible."

Mike Foley, a senior center volunteer who owned the Frosty Boy shop in downtown Belleville, wrote an impassioned letter to the editor supporting Delano.

In the Jan. 12, 1995 issue, the *Independent* also published other stories.

• The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education voted to spend \$348,000 of At Risk funds being allocated to the district

to purchase computers and software for the two middle schools and the high school. There will be 15 computer stations at each of the middle schools and 30 stations at Belleville High School. They should be ready to use for the 1995-96 school year. "One of our major goals is to improve the MEAP scores, and that's sad but true," said Doug Brown, director of instruction. "These will increase MEAP scores."

• At its Jan. 9, 1995 meeting, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education discussed the Positive Peer Influence class and GRADS class for pregnant and parenting teens. But the board asked for more information before voting on the classes. Director of Instruction Doug Brown did not recommend the GRADS

as a class, but as an after-school program. Trustee Sherry Frazier supported the Positive Peer Influence class, which she said was very successful in the Plymouth/Canton district where she works. But several board members had reservations. Trustee Susan Ward Callahan asked what the educational value is, adding, "It sounds like we're socializing." Trustee Martha Toth agreed with, "That's not our job." The Positive Peer Influence class would invite 12 leaders of the student body – whether National Honor Society or teen gang members – to influence other students positively. "They can take that in extra-curricular programs," Callahan said. "I don't think that's the role of the school."

(continued on page 7)



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## Keystone

(continued from page 3)

second, and third in the grade-level categories for the Bay Mills Holiday Card Contest. All the winning students received a gift card. Four students placed first and their pictures were featured on one of the holiday cards Bay Mills sent out;

- Learned at the Feb. 13 board meeting there will be a legislative update from a NHA representative or speaker from the Michigan Association of Public School Academies. Harsant said the school administration is doing an exceptional job and so this gives the board an opportunity to look outside the school and educate themselves into what's going on;

- Heard Roth say the legislation he warned them about at the last meeting, died on the vine during the Lame Duck session of the legislature. He said charter schools worry over bills is pretty much gone. Roth also said a celebration for Vesta Losen is "still around the corner." Losen resigned as board president last May after 20 years on the board;

- Heard Roth say he will send out the new video in the NHA Board Member Video Series to them at the end of January. It will feature the NHA Information and Analytics Team. These videos are shared every other month during the year and present information from different NHA departments or initiatives. The videos are supposed to be shown at the school board meetings and Roth did show the first one last year, but he didn't have the proper equipment to show it and since then he has sent the videos to the board members at home instead; and

- Reviewed the final report on COVID/ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds and how the money was spent. The three years worth of funds totaled \$1,746,965. He said all the money has been spent with just \$193.62 left over. He said there will be potential audits on use of the funds.

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## Looking back

(continued from page 6)

- The plans for the upgrades to the former township hall were approved by the Van Buren Township DDA. The \$5.3 million municipal building was downsized from the original \$10 million plan. The present township hall will be renovated and new portions built on. A separate, metal sewer and water building will be put up first at the rear of the complex to clear the present DPW area for renovations. The complex will be ringed by 448 parking places and three retention ponds. The present building will be almost doubled in length. The township is adding \$500,000 for the project. The DDA also approved providing \$300,000 for the purchase of Quirk School.

- Sumpter Township Police Officer Charles A. Ball resigned from the department as of Jan. 1 to become a deputy with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department. He had been a full-time Sumpter officer for two and a half years. Township Trustee Arness Cox said the township is training officers for other departments and he wished there was a way for the township to be reimbursed for training. Supervisor Marvin Banotai said Sumpter stole Ball from Van Buren Township, where he was a part-time officer. Police Chief Clinton Brown said Ball started at \$25,000 a year and was making about \$30,000 when he signed on with Washtenaw for a salary of \$30,000. In six months, Ball will get a \$4,000 raise, Chief Brown said. He said Ball already had an application on file with Washtenaw when he accepted the job in Sumpter.

- Robert Boggs earned first place in the Sumpter Township Christmas House Decoration Contest. Bruce Macklin won second prize and Walter and Loretta Radisovich won third place.

- Ralph Nodwell, a member of the school board, was Santa at 23 events during November and December 1994. Ralph has created "magic sand" a gift only he and the children he carefully hands it to can see. As children tightly grip the magic sand from Santa, he tells them to sprinkle it on nearby friends to share with them the special love and joy of the holidays. "Be sure to save some of that magic sand to take home for your mom or dad and your brothers and sister. And, tell them you love them, and that's the best Christmas present of all," Santa said.

- At its Jan. 3 meeting, the Van Buren

(continued on page 11)

**Obituaries**  
**GEORGE EDWARD DEVORE III**  
 (September 25, 1966 – January 11, 2025)  
 Age 58. Retired BHS math teacher and coach of track, cross country, and swimming. Survived by wife Jennifer; children Jared Churchill, Trinity Devore, Alexis Devore; parents; two siblings. Visitation Jan. 15, 2-8 p.m. at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home. Service is 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 16.

# Belleville Planning Commission elects Jim Courage new chairman

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

Jim Courage was in Florida on vacation on Jan. 9 when he was unanimously elected the new chairman of the Belleville Planning Commission for 2025.

He was present by Zoom, however, and accepted the new position, noting he will be in Florida until the end of March.

Assistant City Manager Steve Jones said Michael Hawkins, who was the former chairman and served on the commission for 20 years, had called the city that morning and resigned. Jones said he had no information on the reason.

Presiding at the Jan. 9 meeting was city councilwoman Julie Kissel, who is the city's liaison to the commission and also serves as vice chairperson of the commission. She was unanimously reelected vice chairperson for 2025.

Before the meeting began, city clerk Brianna Hootman swore in Alvis Brigis to fill a vacancy on the commission. He was recently appointed by the mayor.

In other business at the half-hour meeting, the commission:

- Approved the planning commission's meeting dates for the year. All the meetings will be held on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.;
- Heard city manager Jason Smith say Steve Davenport is working with Hennessey, the city's engineers, on stormwater plans for a housing development on Sumpter Road, next to the senior co-op. Smith said Davenports will have to bring their new plan to the city for approvals. The previously approved plans have expired;
- Heard Kissel note that the city needs updated zoning maps. Smith said if she would send the updated maps to him, he would send them to the printer;
- Heard commissioner Becky Hasen ask if Davenport is going to remove the old curbcuts in front of the Moving the Mitten building it constructed and Smith said the city can't find any notations on the site plan that it was required to be done. Smith said the easiest fix is for the city to do it as part of some of the grants it is applying for. "Keep it clean ... rather than go round and round [with the builder]," Smith said. Commissioner Hasen, who has been asking



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman  
Alvis Brigis was sworn in to fill a vacant seat on the Belleville Planning Commission by city clerk Brianna Hootman before the commission's Jan. 9 meeting. That night another vacancy was created when it was announced that chairman Michael Hawkins had just resigned after 20 years on the commission.

about the curb cuts for years, said, "It would have been nice if they just stepped up and said 'oops,'" referring to Davenport;

• Heard Kissel announce that the newest housing survey being done as part of the Master Plan project has a link on the city web site and it will be up until Feb. 4. Giffels Webster planning consultants will be at the Feb. 13 commission meeting with a report on the year-long project, she said;

• Heard Smith say that the license renewal for the marijuana facility has come up and

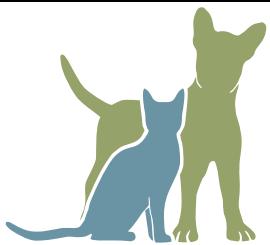
the business turned in its renewal check. He said the city is checking into the details, but it appears the business is in compliance;

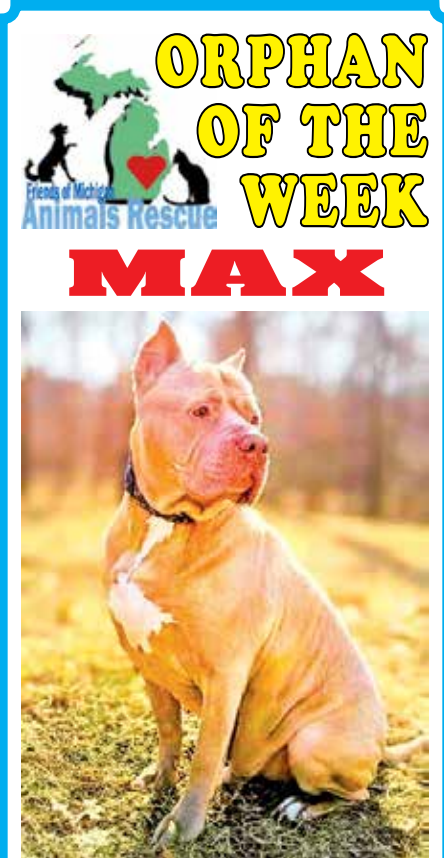
• Heard Smith also report he was at a SEMCOG meeting on Jan. 8 and MDOT was also there. The subject of the meeting was Transportation Alternatives. He said the city is looking to apply for a TAP grant of \$2-2.5 million, other grants, and funding options for the matching parts of the grants

(continued on page 9)

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# Belleville Plan

(continued from page 8)

will be discussed at the next city council meeting. He said grants would cover the \$7-10 million needed for the Five Points dogbone-shaped traffic circle. The grants would also cover a speed bump at Fourth Street, and a miniature traffic circle at Third Street, plus Wayfinding signage;

- Heard commissioner Mike Renaud say that Five Points is a "culture classic" and they want to turn it into something modernized. He said there are a lot better things the city needs to spend \$7-10 million on – such as streets -- and public input is needed;

- Heard Smith reply that the majority of the cost would be from a TAP grant and it would free up other city money for other projects. "We can do both," he said. "In terms of public input, typically there's not a lot of public input" and the city works with staff and engineers. He said, however, if bonding is the way to go, public input goes into that. Five Points would be in the new Master Plan and there would be public comment on that. Renaud agreed the city has had problems getting public input;

- Heard commissioner John Juriga ask about plans for a new city hall and Smith said they are getting a mockup of what it would look like and they're talking with people about where it would go. He said right now the city doesn't have the money, and it is all conceptual. He said when it's ready, the city council would want to make a big deal out of the plans. He said then city hall would probably be demolished and the property put back on the tax roll;

- Heard Juriga say commissioners used to get a copy of the packet for the commission meeting a week before the meeting and it could be studied. He said he is dyslexic and that's why he missed the last meeting. He seldom gets on his computer. He said city officials have to remember that commissioners are volunteers. "You are the employees; we are volunteers," he said; and

- Heard new commissioner Alvis Brigis say his goal is to integrate technology into the system. He said he wanted everyone to know a new AI facility worth \$1.2 billion is being built in Washtenaw County just down Huron River Drive from the city. It should be ready to use in 2029, he said in anticipation.



- Jan. 10 – Ken Hospital
- Jan. 16 – Kris Faull
- Jan. 17 – Leon Wright, John Gage

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## BHS at-home games

- **Thursday, Jan. 16** – Boy's Swim and Dive vs. Livonia Churchill, 6:30 p.m.
- **Friday, Jan. 17** – Boys and Girls Bowling vs. Livonia Churchill, 3 p.m. at Lodge Lanes; Boys Swim and Dive, Tiger Invite (diving only), 5 p.m.; Girls JV Basketball vs. Livonia Stevenson, 5:30 p.m.; Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Livonia Stevenson, 7 p.m.
- **Saturday, Jan. 18** – Boy's Swim and Dive, Tiger Invite (swim only), 12 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Jan. 21** – Boys Swim and Dive vs. Thurston, 6 p.m.

Jamie Cichowski  
 Athletic Secretary  
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## More Letters

### 2 Owen robotics teams qualify for state contest

To the editor:

It has been an exciting season for robotics at Owen Intermediate School.

Due to an overwhelming interest from students to participate, a total of four Owen robotics teams were formed; there had only been one team in the past.

Their enthusiasm was met by volunteers that filled the roles of mentors and coaches for each of these teams. The following are the teams that competed in the Belleville FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Challenge Event on Dec. 8, 2024, at Belleville High School, and their accomplishments:

**Owen Blue Team** – Tashana Rembert (coach), Brittany Spencer (coach), Jill Wykes (coach), Moriah Beasley, Adriana Billings, McKenzie Brandon, Oliver Davenport, Enzo Jones, Andrew Mski, Elijah Phenix, Jace Rembert, Annie Spencer, Jalen Williams, and Andrew Wykes

**Awards:** Robot Design – 2<sup>nd</sup> place; Overall Score – 4<sup>th</sup> place

**Owen Green Team** – Angela Holloway (coach), John Koweck (coach), Laura Schutte (coach), Matthew Browne, Daelyn Bryson, Elijah Burkey, Katheryne Casanova-Cruz, Eugene Johnson II, Luke Kelley, Calhen Koweck, Noah Murphy, and Noah Schutte

**Award:** Robot Design – 1<sup>st</sup> place

**Owen Red Team** – Jeanette Jayne (coach), David Jablinsky (coach), Antoine Weston (mentor), Hayley Dyda, Patrick Farkas, Malaki Guadalupe, Nevaeh-Ann Iacovacci, Kelcie Kapanowski, Jaxson Koehler, Keagan Koehler, Rider Lieser, Luke Taylor, and Jaida Weston

**Owen Yellow Team** – Ruth Francis (coach), Melanie Holbrook (coach), Dawn Hunter (coach), LaDonna Walker (coach), B. Amen-Ra, Jaidon B., Sahej Grewal, Addielynn Hart, Bree H., Shelby H., Colby H., Elliot H., Ava Horchem, Katelyn Hunter, John Jamerson III, Kiern Mills, and Alexis Newell

**Award:** Core Values – 1<sup>st</sup> place (first time



The Owen Green and Blue Robotics Teams qualified to compete in the state contest last weekend in Mason.

*this award has been won in our district)*

The excitement continued with two of Owen's teams (Blue and Green) qualifying to compete in the Michigan FLL Challenge State Championship that occurred on Jan. 12, 2025, at Mason High School.

Teams from elementary schools in our district have never qualified for this event in the past and now we have two teams that competed at this level! Both teams supported each other during the event and, most importantly, had fun!

A special thanks to Aaron Lang, Van Buren Public Schools Robotics Coordinator, for his time and dedication to help the students and mentors learn and be successful during this rewarding journey.

Laura Schutte

### Sen. Camilleri supports getting \$73.5M federal funds for Trenton

State Sen. Darrin Camilleri (D-Trenton) on Jan. 10 celebrated the announcement of \$73.5 million in federal funding from the Federal Railroad Administration to improve the railroad crossing at M-85 (Fort Street) near Van Horn Road in Trenton.

This long-awaited investment will fund the construction of a bridge separating the CN Railroad from vehicle and pedestrian traffic, addressing longstanding concerns about safety, mobility, and economic efficiency in the Downriver region.

"This project is a game-changer for Downriver," said Sen. Camilleri in a news release. "For years, our communities have endured the challenges of blocked

crossings, from delayed emergency responses to gridlocked commutes."



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## Looking back

(continued from page 7)

Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved an Industrial Development District designation for L&W Engineering, clearing the way for L&W to ask for tax relief for its new project. This would be the 15<sup>th</sup> tax rebate granted by the township. Supervisor Dave Jacokes noted thousands of people were affected by the closing of Willow Run. He said that L&W seriously considered moving its operations to Kentucky.

• An obituary about Ernie and Pearl Michling of Sumpter Township was published in the Jan. 12, 1995 issue. Ernie died Jan. 4 at the age of 83. Pearl had died the previous June after collapsing in the Meijer store in Van Buren Township. They lived across the street from Sumpter Township Hall in a 100-year-old farmhouse. The property used by the Sumpter Fest and the old Sumpter school were part of Pearl's family heritage. The school property was sold to Van Buren Public Schools and when the school no longer needed the property it was sold to Sumpter Township for its present community center.

We will publish more history from 30 years ago as space allows.

## Court Watching

### James Glenn Stamper

James Glenn Stamper, 55, of Van Buren Township was arraigned by video on March 28 by Magistrate Hindman while in custody of the Sumpter Township Police Department. He is charged with false pretenses \$20,000 or more and being an unlicensed registered builder on July 8, 2022 in Sumpter Township.

His probable cause conference was set for April 10 and his personal bond set at \$5,000. Court-appointed defense attorney is Tom DiPietro.

On April 10, DiPietro filed a motion to dismiss the fraud charge. Not all the pages to his motion were sent and so they were supplied. A motion hearing was held May 15. DiPietro claimed the police report written by Detective George Salajan was fraudulent and used to put a person in jeopardy. He said the officer didn't have the right information or he would have written it differently.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Gunnar Matherly said he stands by the reports and said the defendant knew he wasn't a licensed contractor and the victim lost over \$40,000.

DiPietro responded that the person's motivation was extortion. He said nowhere does the report say she was defrauded because he charged more than \$20,000.

Judge Martin said she reviewed the motion and the response from the prosecutor and denied the motion to dismiss the charge at this time. She said the discovery must be completed and the cases continued on track. She set the exam for July 3.

(continued on page 13)



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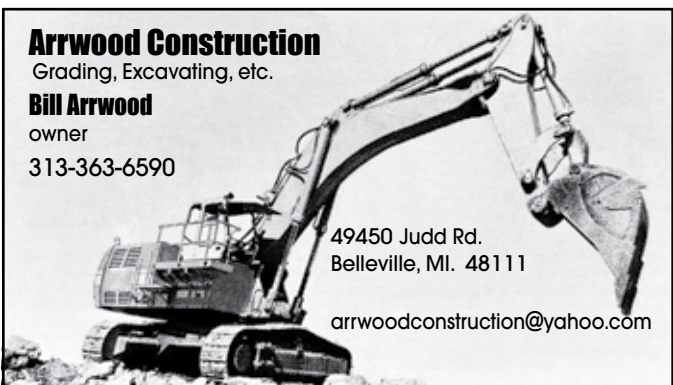
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# Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Friday, Jan. 17** – Grand opening and 1 p.m. ribbon-cutting for Twisted Willow Soap Company, 331 Main St., Belleville
- **Friday, Jan. 17** – Dinner, 5 p.m. until gone at the Van Buren Eagles, 3996, 9961 Beck Rd. Also, DJ/Karaoke Mix Anthony Richendollar at 7:30 p.m.
- **Friday, Jan. 24** – Dinner, 5 p.m. until gone at the Van Buren Eagles, 3996, 9961 Beck Rd. Also, meat raffle at 6:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, Jan. 25** – Annual membership meeting of Friends of the Belleville Area District Library, 11 a.m. Theme of the meeting is “Building Bridges” and the public is invited.
- **Saturday, Jan. 25** – President’s Fund Raiser at the Van Buren Eagles, 3996, 9961 Beck Rd. Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. DJ/Karaoke Mix Anthony Richendollar at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each. Raffles, silent auction, 50/50s to raise funds for Inspirit Salon and Spa which offers services to support patients during and after cancer treatment.

### Notice to Advertisers:

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

### PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

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



# INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

## AUCTION

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
 NOTICE is hereby given that on January 25, 2025 at 12:00 P.M., Full House Self Storage at 7886 Belleville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 is holding a public auction. Unit(s) may or may not include the following: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, misc.  
 I419 & J616, Cornell Fox; G458, Jazmene Long; L525, Karen Booth; N813, Heather Malitano; L516, N817 & P756, Sunshine Inc.; T981, Chandler Cuts and Snow LLC; R930, Dewey Faulkner; L520, Leona McKinnon; M569, Adam McNabb; P786, Gabriel Hawkins; O703, Roger Wurster; N810, O715 & S962, Terry Booth; I404, Alice Cheese; K657, Shunya Cleveland; M581, Johnny E. Price Jr.  
 Publish: January 9, 2025 and January 16, 2025

## FOR SALE

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  - 3 Leaf blowers, \$50 each or all 3 for \$125.
  - Nearly new battery operated snow blower, hart brushless, \$150
  - Reddy pro 110 heater, 10,000 BTU. \$100.
  - Deer hunters stand with ladder \$75. Tree stand \$100. Tent \$125. Backpack \$50.
  - Goose hunters decoy shells, silhouettes - *make an offer.*
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  - Large drone, Phantom 3, needs control work \$150.

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2009 BUICK LACROSS 4 door, 71,000 actual miles. Like new \$5,100. (734) 695-0819 1/23

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 – Carl Sagan

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CASH PAID FOR Sports cards and Comic Books. 50s, 60s, 70s. Private collector can come to you. (734) 697-3546 1/16

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

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# Court Watching

(continued from page 11)

DiPietro said the case was investigated by Detective John Toth, who now is retired. He asked if there are any of Toth's reports or notes. Prosecutor Matherly said the tapes from July 2022 by Toth are not available.

DiPietro said he was not referring to tapes, which would be too old, but to a written report. He said Det. Toth called him and said there was a complaint against his client and asked his client to participate and there should be a report.

Det. Salajan said they don't exist and never have. He said Sgt. Cayce took the original report and Toth worked with the victim. Salajan said he inherited the case and there's no report.

Judge Martin said she would suggest a scouring of the records so DiPietro can

have investigative reports so they can take testimony from witnesses at the exam on July 3.

On July 3, the exam was waived and he was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on July 17. A calendar conference was July 25 and the final conference was Sept. 12 and that was adjourned on a motion of the defense to Nov. 1. On Nov. 4 a plea of guilty was accepted to the false pretenses charge and the unlicensed charge was dismissed.

He was sentenced on Dec. 13 to \$55,000 in restitution plus \$498 in fees and one year of supervised probation starting immediately.

### Leesha Marie Corum

Leesha Marie Corum, 33, of the city of Belleville, failed to appear for her live preliminary exam before Judge Martin on Aug. 18, 2022 and so a bench warrant was put out for her arrest.

She was charged with malicious

destruction of personal property between the value of \$1,000 to \$20,000 on April 7, 2019 in the city of Belleville and was due for her exam. She also was due for her arraignment and pretrial on a misdemeanor charge of malicious destruction of property to a building less than \$200 on June 10, 2019 in the city of Belleville.

On Nov. 24, 2022 she again failed to appear before Judge Oakley for her arraignment and probable cause conference for receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle on Jan. 9, 2020 in the City of Belleville. A warrant was out for her arrest and on Dec. 27, 2023 she was in custody with Van Buren Township police for arraignment on the bench warrant, two probable cause conferences and one remote pretrial.

Judge Green set the two probable cause conferences and the remote pretrial for Jan. 10, 2024. Bond was \$5,000/10%. On Jan.

10 Judge Martin adjourned the cases to Feb. 21 and reduced bond to personal bond, at the request of her defense attorney. At 8:15 a.m. Feb. 21, the defendant called the court to reschedule the cases and was told the court doesn't reset cases on the same day. She failed to appear and a bench warrant was issued. A show cause hearing was set for April 3.

She was scheduled for a show-cause hearing on March 27 and was in custody in Sanilac County. Her warrant was canceled and her probable cause conference set for April 17. At that time, the two felonies were waived and she was bound over to circuit court for an April 24 arraignment on the information, reset for May 10. She has been in jail for three months and was to get out June 5 and she also served a month in jail in December, she told Judge Oakley.

Judge Oakley sentenced her to time served for the misdemeanor. She told him she was in the apartment complex next to where her ex lived in Belleville and she went to the desk to ask for help and a man threw her out, so she threw a brick at the window. "I was mad at him."

### Tariq Russell Lee

Tariq Russell Lee, 26, of Van Buren Township was video-arraigned while in custody by Judge Martin on Jan. 3 on a charge of interfering with police on Jan. 2. He also has charges of driving while license suspended and the civil infraction of a registration/plate violation at the same time and a \$150 fine was levied on the civil infraction.

A pretrial was scheduled for Jan. 16 and bond set at \$2,000/10%.

### Stevland Dexter Davis

Stevland Dexter Davis of Canton and formerly of Plymouth, was video-arraigned in custody on Jan. 6 on a bench warrant on a charge of failure to return rented property of \$20,000 or more in value on June 23, 2024 in Van Buren Township. Judge Martin set his probable cause conference for Jan. 15 and personal bond at \$5,000. According to court documents, he is listed as a habitual offender.

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

# Public Notice

\*\*\*\*\*

## Van Buren Township – Belleville Road Widening Project Open House

The **first open house** for the **Belleville Road Widening Project**, a critical infrastructure initiative aimed at improving traffic flow, safety, and accessibility along Belleville Road between Ecorse and Tyler Roads.

This event will provide an excellent opportunity for you to learn more about the project's final design, ask questions, and share any thoughts or concerns you may have. Your feedback is important as we work together to enhance our community's roadways, pedestrian facilities and utility infrastructure.

### Event Details:

**Date:** Thursday, January 23, 2025

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Location:** Van Buren Township Hall Board Room 46425 Tyler Road

At the open house, you will have the chance to review project plans, speak with project team members, and provide input. We are committed to transparency and collaboration, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important project.

Should you have any questions before the event or require additional information, please feel free to contact us at [mcoburn-dda@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:mcoburn-dda@vanburen-mi.org) or 734-699-8941.

Published: January 16, 2025 & January 23, 2025

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## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*There were 281 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police in the week of Jan. 5-11, including the following.*

### Sunday, Jan. 5:

0008 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.  
0126 – property check, Belleville Rd.  
0132 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.  
0200 – 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.  
0234 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
0649 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Parkwood Dr.  
1112 – lost property/child, Colonial Rd.  
1236 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1246 – civil matter, Tyler Rd.  
1249 – civil matter, Tyler Rd.  
1325 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1405 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.  
1438 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.  
xxxx – warrant arrest, E. Main St.  
1559 – property damage accident, Hamlin St.  
1643 – welfare check, Westlake  
1653 – mental subject, Doree Ave.  
1912 – family trouble, Stonebridge Dr.  
xxxx – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1943 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2121 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.  
2252 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Michigan Ave.

### Monday, Jan. 6:

0204 – assist other dept., Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.  
0208 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.  
0626 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sawgrass Ct.  
0639 – missing person, Alden Ave.  
0656 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.  
0833 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.  
0840 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd./Visteon Way  
xxxx – misc. complaint, W. Huron River Dr.  
xxxx – misc. complaint, Rose Blvd.  
1014 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
1121 – welfare check, Denton Rd.  
1225 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Zachary St./Jackson St.  
1345 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.  
1315 – domestic, Haggerty Rd.  
xxxx – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
xxxx – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1418 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
1601 – harassment call, Bemis Rd.  
1627 – domestic, Chandler  
1837 – property damage accident, Stonebridge Dr.  
1852 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Victoria St.

2054 – civil matter, Robson Rd.  
2137 – property damage accident, Southport Apts.  
2332 – 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.

### Tuesday, Jan. 7:

0307 – warrant arrest, Textile Rd.  
0807 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0925 – welfare check, Dalton Dr.  
1142 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Edison Lake Rd.  
1153 – domestic, Michigan Ave.  
1241 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1352 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.  
1429 – animal complaint, Lenmoore Ave.  
1453 – domestic, Ironwood Dr.  
1537 – breaking & entering, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1657 – welfare check, Tyler Rd./Jackson St.  
1729 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.  
1837 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
1933 – noise complaint, Van Buren St.  
1950 – dumping complaint, Haggerty Rd.  
2300 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.  
2304 – assist fire dept., Rolan Meadows Dr.

### Wednesday, Jan. 8:

0019 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.  
0025 – warrant arrest, I-275/Ford  
0431 – welfare check, Rawsonville Rd./Martz Rd.  
xxxx – repossession, Ash Dr.  
0820 – abandoned auto, Ecorse Rd./Sheldon Rd.  
0918 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W.

Archwood Dr.  
1029 – private property/property damage accident, Samuel Barton Dr.  
1312 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
1315 – fraud, Chloe Ct.  
1346 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Belleville Rd.  
1346 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Belleville Rd.  
1523 – fraud, Hampton Dr.  
1525 – assist other dept., Loza Ln.  
1531 – road hazard, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.  
1546 – property damage accident, E. Huron River  
1654 – intrusion alarm, Lake Point Pass  
1745 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ironwood Dr.  
1855 – noise complaint, Village Green Ln.  
1902 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.  
1912 – welfare check, E. Sadie Ln.  
2032 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2237 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.  
2336 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.

### Thursday, Jan. 9:

0019 – civil matter, McBride Ave.  
0324 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.  
0701 – mental subject, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
0746 – property damage accident, Elwell Rd.  
0827 – animal complaint, Parkwood Dr./Tyler Rd.  
0943 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.  
0952 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1019 – property damage accident, Hannan/Ecorse  
1106 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Endicott St.  
1217 – property check, Hamilton St.  
1307 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.  
1420 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Ecorse Rd.  
1512 – welfare check, Oak Blvd.  
1524 – private property/property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.  
1552 – mental subject, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1757 – property damage accident, Belleville/Ecorse  
xxxx – unauthorized driving away of auto, Bristol  
xxxx – fraud, Paloma Dr.  
xxxx – harassment call, Riggs Rd.  
2019 – intrusion alarm, Shagbark Ln.  
2213 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd.

### Friday, Jan. 10:

0001 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
0047 – assist citizen, Belleville Rd.  
0946 – overdose, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
xxxx – repossession, E. Walden Dr.  
1050 – fraud, Borgman Ave.  
1153 – private property impound, Haggerty Rd.  
1255 – fraud, Haggerty Rd.  
1327 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1338 – intrusion alarm, Denton Rd.  
1405 – vehicle lockout, Jackson St.  
1410 – assist fire dept., Ventura Dr.  
1519 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service  
1616 – motorist assist, Michigan Ave./Rawsonville  
1624 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1650 – animal complaint, Morton Taylor Rd.  
1902 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.  
2036 – overdose, Parkwood Dr.  
2157 – mental subject, Freedom Way  
2244 – civil matter, Kirkridge Park Dr.

### Saturday, Jan. 11:

0000 – road hazard, Bemis Rd./Martinsville Rd.  
0035 – assist other dept., WB I-94/rest area  
0150 – juvenile complaint, Rawsonville Rd. / Capitol Dr.  
0703 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd.  
0829 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0927 – mental subject, Tyler Rd.  
xxxx – assist other dept., N. I-275/Ecorse  
1002 – welfare check, Park Estates Dr.  
1103 – personal injury accident, Haggerty Rd. / Independence Ln.  
1149 – motorist assist, Parkwood  
1223 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.  
1335 – civil matter, Martz Rd.  
1236 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1328 – civil matter, Ironwood Dr.  
1406 – intrusion alarm, Vista Dr.  
1415 – family trouble, Bradley Dr.  
1432 – civil matter, Pond Bluff Dr.  
1548 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1835 – domestic, Oak Blvd.  
1846 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rawsonville Rd.  
2104 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler  
2233 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Oak Ln.  
2249 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Archwood Dr.  
Also, on this log are 125 traffic stops, 51 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Jan. 5:

xxxx – repossession, Carmell St.  
0834 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Harbour Pointe Dr.  
0925 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Liberty St.  
xxxx – warrant arrest, Main St.  
2040 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Columbia Ave.  
**Monday, Jan. 6:**  
1030 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Columbia Ave.  
1156 – fraud, Main St.  
1220 – warrant arrest, Main St.  
1400 – noise complaint, Carmell St.  
1623 – all misc. complaint, Main St.  
1646 – fraud, Carmell St.  
2021 – 911 welfare check, Owen St.

### Tuesday, Jan. 7:

0831 – property check, Lifepointe Church  
0841 – property check, Village Park  
0844 – motorist assist, Sumpter Rd.  
1033 – private property impound, Sumpter Rd.  
1314 – fraud, Menlo Park Dr.  
1616 – assist fire dept., Robbe St.  
1910 – welfare check, Henry St.  
2028 – family trouble, Loza Ln.

### Wednesday, Jan. 8:

0242 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.  
1151 – animal complaint, Victoria Commons  
1217 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.  
1311 – civil matter, Menlo Park Dr.  
1359 – welfare check, Loza Ln.  
1343 – background investigation, Main St.  
1523 – mental subject, Loza Ln.

### Thursday, Jan. 9:

0221 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.  
xxxx – repossession, S. Industrial Park Dr.  
1454 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Main St. / Fourth St.  
2144 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty/Belleville Rd.

### Friday, Jan. 10:

0902 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.  
1202 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.  
1753 – 911 welfare check, Sumpter Rd.  
2005 – road hazard, Sumpter Rd./Owen St.

### Saturday, Jan. 11:

1229 – domestic, Bontekoe Ave.  
2105 – domestic, Menlo Park Dr.

There are 66 reports on this week's log and 30 of those are traffic stops.

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Jan. 5:

0006 – mental health call, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.  
0241 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.  
0341 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.  
0723 – civil matter, Washington St.  
1104 – civil matter, Indiana St.  
1435 – mental health call, 43000 bl. Arkona Rd.  
1439 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Judd  
1457 – welfare check, Mulberry Dr.  
1654 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1748 – felony warrant arrest, Willow Rd./Elwell  
1759 – personal injury accident, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1802 – suspicious person, New Mexico St.  
1825 – suspicious person, Colorado St.  
1841 – 911 hang up, Lohr Rd./Willis Rd.  
1909 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Carleton West  
1952 – citizen assist, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2006 – suspicious circumstance, 42000 bl. Judd  
2304 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.

2339 – fire dept. assist, Knollwood Dr.

### Monday, Jan. 6:

0011 – suspicious circumstance, Carriage Ln.  
0246 – assist other agency, out of township  
0740 – family trouble, Brookview Dr.  
1037 – follow-up investigation, Magnolia Dr.  
1047 – suspicious circumstance, Wyoming St.  
1105 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Morton Ave.  
1116 – alarm, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1120 – fire dept. assist, Edgewood Dr.  
1318 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
1352 – assault, Virginia St.  
1422 – confiscated property, 23000 bl. Sumpter  
1453 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1501 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1540 – 911 hangup, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1716 – 911 hangup, 20000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1900 – mental health call, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1928 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.  
2325 – 911 hangup, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.

### Tuesday, Jan. 7:

0006 – citizen assist, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.  
0716 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
0801 – alarm, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0815 – suspicious circumstance, New Mexico St.  
0906 – suspicious circumstance, 29000 bl. Elwell  
0943 – fire dept. assist, 39000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1051 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.

1116 – property damage accident, Willow Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.

1300 – welfare check, Nevada St.  
1313 – family trouble, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1422 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1527 – family trouble, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1618 – follow-up investigation, Huron Twp. PD  
1746 – alarm, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.  
1839 – suspicious person, Wyoming St.  
1907 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Kozma Rd.  
2005 – 911 hangup, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.  
2010 – narcotic arrest, Willis Rd./California St.  
2018 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.  
2029 – fire dept. assist, Arizona St.

### Wednesday, Jan. 8:

0126 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.  
0421 – assist other agency, Willis/Rawsonville  
0620 – animal complaint, Sumpter Rd./Willis  
0728 – 911 hangup, Arizona St.  
0906 – fire dept. assist, Hickory Dr.  
0947 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Eyrvind Dr.  
1249 – civil matter, Virginia St.  
1518 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1605 – welfare check, Hickory Dr.  
1641 – civil matter, Hickory Dr.  
1855 – civil matter, Hickory Dr.  
1928 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1943 – fire dept. assist, Hampshire Dr.  
2037 – civil matter, Hickory Dr.  
2046 – suspicious circumstance, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

2159 – assist other agency, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2334 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

### Thursday, Jan. 9:

0108 – 911 hangup, 29000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
0252 – 911 hangup, Nevada St.  
0515 – suspicious circumstance, 19000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

1128 – 911 hangup, Kansas St.  
1327 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico St.  
1745 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Bohn Rd.  
1931 – traffic complaint/hazard, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.  
2314 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.

### Friday, Jan. 10:

0509 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1114 – 911 hangup, 5800 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.  
1117 – traffic complaint/hazard, 50000 bl. Judd  
1131 – traffic complaint/hazard, Texas St.  
1147 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1225 – animal complaint, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1227 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.  
1301 – family trouble, 45000 bl. Arkona Rd.  
1317 – civil matter, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1325 – family trouble, Nevada St.  
1332 – weapons offense, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.  
1502 – family trouble, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.  
1531 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
1643 – suspicious circumstance, 8200 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.

2155 – family trouble, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
2323 – fire dept. assist, Birch Dr.  
2343 – assist other agency, Bemis/Martinsville

### Saturday, Jan. 11:

0020 – fire dept. assist, Magnolia Dr.

*(Continued on page 15)*



Photo courtesy of Randall Miller

On Sunday there was lots of activity on Sherwood Pond in Sumpter Township.

### Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 14)

- 0117 – neighbor dispute, Wyoming St.
- 0715 – 911 hangup, 28000 bl. Clark Rd.
- 0759 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Sherwood Ct.
- 0859 – family trouble, 45000 bl. Bontekoe Ave.
- 1149 – assist other agency, 45000 bl. Bontekoe
- 1203 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
- 1239 – suspicious person, Rustic Ln.
- 1359 – traffic complaint/hazard, Clark Rd./S. Huron Rd.
- 1421 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Fenster Ave.
- 1507 – fire dept. assist, Kansas St.
- 1743 – 911 hangup, Rustic Ln.
- 1826 – follow-up investigation, Vermont St.
- 2151 – family trouble, Arizona St.
- 2324 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Also on this week's log are 234 patrol checks, 89 traffic stops, and 13 misc. details.

### Court Watching

#### Sandra Rose Tokarski

Sandra Rose Tokarski of South Lyon and formerly of Van Buren Township was charged with felonious assault in Van Buren Township on Dec. 28. Her probable cause conference was held Jan. 8 and a preliminary exam set for Feb. 26. Personal bond is \$10,000.

#### Lucy Gale Wilkins-Quillman

Lucy Gale Wilkins-Quillman of Van Buren Township was due for her arraignment/probable cause conference on Jan. 8 on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and assault and battery on April 1, 2023 in Van Buren Township. Her preliminary exam was set for Feb. 19.

# Brianne Boyd is new director of Belleville Community Chorus

Brianne Boyd is the new director of the Belleville Community Chorus.

Boyd grew up singing, acting, and playing piano and accordion. She studied music at Henry Ford College with G. Kevin Dewey, and has performed in several of his choirs.

She received an associate's degree at Henry Ford College and a bachelor's and master's in music from Eastern Michigan University.

In her diverse career, Boyd has taught elementary music, middle school/high school choir, college music appreciation classes, and private lessons. Other highlights include building and directing a children's church choir, teaching at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, and performing overseas with Dearborn choirs Vanguard Voices and Renaissance Voices.

Now retired from the classroom, Boyd works in sales and has stayed involved in music as the assistant director of Vanguard Voices. She and her husband Jon enjoy watching their three musicians perform in choir, band, and musical theater.

Having lived in the Ypsilanti/Belleville area for 25 years, Boyd said conducting the Belleville Community Chorus is a dream



Brianne Boyd

come true. She said she is looking forward to growing the program and creating wonderful new traditions.

#### Javin Tyse Grisham

Javin Tyse Grisham of Canton is charged with domestic violence and operating while intoxicated-2<sup>nd</sup> on Dec. 28 in Van Buren Township. His remote pretrial was set for Jan. 8. He then was scheduled for a remote pretrial on Jan. 29.

#### Sheldon Clifton Underwood

Sheldon Clifton Underwood of Ypsilanti is charged with fleeing in a vehicle-2<sup>nd</sup> degree and fleeing in a vehicle-3<sup>rd</sup> degree in Van Buren Township on Dec. 29. His

probable cause conference was Jan. 8 and he was scheduled for a preliminary exam on Jan. 15.

#### Arceini Jonel Gray

Arceini Jonel Gray, 35, of Inkster is charged with having a blood alcohol content more than .17 and carrying a concealed weapon while under the influence on April 30, 2023 in Van Buren Township. His remote arraignment pretrial was set for Jan. 8. He failed to appear so a remote show cause / arraignment / pre-trial was set for Jan. 29.

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### SEEKING DEMOLITION BIDS

#### NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT

**Seeking Demolition Bids.** The Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, MI will receive bids for the demolition, removal, and disposal of all structures and appurtenances, including the principal commercial building and parking lot, located at 50778 Michigan Avenue (Parcels 83-022-01-0012-001 and 83-022-01-0011-003). The Township has completed or will be completing an asbestos survey and utility disconnections prior to bid opening. Bid forms and demolition work specifications are available at the Office of the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, from 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday or on the Township website at [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org). Bids shall be submitted to the Clerk's Office by **11:00 a.m. on February 13, 2025**, and will be publicly opened immediately following the closing of the bid. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids and reserves the right not to award a contract. Van Buren Township is an equal opportunity employer. **This project will be funded with Van Buren Township general funds.**

Posted and Published: January 16, 2025

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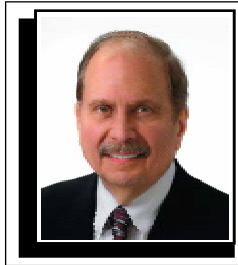
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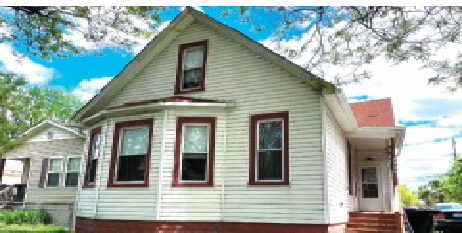
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