



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 30.41 Thursday, October 10, 2024

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FREE



Photo taken by Addisyn Means and Rilee Suggs

These are the members of the Belleville High School Homecoming Court for this weekend's celebration. The king and queen will be crowned at halftime at Friday's football game. The boys from left are Lamont Jones, Bryant McGee, Ryan Brenay, Braylon Mannan, Brayden Lane, Arnel Patrick, Jasiah Rawls, and Andrew Folks. The girls, from left, are Payton Mathis, Callie King, Ivana Goff, Sara Veenhuis, Samantha Radtka, Kennedie Jefferson, Tatiana Girard, Kara Tharp, and Karla Rivera.

City Council adds another \$15,000 to legal action against landfill

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At Monday's meeting of the Belleville City Council, the council voted unanimously to add another \$15,000 to its share of the legal bill to fight the delivery of radioactive waste to the Wayne Disposal operation on the North I-94 Service Drive in Van Buren Township.

Mayor Ken Voigt said this is in addition

to the \$5,000 already approved by the lawsuit. He said the money will come out of the city's fund balance. He said that is the city's "rainy-day fund" and if this isn't a rainy day, he doesn't know what is.

Mayor Voigt said Van Buren Township is paying the biggest share of the litigation cost. The township has not publicly announced any cost associated with the litigation.

Mayor Voigt said there is a Wednesday, Oct. 9, motion hearing before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Kevin Cox in Detroit and he is on the witness list. He said the hearing should be interesting.

Judge Cox first enjoined radioactive waste from being delivered to the site and then amended that to say only the waste from the Niagara Falls site is enjoined and the similar wastes from other sites could

continue.

He said they think they have a good case since the landfill's permit expired two years ago and it was allowed to continue. A public hearing is part of the permit application and that is yet to be held.

When asked if the Oct. 9 hearing will be the end of it, he said it wouldn't, but he expected the state government to ultimately

(continued on page 8)

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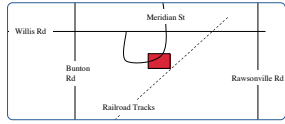
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Sample Ballot

OFFICIAL BALLOT
General Election
Tuesday, November 5, 2024
Wayne County, Michigan
Van Buren Township, Precinct 9

New write-in joins Democratic candidates in VBT board election

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

All of the candidates for Van Buren Township offices are Democrats and were unopposed in the August primary election.

But, write-in candidate Janine Houle filed at noon on Oct. 1 to run for a trustee position. She also is a Democrat, but her name will not be on the Nov. 5 General Election ballot and voters will have to write it in if they want to vote for her.

Van Buren Township Deputy Clerk Brianna Beaudry said she checked with the county and voters can write in the name under either the Democrat or Republican township trustee spaces since a write-in is considered a non-partisan candidate.

Incumbents running are Supervisor Kevin McNamara, Clerk Leon Wright, Treasurer Sharry Budd, and Trustees Donald Boynton, Bryon Kelley, and Kevin Martin.

Since incumbent Trustee Sherry Frazier is not running for reelection, her son William Frazier is running for the seat.

Now, Janine Houle has filed as a write-in candidate for trustee making five Democrats running for four, four-year positions.

Janine Houle

Janine Houle, 61, 43836 N. Timberview Dr., has lived in the township for 12 years and is retired. She attended Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn, and Lawrence Institute of Technology, Southfield.



She is the mother of Kyle Gurka, 32, and Lance Gurka, 28.

Houle served on the board of directors of the Wayne County Society of Autistic Citizens (Way SAC) in the late 1990s.

She is the president and past vice-president of the Belleville Area Garden Club and belongs to the Fraternal Order of Eagles #3996, the Belleville Walking Club, the Sierra Club, World Wildlife Foundation, and AARP. She enjoys gardening, photography, swimming, and boating.

Houle listed her work experience as: United Technologies Automotive, purchasing department; Society of Manufacturing Engineers, editing technical theses and compiling them into research books for each seminar; Ford Motor Company, assistant to the division manager to whom plant managers of six Southeast Michigan plants reported; assisted George

(continued on page 7)

Partisan Section	State Boards	County	Judicial	Nonpartisan Section	Proposal Section
Straight Party Ticket Vote for not more than 1	Member of the State Board of Education Vote for not more than 2	Sheriff Vote for not more than 1	Justice of Supreme Court Incumbent Position Partial Term Ending 01/01/2029 Vote for not more than 1	Judicial	Intermediate School District
Democratic Party <input type="radio"/>	Theodore Jones Democrat <input type="radio"/>	Raphael Washington Democrat <input type="radio"/>	Kyra Harris Bolden Justice of Supreme Court <input type="radio"/>	Judge of Circuit Court 3rd Circuit Non-Incumbent Position 6 Year Term Vote for not more than 1	Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency Renewal of Regional Enhancement Millage Proposal
Republican Party <input type="radio"/>	Adam Frederick Zemke Democrat <input type="radio"/>	T.P. Nykoriak Republican <input type="radio"/>	Patrick William O'Grady <input type="radio"/>	Adrienne G. Scruggs <input type="radio"/>	Pursuant to state law, the revenue raised by the proposed renewal of the enhancement millage will be collected by the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency ("Wayne RESA") and distributed on an equal per-pupil basis to local constituent school districts including eligible public school academies within the boundaries of Wayne RESA. None of the enhancement millage revenue will be distributed to Wayne RESA, and all funds shall be independently audited by the local constituent school districts and eligible public school academies as part of their annual school audits. As a renewal of authority which expires with the 2027 levy, shall the limitation on the amount of ad valorem taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency, Michigan, be increased by 1.9612 mills (\$1.96 per thousand dollars of taxable value) for a period of six (6) years, 2028 to 2033, inclusive, to provide operating funds to enhance other state and local funding for local school district operating purposes? It is estimated that 1.9612 mills would raise approximately \$108 million when first levied in 2028. The revenue from this enhancement millage will be distributed on an equal per pupil basis to the following listed constituent school districts and the public school academies within the boundaries of Wayne RESA which are eligible to receive enhancement millage under the Revised School Code: Allen Park Public Schools, Crestwood School District, School District of the City of Dearborn, Dearborn Heights School District No. 7, Detroit Public Schools Community District, Ecorse Public School District, Flat Rock Community Schools, Garden City Public Schools, Gibraltar School District, Grosse Ile Township Schools, Grosse Pointe Public School System, School District of the City of Hamtramck, School District of the City of Harper Woods, Huron School District, School District of the City of Lincoln Park, Livonia Public Schools School District, Melvindale - Northern Allen Park School District, Northville Public Schools, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Redford Union Schools District No. 1, School District of the City of River Rouge, Riverview Community School District, Romulus Community Schools, Southgate Community School District, South Redford School District, Taylor School District, Trenton Public Schools, Van Buren Public Schools, Wayne-Westland Community School District, Westwood Community School District, Woodhaven-Brownstown School District, School District of the City of Wyandotte
Libertarian Party <input type="radio"/>	Tom McMillin Republican <input type="radio"/>	Clerk Vote for not more than 1	Judge of Court of Appeals 1st District Incumbent Position 6 Year Term Vote for not more than 2	John Larkin <input type="radio"/>	
U.S. Taxpayers Party <input type="radio"/>	Nikki Snyder Republican <input type="radio"/>	Cathy M. Garrett U.S. Taxpayers <input type="radio"/>	Judge of Circuit Court 3rd Circuit Incumbent Position Partial Term Ending 01/01/2027 Vote for not more than 2	Bradley Cobb Judge of Circuit Court <input type="radio"/>	
Green Party <input type="radio"/>	Scotty Boman Republican <input type="radio"/>	Joseph H. LeBlanc Libertarian <input type="radio"/>	Judge of Probate Court Incumbent Position 6 Year Term Vote for not more than 1	Nicole N. Goodson Judge of Circuit Court <input type="radio"/>	
Working Class Party <input type="radio"/>	Ted Gerrard U.S. Taxpayers <input type="radio"/>	Treasurer Vote for not more than 1	Judge of Probate Court Non-Incumbent Position 6 Year Term Vote for not more than 2	David A. Perkins Judge of Probate Court <input type="radio"/>	
Natural Law Party <input type="radio"/>	Christine C. Schwartz U.S. Taxpayers <input type="radio"/>	Eric Sabree Democrat <input type="radio"/>	Judge of Probate Court Non-Incumbent Position 6 Year Term Vote for not more than 2	Ron L. Haywood <input type="radio"/>	
Presidential	Mary Anne Hering Working Class <input type="radio"/>	Register of Deeds Vote for not more than 1	Judge of District Court 34th District Non-Incumbent Position 6 Year Term Vote for not more than 1	Daniel L. Mercier <input type="radio"/>	
Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States Vote for not more than 1	Regent of the University of Michigan Vote for not more than 2	Bernard J. Youngblood Democrat <input type="radio"/>	Local School District	Todd E. Briggs <input type="radio"/>	
Kamala D. Harris Democrat <input type="radio"/>	Denise Iltch Democrat <input type="radio"/>	Afai Ahmad Republican <input type="radio"/>	Board Member Van Buren Public Schools Vote for not more than 4	Terese Patton <input type="radio"/>	
Donald J. Trump Republican <input type="radio"/>	Shauna Ryder Diggs Democrat <input type="radio"/>	Allen R. Wilson Democrat <input type="radio"/>	District Library	Robert P. Coutts <input type="radio"/>	
Chase Oliver Republican <input type="radio"/>	Carl Meyers Republican <input type="radio"/>	Jerome C. Cavanagh Judge of Circuit Court <input type="radio"/>	Board Member Belleville Area District Library Vote for not more than 3	Billie Jo Harsch <input type="radio"/>	
Mike ter Maat Libertarian <input type="radio"/>	Sevag Vartanian Republican <input type="radio"/>	Kevin J. Cox Judge of Circuit Court <input type="radio"/>	Joy Chichewicz <input type="radio"/>	Alma Hughes-Grubbs <input type="radio"/>	
Randall Terry Democrat <input type="radio"/>	Andrew Chadderton Libertarian <input type="radio"/>	Paul John Cusick Judge of Circuit Court <input type="radio"/>	Alma Hughes-Grubbs <input type="radio"/>	Maria Jackson-Smith <input type="radio"/>	
Stephen E. Broden U.S. Taxpayers <input type="radio"/>	Donna M. Oetman U.S. Taxpayers <input type="radio"/>	Prentis Edwards, Jr. Judge of Circuit Court <input type="radio"/>			
Jill Stein Green <input type="radio"/>	Trustee of Michigan State University Vote for not more than 2	Lawrence Elsass Judge of Circuit Court <input type="radio"/>			
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Natural Law <input type="radio"/>	Rebecca Bahar-Cook Democrat <input type="radio"/>	Edward Ewell, Jr. Judge of Circuit Court <input type="radio"/>			
Nicole Shanahan <input type="radio"/>	Thomas Stallworth III Democrat <input type="radio"/>	Tracy E. Green Judge of Circuit Court <input type="radio"/>			
Joseph Kishore <input type="radio"/>	Mike Balow Republican <input type="radio"/>	Adel A. Harb Judge of Circuit Court <input type="radio"/>			
Jerry White No Party Affiliation <input type="radio"/>	Julie Maday Republican <input type="radio"/>	Bridget Mary Hathaway Judge of Circuit Court <input type="radio"/>			
Cornel West <input type="radio"/>	Grant T. Baker Libertarian <input type="radio"/>	Dana Margaret Hathaway Judge of Circuit Court <input type="radio"/>			
Melina Abdullah No Party Affiliation <input type="radio"/>	Janet M. Sanger U.S. Taxpayers <input type="radio"/>	Charles S. Hegarty Judge of Circuit Court <input type="radio"/>			
	John Paul Sanger U.S. Taxpayers <input type="radio"/>	Catherine L. Heise Judge of Circuit Court <input type="radio"/>			
	John Anthony La Pietra Green <input type="radio"/>	Qiana Denise Lillard Judge of Circuit Court <input type="radio"/>			
Congressional	Governor of Wayne State University Vote for not more than 2	Treasurer Vote for not more than 1			
United States Senator Vote for not more than 1	Sharry A. Budd Democrat <input type="radio"/>	Trustee Vote for not more than 4			
Elissa Slotkin Democrat <input type="radio"/>	Rasha Demashkieh Democrat <input type="radio"/>	Donald Boynton, Jr. Democrat <input type="radio"/>			
Mike Rogers Republican <input type="radio"/>	Mark T. Gaffney Democrat <input type="radio"/>	William Frazier Democrat <input type="radio"/>			
Joseph Solis-Mullen Libertarian <input type="radio"/>	Michael Busuito Republican <input type="radio"/>	Bryon K. Kelley Democrat <input type="radio"/>			
Dave Stein U.S. Taxpayers <input type="radio"/>	Sunny Reddy Republican <input type="radio"/>	Kevin Martin Democrat <input type="radio"/>			
Douglas P. Marsh Green <input type="radio"/>	Farid Ishac Libertarian <input type="radio"/>				
Doug Dem Natural Law <input type="radio"/>	William Mohr II U.S. Taxpayers <input type="radio"/>				
	Sami Makhoul Green <input type="radio"/>				
	Suzanne Roehrig Working Class <input type="radio"/>				
Representative in Congress 6th District Vote for not more than 1	Kathleen Oakford Natural Law <input type="radio"/>				
Debbie Dingell Democrat <input type="radio"/>					
Heather Smiley Republican <input type="radio"/>					
Bill Krebaum Libertarian <input type="radio"/>					
Clyde K. Shabazz Green <input type="radio"/>					
	County	Judicial			
	Prosecuting Attorney Vote for not more than 1	Justice of Supreme Court 8 Year Term Vote for not more than 1			
Legislative	Kym L. Worthy Democrat <input type="radio"/>	Andrew Fink <input type="radio"/>			
Representative in State Legislature 31st District Vote for not more than 1	Kerry Lee Morgan Libertarian <input type="radio"/>	Kimberly Ann Thomas <input type="radio"/>			
Reggie Miller Democrat <input type="radio"/>					
Dale Biniecki Republican <input type="radio"/>					

SAMPLE

OPINIONS

Editorial

City Council grants itself longer terms

Although city council terms are four years under the current city charter, at Monday's meeting the Belleville City Council voted unanimously for a resolution that gives themselves an extra year and makes their current term five years.

City Manager Jason Smith said at the Michigan Municipal League conference Mayor Voigt spoke to Mayor Colestock of Eaton Rapids about odd-year elections. Mayor Colestock said they had changed their election years by resolution rather than by a ballot question. She sent information to Belleville and they adapted it for our city.

Smith said the city attorney looked it over and said Belleville could make this change in a similar fashion and the attorney general said she preferred votes of the people, but a resolution would work. The council voted unanimously to change the terms of councilpersons Beebe and Kissel from expiring in 2025 to expiring in 2026. The terms of Mayor Voigt, Mayor Pro-Tem Bates, and councilman Priest, which expired in 2027, will now expire in 2028.

City clerk/treasurer Briana Hootman said this change will save the city \$5,000 in costs for the odd-year city election which has nothing else on the ballot and brings only about a 5% turnout.

Mayor Voigt said this should have been done years ago.

The next council members, elected in 2026, will be for four-year terms again.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

On Saturday, a Van Buren Township woman went to Chase Bank on Main Street to get \$50 cash to take to Meijer to get a money order to send as a donation to a nonprofit she supports. She said it costs less than \$1 for the money order at Meijer and costs \$5 at Chase, so that's how she does it. Also, if she writes a check she has to wait for the donation to clear and she doesn't want to wait for her books to clear.

She got her \$50 bill and took it to customer service at Meijer, where the clerk checked it with a counterfeit detector pen and told her it was a counterfeit bill. The mark on the bill was brown and it should be yellow if it's OK. She was embarrassed and upset and told the clerk she just got it from the bank. She said the clerk called her supervisor and the supervisor told the clerk to just give the bill back to the customer, so she did.

The VBT woman had other cash so she got the money order and took the \$50 bill back to Chase Bank. The clerk who waited on her earlier was still there and she said she had checked the \$50 before giving it to the woman in the first place, but she checked it again with a pen. There was nothing wrong with the bill, she said. Other people at the bank checked the bill with their pens and electronic means and found it was fine.

They held it up to the light and showed the woman the lines going through the bill which counterfeit bills don't have. The bank took the bill back.

Another woman told me she had purchased some counterfeit-detecting pens for a relative to use for her upcoming craft sale and she wonders if the pens are foolproof.



It was a mystery to everyone. We checked the internet and found that if you don't keep the cap snugly on the pens, they dry out and don't work right. Maybe that's what happened. But, pens are not fool-proof.

My son Bill went to the Belleville Bakery at the corner of Savage and Bemis roads on Sunday. He was looking for some donuts because Meijer has stopped baking their own donuts and he was disappointed with the ones they did have.

He asked about Cheryl, the owner who he has known for many years, and was told she broke her wrist and couldn't work.

She was falling out of her computer chair and put out her hand to cushion her fall - and broke her wrist.

Our best to Cheryl. May you heal quickly.

We understand there will be a ribbon cutting for the new pocket park at the pump station and a plaque with five logos will be erected, one for each of the entities involved in working on that tiny park.

The city council was told that DTE is ready to move its gas line on the Denton Road Bridge and will be doing so this week and you won't be able to go to Hillside Cemetery for a couple of days. Once that is done, we are told, they can begin to demolish the bridge. Hope that is true because they can't begin to rebuild it until the old one is gone.

City council members really like the black fence along E. Columbia Ave. at Victory Park. They said it makes the children safe.

The 70 tractors due to come into Belleville at 11 a.m. Saturday are sure to be a treat. They are part of the Harvest Fest celebration and they plan to stop so people can look them over and take pictures. It's the project of former VBT Fire Chief Brad Traskos and his son who live in Sumpter. Belleville Police Chief Kris Faull lives next door and is related, so she announced that the tractors will start out at 10:10 a.m. from that area in Sumpter and will get to Main Street in Belleville by 11 a.m.

The art show at the BYC is going on then, too, as well as a "Harvest Fest" farmer's market on Fourth Street and activities in the library thereabouts. Tom Fielder is expected to be out there somewhere with the Nickle Dig he always puts on.

Fielder was lauded at his BHS reunion recently for being able to play the washboard.



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Letters

Sumpter recognizes senior volunteers

To the editor:
 Sumpter volunteers in the "Retired and Seniors Volunteer Program" (RSVP) were recently honored at the Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon.

- Jackie McKenzie has volunteered over 10 years devotion to Meals on Wheels.
- Dee Patterson has volunteered over 15 years devotion to Commodities Program.
- Beverly Powell has volunteered over 15 years devotion to Commodities and Exercise Leadership.
- Margaret Rochon has volunteered over 15 years devotion to Commodities and Nutrition Program.
- Paulette Thompson has volunteered over 15 years devotion to Meals on Wheels.
- Karen Mickens has volunteered over 20 years devotion to the Nutrition Program.
- Christine Wenderski has volunteered over 20 years devotion to the Nutrition Program.
- Karen Mickens and Christine Wenderski received the President of the United States Award for over 4,000 hours of volunteer service.
- Christine Wenderski received an award at the Wayne County Senior Services for her many years of dedication to the Sumpter Nutrition Program, her daily duties without hesitation to prepare, pack and clean up the Meals on Wheels and Congregate lunch program.

It brings me great honor to work with such Wonderful Volunteers.
 Maryann Watson
 Community and Senior Coordinator
 Sumpter Township

Jimmy Thompson is with his son near Tampa

To the editor:
 For those who wonder what has happened to our good friend Jimmy Thompson, he is with his son in the Tampa, FL area and survived the hurricane OK.

Mickey Widener
 Van Buren Township

Remember: There's 9 days of early voting

To the editor:
 As election day rapidly approaches, I would like to remind everyone that Michigan has 9 days of early voting. Starting Oct 26 - Nov. 3.

Presidential elections are always busy and have long lines. Avoid the frustration and vote early. It can be done at your convenience.

For Van Buren Township and Belleville go to township hall/city hall 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sumpter Township is also at the township hall, however, their hours are Sat & Sun 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Mon - Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Voting early is no different than voting the day of. Your ballot is filled out the same way and you insert it into the tabulator the same way.

Your vote is counted and locked in. Let's take advantage of this opportunity.

Joe Flange, Precinct Delegate
 Van Buren Township

Grench taking back the tax cut she gave you

To the editor:
 Just when I thought the brain trust couldn't surprise me more ... remember when grench cut your taxes by a whopping 25%. I know, you took that \$40 and took a trip around the world ... or bought a new car ... gas-powered I hope ... Well, grench hates to see you wasting that windfall on food or something wasteful like that ... soooooo ... she's taking it back ... I know ... you get used to living high on the hog ... but they know you really didn't need that money ... Rick Snyder (a republican) wrote it into law ... but ... Dana, (where's my bloody mary) our dear attorney general took it to court and they decided ... naw ... you don't need it. But they have some pork barrel jobs that can use it ... so ... one would think with grench and the democrats controlling the state they could do something to help us ... but she's in for another 2 years ... and then a run for the white house ... you wouldn't remember ... so she's ok with it ... makes ya proud to say you live in Michigan.

Ya'll be safe out there...
 Vic Franzoi
 Van Buren Township

Letter with St. Jude Thaddeus Novena

To the editor:
 May the sacred heart of Jesus be adored, glorified loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever.
 Sacred Heart of Jesus, hear our prayer. St. Jude Thaddeus, worker of miracles, pray for us.
 St. Jude Thaddeus, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.
 Say this prayer nine times a day, for nine days. On the ninth day your prayer will be answered.
 Publication must be promised.
 Thank you, St. Thaddeus, C.S.P.

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Musings

By Janet Millard
Independent Advertising Director



John Glenn High School fell to the BHS Tigers last Friday, 42 to 15. Tomorrow it is Wayne Memorial's turn to face the mighty Tigers. The game is not only at home, but tomorrow is Homecoming.

See the Harvest Fest ad in today's newspaper showing all the events at the venues including the Art Factory pumpkin carving. In fact, the Art Factory will have a special Spooky Glow Painting Night from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 11. No reservations needed – just walk in, \$15 fee. Let's enjoy the busy BOOville in October.

There is still time to register your Mutt for the Monster Mutt Walk on Oct. 19 or just wait until the day and show up at noon for registration. Goodie bags are ready for the first 50 dogs that register. See you at 4th Street Place.

The Trunk or Treats just keep coming. Bethany Bible Church on East Huron River Drive will have the sweets for you on Oct. 27 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Don't forget The Bash on Friday night at LifePointe Church on Hull Road - 6-8 p.m.

As you meander through all the events on Oct. 12, don't forget to make a stop at the BYC on E. Huron River Drive for the Belleville Council for the Arts annual Community Arts Show. You will be amazed at the outstanding talent in the 48111. See your invitation in the paper today.

Better get your calendar marked for the Oct. 18 and 19 Fall Craft Show at the Sumpter Township Community Center Gym. It runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. October is a good time to shop.

Speaking of shopping, next week is Third Thursday with specials and popups in Main Street businesses and the 4th Street Square. Extended shopping hours until 8 p.m.

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

Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Thursday, Oct. 10** – Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce presents the 2024 State of the Community with a breakfast beginning at 9 a.m., followed by speeches from leaders of the community. The event is being held at the Van Buren Township Community Center Black Box Theater, 46425 Tyler Rd. Cost is \$25 for chamber members and \$35 for others. To register contact Martha Hanoian at bacc48111@gmail.com.
- **Thursday, Oct. 10** – The Belleville Area Museum, 405 Main St., presents "Solemn Echoes – Uncovering the Dark and Eerie Practices of Victorian Death Culture" at 6 p.m. The lecture is by Nikki Pickeral, library assistant at the Belleville Area District Library. RSVP to: bam@vanburen-mi.org
- **Friday, Oct. 11** – Lifepointe Church, 45170 Hull Rd., presents The Bash – Pixar Style from 6-8 p.m. including trunk or treat, games, inflatables, food truck, hay ride, bonfires, donuts, and a ton of candy.
- **Friday, Oct. 11** – Awards ceremony is 7-9 p.m. for the Belleville Area Council for the Arts 15th-annual Community Art Show at the BYC, 831 E. Huron River Dr. Meet the artists. Public viewing continues from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. www.bacaart.org
- **Saturday, Oct. 12** – Harvest Fest at the Belleville Area District Library, Belleville Area Museum, and Fourth Street Place, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A Tractor Parade on Main Street is at 11 a.m. and a Harvest Market, music, and Nickel Dig.
- **Saturday, Oct. 12** – Van Buren Township Fire Department Pancake Breakfast, 9 a.m. to noon, at Fire Hall #2, 7981 Belleville Rd. Tickets: \$5. Menu includes pancakes, sausage links, and coffee, juice, or milk.
- **Sunday, Oct. 13** – Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra at 3:30 p.m. at Lincoln High School Performing Arts Center, 7425 Willis Rd., Ypsilanti. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for students/ seniors/children, and \$30 per family. www.ypsilantisymphony.org
- **Monday, Oct. 14** – **Monday, Nov. 4** – Scarecrows in the Park, at Harris Park on Belleville Road in Van Buren Township.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 16** – David C. Brown Pet Loss Support Group meets from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the Brown Family Center. To share difficult emotions that are present when our companion has died or is in the later stages of life and death is near. Information: Jacqueline Dalzell, (734) 697-4500.
- **Friday, Oct. 18, and Saturday, Oct. 19** – Sumpter Township Vendor Market, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Community Center gym, 23501 Sumpter Rd. \$10 per table rental – pay at treasurer's office. Rain or shine.

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VBT candidates

(continued from page 3)

T. Darany, former state representative for the Dearborn area; Construction Foreman Assistant, Fairlane Homes; grant writer for the Pollinator Garden at Pumphouse Park, Garden Club.

When asked why she is running for office, she replied: "The four men on the ballot are running unopposed and over the last several months I was hearing that there should be a female running also. So, I thought, why not me?"

Her goal once elected? "I consider myself an environmentalist and nature-lover. I am still concerned about the contamination entering the river upstream."

In addition, Houle said her eldest son is cognitively impaired and non-verbal, so she is an advocate for the handicapped.

"I hope that 'villages' for the handicapped will be common place, and not a rarity," she said.

The other four running for trustee seats were unopposed until last week.

Donald Boynton, Jr. for trustee

Incumbent Trustee Donald Boynton, Jr., 61, 13237 Dover Ct., is running for reelection to the position. He and his wife Karen have lived in the township for 19 years.

Bryon K. Kelley for trustee
Incumbent Trustee Bryon K. Kelley, 47, 49202 Peninsular Dr., is running for reelection to the position. He has lived in the township for 20 years.

Kevin Martin for trustee

Incumbent Trustee Kevin Martin, 68, 9405 Madison Dr., has lived in the township for 27 years. He is married to 34th District Court Judge Lisa Martin. He was first elected in 2016 and was reelected in 2020 and is running for reelection again.

William Frazier for trustee

William Frazier, 52, 271 Holly Ln., is running for election to Trustee Sherry Frazier's seat, since she did not file for reelection. This is his first bid for elective office. He has lived in the township for 41 years. Frazier is a paraprofessional in the Van Buren Public Schools.

Kevin McNamara for supervisor

Incumbent Supervisor Kevin McNamara, 66, 44714 Greenbriar Dr., is unopposed for supervisor.

Leon Wright for clerk

Incumbent Clerk Leon Wright, 63, 9961 Andover Dr., is unopposed for the position of clerk, a position he has held since 2008.

Sharry A. Budd for treasurer

Incumbent Treasurer Sharry A. Budd, is unopposed for the position of treasurer. She has lived in the township for 60 years and was first elected in 1996 and ran successfully every four years since.

The full backgrounds of all the incumbents and newcomer William Frazier can be found in the July 11 issue of the *Independent*.

To see that issue on line, go to www.bellevilleareaindependent.com and click on PAPERS and go to the 2024 issues.

Obituaries

BRIAN DEAN AROUETTE

(May 30, 1950 – September 28, 2024)
Age 74, of Gaylord, MI, formerly of Belleville. Survived by niece Shelley Ryder of Sterling Heights; nephew Gerald Bitner of Dundee; great-niece and great-nephew and cousin. Celebration of life Oct. 5 at David C. Brown Funeral Home. www.davidcbrownfh.com

LISA BYERS

(June 22, 1949 – September 21, 2024)
Age 75, of Monroe, MI. She is survived by her brother William Lee Byers, Jr. of Virginia. A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 201 S. Monroe Street, Monroe, at 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home. www.davidcbrownfh.com

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Sumpter Twp. Fall Craft/Vendor Market set for Oct. 18, 19

Sumpter Township Senior Center presents the Fall Craft/Vendor Market from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 18 and 19 at the Sumpter Center Gym, 23501 Sumpter Rd.

There will be a bake sale, craft show and more. Those wishing to have a table cost is \$10 per table, pay at the Treasurer's office.

For more information, contact Sumpter Community Center/Senior Coordinator Maryann Watson at (734) 461-9373 and leave a message if unavailable or email her at: maryannwatson@sumptertwp.org.

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City Council

(continued from page 1)

settle the problem.

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

- Approved on a 4-1 vote spending \$1,090 to get stretching exercises for the police department from ATI which will be given to officers to use to stave off injuries from wearing heavy equipment. Copies of the exercises will be made for the rest of the employees. Councilman Randy Priest voted no without comment. City manager Jason Smith had recommended spending \$34,065 to get workstation assessments and ergonomic training, but the council agreed it wasn't going to be paying \$5,000 for each new chair to follow through on workstation assessments. Although Smith had proposed this for police and fire, Fire Chief Brian Loranger said the fire fighters mostly come from home for runs, with a few working seven-hour shifts, so it doesn't apply to them;

- Was told by Smith that the DPS Director contract for Jordan Edwards for \$75,000 didn't work out because he was not interested and so the proposal to hire him was removed from the agenda. Edwards works at Metro Consultant Associates, a public works consulting company in Plymouth, and also worked at the Ecorse DPW. He was to start immediately to replace the former DPW that Smith fired ;

- Approved a Family Court Awareness Month Proclamation;

- Approved a Konica Minolta printer lease for four multi-function printers, but rejected Smith's plan to have an additional six smaller printers on desktops. Cost will be \$610.65 a month for five years and follows the state contract for such items. This will not service the fire department, which said the auxiliary owns its printers. Councilman Beebe said the goal is to stop killing trees and go electronic when possible;

- Directed Smith to go out for bids for finishing the alley paving instead of presenting quotes for the work from contractors. City workers had taken out the existing paving to begin the work. Mayor Voigt said for projects over \$5,000, they have to go out for bids. The work left to do on the alley between Wabash and Davis streets is fine grading, compacting, and four-inches of asphalt. The DDA has approved paying 50% up to \$20,000;

- Heard Assistant Fire Chief Chris Zweng say that when the fire fighters were going to get a generator, they had three contractors with quotes in hand and the department was told it had to go out for bids. And, the fire department can't open its doors during a power outage, he noted. He said it seems the fire department has to follow different rules than the other departments. That's when Mayor Voigt directed Smith to bring the alley bids to the next meeting;

- Directed Smith to bring bids for the tree to be removed in Victoria Commons and the three trees in Hillside Cemetery instead of the quotes he presented from a preferred contractor;

- Approved a resolution formally adopting the 5-Year Parks Plan Refresh;

- Authorized selling the old street sweeper, since Smith said he had an offer. Assistant Fire Chief Zweng said two or three years ago when the fire department had an offer of \$15,000 for its old fire truck, it was told by the city that they had to go out for bids and someone bought it at bids for \$5,000;

- Tabled until the next meeting for more information the updated parts quote presented for the 1991 Vac Truck just purchased. Smith said he thought it was 100% ready to go, but it might not pass MDOT inspection without some \$4,296.99 worth of upgrades;

- Changed the Nov. 11 council meeting date to Nov. 12 in observance of Veterans' Day;

- Approved a resolution to accept \$3,956 from Wayne County Parks millage for this year which will be used to purchase new, heavy duty picnic tables for Victory Park;

- Approved \$264,809 accounts payables and a departmental expenditure over \$500 from Core and Main for \$840 for a sewer project;

- Heard Smith announce that the clock in the Fourth Street Square is going to be repaired. He said assistant city manager Steve Jones called the repair man in Cincinnati and he's coming out;

- Heard a Victoria Commons resident complain about the pond where she can't see the water because of the weeds and the fountain that isn't working. Mayor Voigt said the DDA has engaged a company to fight the weeds that are hard to get rid of and the fountain is to be installed;

- Heard Carl Bono, who has lived in the senior co-op on Sumpter Road since December of last year, complain about the mess next door to their housing where the contractor is using the area as a dump. He said there are 100 dump loads of dirt with stones spread over the area, which makes the property one to two feet higher than it was. Now there is cement and metal and earlier that day an excavator was stacking

things in eight to ten-foot high piles. He said in a previous incident in his life he went to the attorney general's office and had it taken care of. "If you folks don't get him to comply, I'll do that again," he said. He said zoning for that property is not for a landfill. Mayor Voigt said the city would take care of it. Smith said he does have a meeting planned with Steve Davenport on another project;

- Heard Mayor Pro-Tem Kelly Bates ask about the Priority Waste bins that were left when the company stopped its service. Mayor Voigt directed Smith to send them a registered letter saying the city is going to dispose of them if they don't take them back by a certain date;

- Heard Smith report that he has had a conversation with Steve Davenport about swapping some property he owns for city property and they have a meeting set to continue the conversation. He also reported the Sani repairs are now under \$9,000, half than what it was. He said the DTE contractor is at Denton Road Bridge and will move the gas line and access to the cemetery will be closed for a couple of days and after that demolition of the bridge can begin. The suggestions from the SEMCOG road safety study included a dogbone roundabout at Five Points which would take a small piece of the car place. Also, it suggested curb extensions at Second, Third, and Fourth to calm the traffic. He said it would cost \$2.5 million to

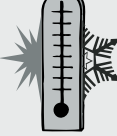
\$3 million for the roundabout. He said he has sent this to the grant writer for an April deadline for the Safe Streets for All Grant application;

- Heard Mayor Voigt say signs are going up at the parks so people will know how to contact the city when they have complaints on the parks instead of going to social media. He said he is happy the bridge is under construction and he gives Van Buren Township credit for getting permission to do the engineering which probably took two years off the project. He also praised State Rep. Reggie Miller who was 90 days on the job and was able to get \$10 million from the state for the project. Jones said the bridge was on the "do not repair" list and Commissioner Al Haidous got it put on the "repair" list;

- Heard Police Chief Kris Faull say there are 70 tractors in Saturday's Harvest Fest Parade. She said they will be taking off from her place in Sumpter at 10:10 a.m. and will get to Belleville at 11 a.m.; and

- Heard fire fighter Kissel say after a year of work he now has his paramedic license and he has given heart-saver training to 36 employees in the Van Buren Public Schools. Chief Faull said her officers will be trained by him, as well.

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Six candidates running for four seats on Van Buren Brd of Education

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Six candidates are running for four, four-year terms on the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education. Five names will be on the ballot. Incumbent Kelly Owen filed as a write-in and her name will not be on the ballot. She explains that in her statement below.

On the ballot are:

Victor DeLibera

Victor DeLibera, 44723 Greenbriar Dr., Van Buren Township, has lived in the school district for more than 22 years. He is married to Margo and they have three children, Victor, Gabrielle, and Isabella.

He earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Maryland and works as Portfolio Development Executive for Product Cost Management.

He ran for the school board unsuccessfully in 2016. He is an appointed director on the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority.

When asked why he is running for school board, he replied:

“I’m not running for the school board



DeLibera

because I see major issues that need solving, nor do I believe that I alone can resolve any significant challenges. Instead, my motivation comes from my meaningful involvement in our district since 2016, particularly through the robotics program. We’ve expanded from a single high school robotics team to nine teams in elementary schools and two in middle school. We’ve also grown the high school program into a hands-on business where students design and sell their own products. Through the Tiger Robotics Booster Organization, we’ve been collaborating with the administration to implement a district-wide STEM curriculum that connects

extracurricular activities with classroom learning. My goal in running for the school board is to build on this work and continue enhancing educational opportunities for our students.”

He was asked: What do you think are the most pressing issues in our district and what should be done about them?

“I believe our school district is well-run, and any issues within it are relatively minor. If I had to identify one pressing issue, however, it would be based on my observations of students’ behavior regarding mistakes.

“Making mistakes is a crucial part of growth and learning. Over the past several years of working with students, I’ve noticed a common theme: a fear of making mistakes. It’s easy to feel overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed. Mistakes are a necessary part of development, and we need to provide our students with the freedom and supportive environment to make them. This will foster resilience, teach problem-solving skills, and guide them in identifying areas for improvement.

“Ultimately, these experiences shape our students and help them embrace challenges rather than shy away from them. The administration and policies of our district should align with parents and teachers to help students understand the importance of mistakes.”

Dionne Falconer

Dionne Falconer, incumbent, 51, 43705 Dorchester Dr., Van Buren Township, has lived in the school district for 12 years. She ran for school board for the first time in 2018 and was not successful. She ran again in 2020 and won a seat on the school board. Now, she is running for reelection.

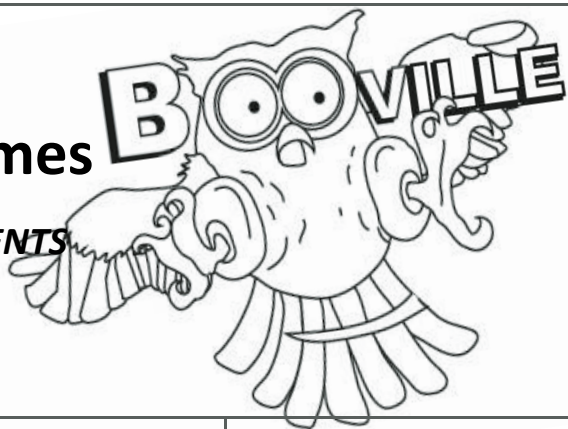


Falconer

(continued on page 10)

October 2024

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DATE	2024 EVENTS	LOCATION	PRESENTER
Oct 1-31	SCARECROWS ON MAIN	Along Main Street	City of Belleville Annual Contest
Thurs Oct 10	BELLEVILLE AREA MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES <i>Solemn Echoes: Uncovering the Dark and Eerie Practices of Victorian Death Culture – Treats at 5:30p, Lecture at 6p.</i> RSVP - bam@vanburen-mi.org NOTE: This program is for Adult Audiences	Belleville Area Museum	Belleville Are Museum
Fri Oct 11- Sun Oct 13	ANNUAL COMMUNITY ARTS SHOW Opening Reception Friday, October 11, 7-9pm, Free event	BYC, E Huron River Dr	BACA/Belleville Area Council for the Arts
Sat Oct 12	ANNUAL HARVEST FEST 11am - 3pm Free activities	Between Library, Museum, and 4th St Place	Library, Museum, with other organizations
Sat Oct 12	HARVEST MARKET 11am – 3pm	4 th Street Place	Belleville Central Business Community/CBC
Mon Oct 14	Main St Car Show – Trunk-or-Treat 5-7p	Main St from 3 rd – 5 th	Egan’s Pub
Fri Oct 18	ANNUAL WITCHES BALL 7p-11p	4 th Street Square/ tent	Egan’s Pub
Sat Oct 19	MONSTER MUTT WALK 1-3pm Costumed dog walk, prizes. Fee	Meet in 4 th Street Place	Belleville Central Business Community/CBC with Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue
Sat Oct 19	Book Signing w/Lance Parrish & Tom Gage, noon-2p	4 th Street Square	Belleville DDA
Sat Oct 19	Apple Pie Contest Pie drop-off btw 12&1:30 Winner announced at 2p	4 th Street Square	Belleville DDA
Sat Oct 19	CANDY LOOP 4-6pm Free event	Quirk Park, off Tyler Rd	Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation
Thurs Oct 31	DOWNTOWN TRICK OR TREAT 5-7pm With Costume Contest at 6p. Free event	Downtown Belleville, Contest at 4th St Square	Belleville Central Business Community/CBC
	<i>Events dates, times, locations subject to change.</i>		

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VBPS candidates

(continued from page 9)

She is married to Vincent Falconer and they have a daughter Alessander and sons Trevor who attends BHS and Myles who attends McBride Middle School.

She earned a bachelor of science in Administration from Ferris State University and a master of arts in business administration/e-business from the University of Phoenix.

Falconer works as a Regulation Agent for the State of Michigan.

She is an active team mom with Belleville High School since 2023, a board member for BHS Tiger Football Booster Club since its beginning on June 7, 2023.

When asked why she is running for this office, she replied: "I am running for a second term on the board so that I can continue to support our students, teachers and staff in achieving their goals in education, life and careers.

"I want to take the challenge at a higher level to increase the positive impact I can make in my community. I feel that it is important for the school board to be representative of the diverse landscape that makes our district such a wonderful place for our children to earn grow.

"As an active school board member with students currently enrolled in the Van Buren school system allows me firsthand knowledge on the education tools pros and cons selected. The real time engagement as a parent, seeing first-hand the needs of students, faculty and staff helps me be an asset to Van Buren School board. I can provide perspective that is relevant and current to the immediate needs of the district.

"As a parent of a 10th grader and 7th grader, I am their first teacher. When they started school, I became a part of a larger team of educators to assist them in reaching their maximum potential as individuals and students."

When asked what she thinks are the most pressing issues in our school district and what should be done about it, she replied:

"Pressing issues in our school district that I plan to focus on is to continue closing the education gap caused by COVID-19 and retaining great teachers and staff in the district.

"It's a priority that VBPS provides a safe and well-balanced education for all students, whether their goal is to attend college or earning a certificate to enter the workforce directly.

"VBPS is a district of 'Excellence' and I am proud of being a VBPS School board member and will love to continue to work for the students, staff and community."

Wade Fields

Wade Fields, 56, 6642 Sheldon Rd., Van Buren Township has lived in the school district for 31 non-concurrent years. He and his wife Tina, BHS 1988 graduate, have a son Corbin, who was a BHS graduate in 2019 and a daughter Avery who graduated in 2022 and was class salutatorian.



Fields

Field graduated from BHS in 1986 and earned an associate degree in architectural drafting from Washtenaw Community College. He is an Architectural Designer and Estimator at the University of Michigan.

This is his first run for elective office.

He holds a Builder's License and belongs to the Tiger Robotics Booster Organization, BHS Robotics, Parent Coordinator for Michigan Marching Band – Horn Section (My daughter is a member), and enjoys remodeling, house repairs, and boating.

When asked why he is running for this office, he replies: "To be more involved in the VBPS by increasing more STEM and vocational education in the school district, such as having a robotics curriculum for all grades like existing art and music programs. Help the student be more engaging in school and extracurricular activities, making learning more enjoyable, and helping them discover career options and life skills."

When asked what he thought are the most-pressing issues in our school district and what should be done about them, he replied:

"To retain students and teachers while attracting new ones. This requires community engagement and improved communication among all stakeholders – teachers, staff, administration, and the community – to ensure the best decisions are being made for the district."

Billie Jo Harsch

Billie Jo Harsch, 47 Montague St., Van Buren Township, has lived in the school district all her 38 years. She and her husband Steven Harsch have three children, Gracelyn, Holley, and Charles Harsch.

Her occupation is Patient Access Rep 2. She earned her high school diploma and has some college. This is her first run for public office.

She enjoys reading in her spare time and is a children's ministry teacher in their local church. She is actively involved in her children's sports and theater activities and volunteers in the schools as much as she can.



Harsch

When asked why she is running for this office, she replied: "I am a firm believer that all students and parents should have a voice and I want to be available to be that for them. With the world changing, I want to make sure that our students are protected, remain safe, and have the necessary tools they need to help them succeed.

What does she think are the most pressing issues in our school district?

1. Violence/bullying within our schools: With this issue we have to make students, teachers, and even schools accountable. We also need to make sure there are enough resources available. I would love to see volunteers from the retired sector of the community mentor and even be actively engaged in the school district. Whether that be having a presence within the schools or putting together outreach programs for students.

2. I-Ready Testing: From personal experience, the I-Ready testing is failing and not a good system for my daughter. We need to take a look at other testing options and make the right decision for our district as a whole. We need to dive deeper, look at

testing scores, and see what the true issue may be.

3. Classroom size: We need to help our teachers out. I want to make sure that there are resources available for all teachers to help them succeed. The number of students per classroom needs to go down and if that means hiring more teachers, then we should do that. The less kids in a classroom the more one on one the teacher can have with each student, which is important for the growth of the student.

David W. Shall

David W. Shall, 57, of Harmony Lane, has lived in Van Buren Township for 26

years and he and his wife Angela have two children in Van Buren Schools. He is very involved in his children's upbringing and volunteers time locally to support youth sports and community improvement initiatives.



Shall

"A school board position gives me an important volunteer opportunity to improve kids' education and enhance their learning environment, that ultimately influences the people they become in our community."

David Shall has 32 years of professional leadership experience in health and safety, human resources, sales and marketing and business management. He is a certified safety professional (CSP) in the USA and

(continued on page 11)



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VBPS candidates

(continued from page 10)

Canada (CRSP). He holds a B.S. degree from West Liberty State College, M.S. degrees from West Virginia University and a Ph.D. from Wayne State University. Shall has worked for Choctaw-Kaul Distribution Company since 2000 where he served as Technical Director, Vice President of Marketing & Sales and is currently Executive Vice President. He previously held leadership roles at Ford Motor Company and Marathon Oil Company.

He belongs to the BYC, National Safety Council, International Society for Performance Improvement, and enjoys water skiing.

As a school board member, Shall said he will promote policies, programs and processes that:

1. Improve academic achievement through student and teacher incentives.
2. Increase student and staff safety and security through your tolerance policies.
3. Hold students, parents, and staff accountable to maintain a positive, respectful, and supportive learning environment.
4. Focus funding and efforts on serving local kids and families well.

"I will provide leadership to educate local kids."

Kelly Owen, write-in

Incumbent school board member Kelly Owen, 61, 42607 Maude Ct., Van Buren Township, has filed as a write-in candidate.

Voters will have to write her name on the ballot to cast a vote for her.



Owen

She was elected to four-year terms in 2012, 2016, and 2020.

She and her husband Kyle Owen have three children, Kendall, Kameron, and Karlee. She has lived in the district for 31 years.

Owen is a homemaker and has an associate's degree.

She was a member of the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation for eight years, a PTO parent at Haggerty Elementary, Owen Intermediate, McBride Middle School, and BHS. She also has served on several committees within the school system over the past 22 years.

Her hobbies are baking, beading, helping others and spending time with family and friends.

When asked why she is running for this office, she replied: "If elected, this will be my fourth term on the school board. I have enjoyed the past 12 years, being a part of my own children's education, and being a part of something that impacts all of our children to get the best education possible. A lot of changes have happened in our district in the past 12 years. We

have built a new Early Childhood Center, we opened our doors to a new high school in the fall of 2012, we have updated all of our schools, started a Robotics team and ROTC at the high school, opened a health clinic at McBride Middle School, joined forces with Eastern Michigan University so that our high school students can earn college credits before they graduate, and so much more. My three children fulfilled their education through Van Buren Schools, and I believe they received the best education possible. I am proud to say they are Belleville graduates and I look forward to being part of the opportunities that Van Buren Public Schools will offer our community in our future."

What do you think are the most pressing issues in our school district and what should be done about them?

"Like any school district, we are always trying to improve our test scores, teacher retention, class sizes, obtaining the best curriculum for all our students, and above all, safety. While all of these are important, safety for our students is the most important. When I was in school, the only drills we had were tornado drills, and we had to sit under our desks. We live in a different world now and, unfortunately, we have to practice safety from people, and not just the weather. Recently, we have hired a Director of School Safety, updated McBride Middle School, along with Tyler and Savage Elementary Schools with new secure entries, a new key card entry system at the high school, and we have a Safety Resource Officer from Van Buren Township that is a presence in all of our schools. We practice safety drills at all of our schools on a regular basis, and we are providing A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training to all of our staff and students. We are continually looking at ways to keep our staff and students safe, and to make sure our students receive the best education possible while in a safe environment."

Owen also added, "I would like to take this opportunity to address why I am a write-in candidate this year. Back in 2012 when I ran for school board the first time, I turned in my initial paperwork a few days past the filing deadline, which generated a \$50 late fee on my Wayne County Campaign Finance account. At the time, I had an obsolete email that these late fee notices were sent to. The Wayne County Campaign Finance Department sent an initial notice to this obsolete email only, and I was unfortunately not notified through any other methods of communication. When I ran for reelection in 2016 and 2020, I was never alerted that I had an outstanding balance, and I was completely unaware of it. This did not affect my ability to be on the ballot in those elections."

"In 2022, a law was passed banning candidates from running for office if they had an outstanding campaign finance balance. It was not until Aug. 8, 2024, after submitting my paperwork to run in this current election, that I was notified of my fine from 12 years ago which rendered

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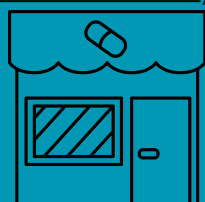
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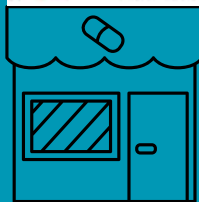
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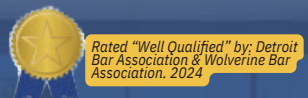
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ROBERT COUTTS IS PROUDLY ENDORSED BY:

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UNDERSTANDING 2024 VOTING

Absentee Voting

Absentee Voting: You can request an absentee ballot by filling out an application at mi.gov/vote, calling the Clerk's Office at 734.699.8909, or visiting the office in person. Voters can also request to be on the permanent ballot list, which means you will receive a ballot automatically for every election.

Early Voting
October 26 to November 3

Early Voting allows voters to cast their votes in person **nine days** prior to the General Election, starting Saturday, October 26th, until Sunday, November 3rd from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This process allows voters to cast their ballot in a tabulator (including their absentee ballot) just as they would on election day. All voters early vote at Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road.

Election Day

On **Election Day**, voters must vote at their designated precinct. Do not wait until the last minute to make your plan to vote! To locate your precinct and sample ballot, visit mi.gov/vote. Voters can also find a precinct map at vanburen-mi.org. Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. on November 5th.

VBT Clerk Leon Wright announces he is now a 'proud grandpa'

At the end of the Oct. 1 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, Clerk Leon Wright announced that he is now a "proud grandpa."

He said the previous Friday, Sept. 27, his first grandchild was born and it's a girl.

The parents are Leondre and Deshara Wright of Southfield. Their daughter is Deyonne Chanel Wright, who weighed five pounds, one ounce.

Grandparents are Janice and Leon Wright of Van Buren Township.

VBPS candidates

(continued from page 11)

me ineligible to be on the ballot this year. I was informed that if I paid the outstanding balance, I would then be eligible to run as a write-in candidate this year.

"I take full responsibility for turning in my paperwork late in 2012, and for never looking at my old emails where the notices were sent. I thoroughly enjoy being on the school board and have found through the years that being involved at any capacity in our children's education is my passion. I have been involved in our public school for the past 22 years, through my three children's tenures at VBPS and beyond. I want to be totally transparent and honest about my situation so there is no confusion as to why I am a write-in candidate vs. being on the ballot. Thank you for your time, and let's all get out there and vote Nov. 5. GO TIGERS!"

Not running for reelection

Incumbent school board members not running for reelection are vice-president Susan Featheringill and treasurer Simone Pinter. Their present terms run until the end of December.

Read The Newspaper On The Web!
The Belleville-Area Independent Website is Online! Visit us @
bellevilleareaindependent.com

2025 Salary Schedule proposed for Van Buren Twp. administration

To take effect Jan. 1, 2025

Supervisor	\$125,000
Clerk	\$116,000
Treasurer	\$116,000
Trustees	\$ 22,000
Deputy Supervisor	\$112,000
Confid. Admin. Assist.	\$ 66,950
Dir. Community Services	\$112,000
Residential Appraiser	\$ 74,263
Deputy Clerk	\$112,000
Deputy Treasurer	\$112,000
HR Director	\$105,000
Deputy Police Chief	\$112,551
Police Chief	\$123,806
Fire Chief	\$112,551
Pub. Safety Adm.	\$ 69,015
Dir. of Public Services	\$104,000
Dir. of Parks	\$ 70,906
Dir. Municipal Services	\$112,000
Planning/Ec. Dev. Dir.	\$ 90,000
W/S Director	\$106,090
W/S Supt.	\$ 82,161
B&G Supt.	\$ 82,161
Acct. Coordinator	\$ 85,093
Recreation Director	\$ 70,906
IT Director	\$106,000
PS IT Coordinator	\$ 79,688
W/S GIS Coordinator	\$ 78,784
Comm. Serv. Prog (2) Srs.	\$ 58,856
Communication Specs. (2)	\$ 73,157
Election Specialist	\$ 61,215
Treasury Specialist	\$ 61,215
Network Administrator	\$ 85,233
Desktop Technician	\$ 54,636
Dep. Fire Chief/Fire Marshal	\$101,295
Dep. Dir. Community Serv.	\$ 90,000
DDA Director	\$ 90,000
Comm. Ctr. Facilities Coord.	\$ 58,856

The schedule will be voted on as part of the budget at the Oct. 15 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees.

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.



Photo courtesy of Elena Manalp, Van Buren Township Communications Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue held a fund-raising "Spayghetti and No Balls" dinner at the Van Buren Eagles on Oct. 3. Orsi Dezsi and her daughters Anika, 12, and Zora, 7, posed for a picture with Yahtzee, who is looking for a home. The fund raiser earned money to promote the spaying and neutering of pets, since a unspayed female cat can potentially produce 20 kitten annually.

Spayghetti and No Balls dinner a big success

To the editor:
 Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue's (FMAR) annual "Spayghetti and No Balls" dinner was a heartwarming success. This cherished fall fundraiser brought the community together for an evening filled with delicious food, homemade baked goods, and exciting raffles, all in support of FMAR's vital mission to promote spaying and neutering pets. Spaying and neutering is a key part of FMAR's adoption process, helping control the pet population and ensuring healthier,

happier animals. It's staggering to consider that an unspayed female cat can have up to four litters a year, potentially producing 20 kittens annually. Fundraisers like this one help FMAR raise the necessary funds to continue its commitment to this crucial step in responsible pet care. FMAR extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended and contributed to the event's success. The generosity of the community is helping FMAR make a lasting impact in the lives of animals and continue its mission to support pets in need. Orsi Dézsi Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue www.friendsofmichigan.org

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- 4" – 12" Oversize Rock

Guiding Harbor

By Jennifer Trotter



Just imagine. You are at work one day and someone comes to you and says you can't go home. You are going to live with another family not too far from here. That will also mean that you can't work here anymore, but you'll get another job, so it will be ok. No, I don't have your clothes, but I'll bring you some in a couple of days. No, you can't speak to your family right now, I'm setting up a time for that in a few days.

Yes, this is an oversimplified and somewhat silly comparison to foster care. It's hard to paint a picture of what being removed from your family feels like. It depends on so many variables. What was the child's age at the time of removal, do siblings get to be together, is the child placed with someone they know, what time of day did the removal take place?

For the children who are removed, this is often devastating regardless of the reasons that led to the removal. Kids are not only taken from the harmful situation, but they are often removed from their schools, neighborhood, friends, toys, and even siblings. If there are no relatives to care for them, they are placed with people they may not know. This would be incredibly stressful for anyone.

Kids are left with complex feelings of

loss and longing. They may be angry with their parents or aligned with them. Usually, it's both. Foster parents, who are excited to get to care for a child in need, can feel surprised or disappointed when they are not appreciative. Foster Care is not for the weak. In fact, the strongest people I have ever known I have met through the foster care system. This applies to foster parents, relatives, birth families and children.

Foster care is a temporary living situation for children whose parents cannot take care of them. The Court makes the ultimate decision about whether a child should be removed. Once that decision is made, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) places that child with an agency like Guiding Harbor.

As a provider of foster care services, Guiding Harbor is responsible for supporting the birth family while they work on getting their children back, the relative caregivers or foster parents while they care for the child, and the youth who was removed.

The goal is for children to reunify with their families whenever safely possible. This can take between 6 months to 2 years for most families to demonstrate to the Court that they can safely parent their children. Our case workers help connect birth parents to resources like housing, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and parenting classes.

Ultimately, safety and stability for kids is the most important. Achieving permanency can take several forms, including:

1. Reunification: Returning a child to

their birth family after the resolution of issues that led to their removal.

2. Adoption: Providing a permanent family for a child through legal adoption.

3. Guardianship: Placing the child in the legal custody of a guardian who takes on the responsibilities of parenting without adoption.

Permanency is a critical aspect of ensuring the well-being of children, helping them develop lifelong relationships and a sense of belonging. The quicker permanency can be established, the better the outcomes are for kids.

Creative problem solving is one aspect of service delivery. We are paid by the state of Michigan to provide foster care

services, but it's not enough for us to solve problems as quickly as we'd like. We rely on fundraising to make ourselves nimble and more prepared to respond quickly to the needs of our families.

We also think it's important to celebrate our successes, spread the word about our services, and enjoy a night out. On Nov. 9, Guiding Harbor will host our 39th annual auction, The Greatest Gala on Earth. It will be held at the Baronette Renaissance hotel in Novi. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets include dinner, dessert, open bar, silent auction, and entertainment by Comedic Magician, Cameron Zvara. For more information, please visit <https://guidingharbor.org/events/>.

VBT board approves amendment to Walden Woods agreement

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The planned unit development agreement (PUD) that Van Buren Township had with original developer Hayden Gregory Associates for the construction of Walden Woods subdivision has now been amended to pave the way for new developer Pulte Homes to build an 88-unit, single-family residential development on a vacant site.

At the Oct. 1 regular meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, Ron Akers, director of municipal services, explained that the township attorney has approved of the changes. The board unanimously approved the changes.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara was absent and excused from the meeting and Treasurer Sharry Budd presided.

Director Akers said Pulte Homes had expressed interest in the property and submitted plans to build the residential development on the vacant property located at the northwest corner of Tyler and Morton Taylor roads.

This property was a part of the original development agreement for Walden Woods subdivision and was originally slated for multi-family and commercial development.

The project has been before the planning commission for recommendation and a preliminary site plan approval, but was tabled until questions about the required changes to the existing Walden Woods PUD agreement were answered, since the township no longer has PUDs.

Akers said the township staff and township legal counsel met with Pulte to discuss various options for how

to proceed and they came up with an amended agreement, which would allow the planning commission to continue with their site plan review process.

Akers said, in general, the amendment to the original PUD site plan allows the replacement of multi-family and commercial development to allow for the construction of an 88-unit single family residential development subject to the PRD (planned residential development) standards in the zoning code.

The other significant item in the agreement is that there is language which specifies that Morton Taylor Road will be paved to the entrance to the Walden Woods subdivision and measures relating to timing and performance guarantees.

The project goes back to the planning commission to work toward preliminary and final site plan approvals.

In other business at the 40-minute meeting on Oct. 1, the board:

- Held a three-minute public hearing during which no public spoke on the 2024 amended and proposed 2025 general fund budget, water/sewer budget, and nine special revenue budgets (Downtown Development Authority, Local Development Finance Authority, Landfill, Belleville Area Museum, E-911 Service, Federal Forfeiture, State Forfeiture, Long Term Debt, and Capital Improvement. The final approval of the budgets is expected at the Oct. 15 board meeting;
- Approved the reappointments of Ben Ross and Ron Merritt to the Environmental

(continued on page 21)

45th Anniversary Willis Baptist Church & Revival Services



Dr. John Hamblin has been in full-time evangelist since 1980. He has preached hundreds of meetings in fundamental churches across America and Canada. He has been named "A Bible Preacher of Note", "A Powerful Revivalist" & "A Pastors Friend" by many Pastors who have had him. You won't want to miss!

Evangelist Tim Booth has been serving in the pastorate and in evangelism for over 34 years. He was instrumental in the founding of the Midwest Christian Boys Football Camp, which has ministered to young men for over 18 years. His preaching is both clear and inspirational!



Evangelist John Brewer and his wife Mona spent 30 years pastoring in several churches. They are currently serving with Local Church Publishers and Bearing Precious Seed. They have also used their musical talents to serve the church with special music as they play and sing uplifting gospel songs. They are a true blessing!

Services begin on Sunday, October 13th as we celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the Willis Baptist Church!

TIMES: Sunday @ 9:45; 11:00; & 2:30pm.

*Revival Services begin on Monday, thru Friday, October 14 - 18 @ 7:00pm nightly

PLACE: Willis Baptist Church, 8687 Bunton Rd., Willis, MI

For further information please call (734) 461-0352

*Nursery is provided for all services"

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INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE is hereby given that on OCTOBER 19, 2024 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.

G458, Jazmene Long; O735, Derek Bryant; M569, Adam McNabb; I419 & J616, Cornell Fox; D171, Isiac L. Brown, Sr.; K651, Aafrika Poole; K664, Jim Stafford; C106 & Q915, Raymond Pugh; P751, Steven Smith.

Publish: October 3, 2024 and October 10, 2024

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2013 FORD CONNECT TRANSIT VAN. Like new condition. \$10,500. Private owner. (734) 699-0819 10/10

2007 DODGE NITRO WAGON. Full power & air, 4-wheel drive, DVD screen. \$5,150. Private owner. Can be seen anytime. (734) 699-0819 10/10

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YORKIES, YORKIPOOS, CAVAPOOS & other pups. \$899-\$1,199. Frisky & vet checked. Ypsilanti. View puppies at petcitypets.com. (734) 487-0800 10/17

DOMAIN NAMES FOR SALE. Asking \$20,000 for all of them OBO. Serious inquiries only to: rgoff@kidcokid.com. bellevillelake.com

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bellevillechildcare.com

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

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39571 W. HURON RIVER DR., Sat. & Sun., Oct. 5&6 and Oct. 12 & 13, 12-5. Assorted household items. Craftsman tools. Downsizing, 20 years of stuff. 10/10

YARD SALES ON SHELDON RD. - N. of Ecorse. Fri., Oct. 11 & Sat., Oct. 12, 10-6. Great variety & great prices. Don't miss this chance to get amazing deals. 10/10

HUGE GARAGE SALE. 24963 Martinsville Rd., Sumpter. Oct. 11&12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Lots of old, vintage stuff. Tools, ladies & gents things. Rain or shine. 10/10

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2004 RANGER 4 Door XLT-RWD. 161,000 miles. 2nd owner since 43,000. Runs great. Eye catcher! (734) 276-4508 10/24

2005 MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE. 6 cylinder, 5 speed. 164,000 miles. Very good condition. Asking \$4,900. (734) 740-7970 10/31

2007 PT CRUISER. No rust. 70,000 miles. Runs excellent. \$4,000. Call (734) 699-9663. Leave message. No texts. 10/24

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1955 GMC PICKUP Series 2, Slightly modified. No rust, good condition. Best offer. (734) 482-5537 10/24

'86 VETTE. Low miles. New top. \$6,600. Call Val at (734) 706-3103. Serious buyers only! 10/24

1995 CHEVY MALIBU CLASSIC SEDAN. Granny's personal car for past years. Full power, LT1 engine, no rust, one of a kind. Private owner. (734) 699-0819 10/10

VBT

(continued from page 19)

commission with terms to expire Oct. 1, 2027;

- Received and filed the Sept. 18 resolution from the Environmental Commission to support the board of trustees participation in intergovernmental litigation to prohibit the acceptance of radioactive waste. Trustee Don Boynton read the resolution

into the record;

- Approved the 2025 Departmental Fee Schedule, which Clerk Leon Wright referred to as an annual housekeeping item;
- Approved the disposal of township owned parcel 83 099 99 0015 706 Haggerty Road by selling the flag lot split into three parcel to the three adjoining property owners at a cost of \$6,500 each for a total of \$19,500. The land was obtained by the township in 2007 in a first right of refusal

format from the county for property with unpaid property tax. The township paid \$15,190.71. The divided property will combined with the deeds of 14970, 15150, and 15000 Haggerty Road;

- Approved special land use, as recommended by the planning commission, for the new Sheetz gas station/restaurant at the southwest corner of Ecorse and Haggerty roads. Alex Sawicki of Sheetz announced that the family schain had opened its 766 location the day before. He said Sheetz has invested \$9 million in the Van Buren Township and will bring

30-35 full-time jobs. He said Sheetz has been named one of the top 100 best places to work in the country and recently was named second-best in the country. The first Sheetz in Michigan opened in August in Romulus;

- Approved the second reading and approval of rezoning of a parcel west of the Costco Truck Terminal on Belleville Road from M-1 light industrial to M-2 general industrial;

- Heard Heather Smiley, Republican candidate for U.S. Congress, remind them at the recent town hall she was the one advising them to file a legal injunction. She said she has spent 32 years in a business environment and urged them to push legislation on a state level to get the radioactive waste problem solved. She said legal action is going to cost money locally. She said three-quarters of Michigans trash comes from Canada. She said solving the problem on a federal level will be a difficult thing to do;
- Heard Clerk Leon Wright said as of Oct. 31, the Nov. 5 election was 34 days away, there are several options, and people should make a plan now to vote;
- Heard candidate Smiley warn the township to make sure it has enough water and sewer service for the Pulte development and Treasurer Budd said the township has had its engineers and sewer/water department make sure all is well; and
- Heard Trustee Martin say he had been at the ribbon cutting for the French Landing Park earlier in the day and the renovation of the park has been an outstanding job and he praised those working on the project. He said that he and Treasurer Budd did not take them up on the offer to ride in a kayak.

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.



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Arts Council announces three judges for this weekend's annual show

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts will present its 15th-annual Community Art Show on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Oct. 11-13, at the Belleville Yacht Club, 831 E. Huron River Dr., Van Buren Township.

The opening reception for the art show will be 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 11. This is the time to meet the artists.

Prize winners will be announced at 7:30 p.m. Cash prizes will be awarded in six categories: 3-D/Fiber Art, 2-D, Upcycled, Photography, Children ages 6-12, and Teens ages 13-17.

Choosing the prize winners will be three judges, all professional artists: Debbie Juriga, Susan E. McDowell, and Sharon St. Mary.

Public viewing will be from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12, and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 13.

The show is open to the public and free of charge.

Many of the artists will have their artwork for sale. There will also be a silent auction with donated pieces of art. Bidding will take place all weekend, ending on Sunday.

A People's Choice Award will be announced at the end of the show. All attendees will have a chance to choose the piece of art that they like the most.

Art show judge **Debbie Juriga** has lived in and around Belleville with husband, John and three sons for over 50 years. She holds a master's degree in education with an arts group minor. Retired from her 42-year educational career as a teacher, administrator and consultant, she has always found time for her love of quilting, sewing, jewelry bead weaving, and basket weaving.

Juriga's basket weaving has spanned 42 years and included time spent learning techniques from several nationally known weavers.

The Jurigas have supported the Belleville Area Council for the Arts in fundraising efforts and committee work. They have also hosted the Lakeside Art Show at their home for several years.

Art show judge **Susan E. McDowell** is a former IT Manager for the University of Michigan, and an artist whose choice of medium is ever-evolving. She has worked with fused/engraved glass, needle felting, and more recently, weaving.

McDowell's art reflects a response to the beauty of the natural world that surrounds us. In 2017, she placed first in the Kiln-Formed Glass Category at the Delphi

Glass, Art Glass Festival and received a professional development grant in 2015 from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs.

She is an active member of Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild, where she will be the guest speaker in April, 2025. She has served on the jury for Saline Art Around Saline and as a juror for several years for Region 9 MiniGrant Arts Projects from Michigan Council for the Arts.

Art show judge **Sharon St. Mary** was born in 1939. In the mid '60s, she turned a pottery hobby into a business. As a professional potter for more than 40 years, she has exhibited in hundreds of art fairs, in more than a dozen states, winning numerous awards, while supporting her three children as a single parent. She owned and ran an art gallery in the Kerrytown Shops for a dozen years and taught ceramics in two schools.

St. Mary retired around 15 years ago, when she could no longer physically handle turning tons of clay into pottery. She has since turned her creativity to painting and spoiling her grand- and great-grandchildren.

Elaine Gutierrez
Belleville Area Council for the Arts

More Letters

Here's some suggestions for Victory Park

To the editor:

I live across the street from the park. I want to voice my opinion about a few things there.

First, there is a giant gong in the middle of the park disguised as a basketball court backboard. I wonder if some sound-proofing foam like used inside car doors could be applied.

Second, there have been blindingly bright aircraft landing lights added to the building.

Third, and most recent, a very ugly row of prison bars grew there this week.

An extreme solution would be to replace the fence with a very high wall painted like a free and open park, the height would reflect the sound of the gong, block the floodlights, and make it appear like it used to.

Don, Belleville

Sumpter uses ARPA funds on police dept., township hall roof

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting Sept. 24, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to use federal ARPA funds to replace the south side windows and restroom floors in the police department and to replace the roof at township hall.

ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds have been allocated to help communities recover from the COVID pandemic. Sumpter was allotted \$984,000.

The board:

- Approved a proposal of re-obligation of ARPA funds and targeted projects;

- Approve the bid by EMU Global Services to replace the police department's south side windows at a cost of \$18,350, with ARPA funds or other available funds, if required;

- Approved the sole bid by Concrete Floor Treatment to replace the police department restroom floors at a cost of \$13,952, paid with ARPA funds or other available funds, if required; and

- Approved to post and publish an invitation to bid for the township hall roof

replacement, paid with ARPA funds or other available funds, if required.

In other business at the one hour and 25 minute meeting, the board also:

- Removed from the agenda without explanation an agenda item to approve an amendment to the Finance Director's and Township Accountant's contracts to report to the township board and an amendment item to define payroll duties are under the Clerk's office supervision and overseen by the Finance Director;

- Added to the agenda and approved accepting the sole bid of \$39,800 from Diversified Excavating for the Graham Park and Banotai Park interior roadways and parking lot, saving \$10,000 by using campus parking lot millings;

- Heard Finance Director Scott Holtz report that the royalty check from the landfill just arrived and it is \$196,000, 5% down for the year. Also, because of the federal interest rate cuts, the township interest earnings will slide downward;

- Heard Township Manager Anthony Burdick report the HVAC unit for the

(continued on page 23)

FEEDING FAMILIES IN VAN BUREN, BELLEVILLE & SUMPTER

EMERGENCY

First United
Methodist Church



417 Charles Street
Belleville, MI.
734-697-9288

Food distribution on Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 10AM – 1PM

GUIDING HARBOR PRESENTS

THE GREATEST GALA ON EARTH

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH
6:00PM - 10:00PM

THE BARONETTE RENAISSANCE
27790 NOVI RD
NOVI, MI 48377



BACK, BY POPULAR DEMAND
CAMERON ZVARA: COMEDY
MAGICIAN & ENTERTAINER



SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKET PAGE

Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 22)

community center is not in yet and the vendor will return the downpayment it has if it doesn't arrive soon. The delay had been attributed to a supply chain issue, but he has looked into other possible vendors. He reported on several other pending projects and that they have had a second interview with a possible replacement for the DPW Director vacancy;

- Heard Jamie Good of the fire department report he went to the state and worked with MI Prevention on getting smoke detectors for seniors and he got 76 smoke detectors and 25 CO detectors and will get an unlimited supply after those run out;

- Heard Mary Ban thank Fire Chief Brown and Mr. Sliwa for helping her when she was at the community center and couldn't stand or sit without excruciating pain. She was taken to the hospital and wanted to compliment the township's emergency squads. She also thanked Maryann Watson for bringing her car back home for her. Ban again pointed out there is too much uncut brush along the roadways and also dead trees hanging over Sumpter Road in Van Buren Township;

- Approved accepting the fuel tank refresh quote from Chapp & Bushey Oil Company at a total cost of \$3,915.65;

- Approved Rachel Scott of the DPW to attend the MRWA (Michigan Rural Water Association) S3 and S4 training at a cost not to exceed \$650;

- Approved Resolution 2024-08 opposing toxic waste being sent to the VanBuren Township Republic Waste landfill, adding that the township strongly disapproves of disposing of out of state toxic waste in Wayne County; and

- Went into a 43-minute closed-door session at the end of the meeting to consider its attorney's opinion pertaining to Republic Landfill and attorney's opinion pertaining to a pending audit. After the board came out of closed door session, it voted to direct the attorney to proceed as directed in closed session, with no details given.

Businessman John Chapman curses at Sumpter Twp. Board

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

John Chapman, who for many years has owned an auto mechanics shop on Sumpter Road, just south of Willow Road, got up to speak at the Sept. 24 meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees.

He was angry over the township putting

a cloud over his title so he can't sell his business, saying, "... there's a cloud on the title of my f---ing building..." He used the "f" word a second time in his remarks and started to use it again.

Trustee Tim Bowman called out "point of order" and Chapman was asked not to curse.

Chapman said the township put a condemnation order on his building in 2002 and everything was cleared up, and, "Why hasn't the cloud been lifted?"

Supervisor Tim Bowman said he didn't know anything about the issue.

"Is my building condemned?" he asked, asking Supervisor Bowman if he could meet with his real estate agent and if Bowman could set up office hours to do so.

Township attorney Rob Young scolded Chapman for expecting to talk three minutes and have people know what he's talking about. The board has a 3-minute limit on public comment, but often lets people speak as long as they want.

He said Chapman is talking about a notice of condemnation in 2002 that no longer is valid and that can be corrected easily. He asked Chapman to submit his paperwork to the clerk's office.

Chapman said he has been in the community for 35 years and he has master's certificates on automotive and truck repair. He has had a state license since 1993 and the state has not prosecuted him.

"You are not going to take away my rights," he said.

He said the township has been messing with his business. The township finished the inspection and under the ordinance they "shall" issue a business license, he said.

Chapman said he is a neighborhood mechanic who charges reasonable rates and now is the last one on Sumpter Road between Milan and Five Points in Belleville.

As he finished his remarks, he put a bag on the podium and left the building.

The board asked the township manager to check the bag and remove it from the podium. Township Manager Anthony Burdick checked the bag, said there was no fuse, and removed it from the podium.

Trustee Rush said he has never heard such foul language and he hopes they can mute the foul language on the videotape because it needs to be done. "I've never heard anything like that ... outrageous."

[The posting of the video was delayed by almost two weeks and the comments were left in space, with a big warning posted about how the language may be offensive to viewers.]

"We need details about what he's talking about," said Trustee Matt Oddy, asking Young to look into it.

Young said he doesn't like to be at 3-minute meetings where people pose a lot of illegitimate questions. He said sometimes people have legitimate things to say.

Then, Young said he just remembered that he was asked to draft termination of a lein from 2002. He said he remembers drafting the lein and coming into the township parking lot with it 7, 8, 9, or 10 days ago while a township employee was out in the parking lot talking to Glenn Silvenis, Chapman's real estate agent.

"It's so ridiculous to throw this at us when it's already been solved," Young said.

"It took me 15 minutes to think about it," he said and then he remembered what Chapman was talking about. This was after Chapman had left the building.

Young complained about the 3-minutes open forum and said people can come in to tell the board off in any way they want instead of coming into the township hall and finding the truth opposed to lies.

"I wish I would have recalled that," Young said, of the termination of the lein he had recently written.

Board members pointed out they could have warned Chapman about his language and if he did it again have the police escort him from the building, but that didn't happen.



City of Belleville Public Notice



Hillside Cemetery Advisory Committee REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

Flag Placement for Veteran's Day 2024
8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 2nd
(Rain Date: Sunday, November 3rd)



The Cemetery Advisory Committee will be placing American Flags on the graves of all veterans who are buried at Hillside Cemetery on Denton Road.

We will begin placing flags on Saturday, November 2nd at 8:30 a.m. and need volunteers to help. Each cemetery section takes only about one hour of work.

Should you wish to volunteer, contact the City Clerk's Office. If you would like to work in a specific section, the Clerk's office must be contacted, or that section may not be guaranteed.

Please consider this small sacrifice of time and join us to honor our veterans who fought to keep us free.

Briana Hootman
City Clerk/Treasurer
(734) 697-9323 ext. 7010
clerk@belleville.mi.us



Michelle Bellingham
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer
(734) 697-9323 ext. 7038
deputyclerk@belleville.mi.us

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bellevilleareaindependent.com**

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 310 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, Sept. 29:

0011 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
0204 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0243 – mental subject, Belleville Rd.
0804 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0854 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1026 – civil matter, Rose Blvd.
1233 – civil matter, W. Adams
xxxx – assist fire dept., N. I-94 Service Dr.
1409 – suicidal person, Belleville Rd.
1421 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
1525 – assist other dept., N. I-275/Ecorse
1634 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1813 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1847 – civil matter, S. Bellridge Dr.
1850 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1850 – motorist assist, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
1857 – welfare check, Rawsonville Rd.
1946 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Cumberland Ct.
1959 – assist fire dept., Hanover Dr.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Hannan Rd.
2019 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
2206 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2313 – domestic, Belleville Rd.
2338 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.

Monday, Sept. 30:

0113 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Barkley St.
xxxx – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Pond Ridge Dr.
0647 – property damage accident, Tyler/Parkwood
0832 – parking complaint, Jeremy Rd.
1059 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Ecorse
1237 – welfare check, W. Huron River Dr.
1310 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1526 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Rd.
1529 – fraud, S. Bellridge Dr.
1549 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1559 – fraud, North Shore Dr.
1607 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
1654 – 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
1658 – animal complaint, Holly Ln.
1831 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
1832 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service/Belleville
1902 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
2059 – unauthorized driving away of auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2116 – 911 welfare check, Tyler Rd.

Tuesday, Oct. 1:

0144 – noise complaint, Bemis Rd.
0235 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / E. Archwood Dr.
0256 – harassment call, Maple Dr.
0716 – welfare check, W. Huron River Dr.
0747 – 911 welfare check, Van Born Rd.
0903 – animal complaint, Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.
0913 – welfare check, Meadows Ln.
0937 – misc. complaint, Peachtree Ln.
1330 – abandoned auto, Van Buren St.
xxxx – welfare check, Van Buren St.
1210 – intrusion alarm, Lancaster Dr.
1227 – civil matter, Dorchester Dr.
1229 – civil matter, Hannan Rd.
1257 – warrant arrest, Mound Rd.
1242 – lost property/child, Ecorse Rd.
1304 – fight, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1435 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1326 – fraud, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1453 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1504 – welfare check, Quirk Rd.
1536 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
1545 – welfare check, Beacon Trl.
1625 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1623 – neighbor trouble, Park Estates
1919 – found property/child, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2056 – domestic, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2109 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Anna Dr.
2123 – family trouble, Maple Dr.
2158 – missing person, Lake Villa Dr.
2251 – threat, Westlake Cir.

2249 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.
Wednesday, Oct. 2:
0148 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
0631 – private property/property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Parkwood Dr.
0702 – property damage accident, Van Born Rd. / Hannan Rd.
0759 – intrusion alarm, W. Sadie Ln.
0903 – abandoned auto, Rawsonville Rd.
1049 – assist other dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
1056 – indecent exposure – all 3600 MICR codes, Lighthouse Dr.
1210 – domestic, Wildbrook Dr.
1300 – private property/property damage accident, E. Archwood Dr.
1309 – fraud, Parkwood Dr.
1436 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Victoria St.

1515 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
1602 – family trouble, Amanda Dr.
1841 – personal injury accident, Belleville/Tyler
1910 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
2051 – civil matter, Oak Ln.
2958 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belleville Rd.
2108 – traffic offense, Old Michigan Rd./Rawsonville Rd.
2035 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd./W. Huron River Dr.
2114 – misc. complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2207 – road hazard, Belleville/Westlake

Thursday, Oct. 3:

0713 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Lighthouse Dr.
0731 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0801 – domestic, Belleville Rd.
0820 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, McBride Ave. / Haggerty Rd.
1007 – abandoned auto, Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.
1015 – abandoned auto, Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.
1207 – welfare check, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1323 – hospice death, Mida Dr.
1345 – private property/property damage accident, Village Green Ln.
1402 – juvenile complaint, N. Cumberland Dr.
1411 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1414 – animal complaint, Haggerty Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Michigan Ave.
1520 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.
1527 – threat, Belleville Rd.
1549 – intrusion alarm, Lancaster Dr.
1616 – property damage accident, Tyler/Haggerty
1645 – suicidal person, Maple Dr.
1707 – fraud, Bristol Dr.
1709 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1737 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Bemis Rd.

1843 – threat, McBride

1904 – property damage accident, Belleville/Quirk
1935 – animal complaint, Jeannette Ave.
1936 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
2010 – domestic, Brandi Dr.
2031 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Fairbanks St.
2131 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2344 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Oak Ln./N. I-94 Service Dr.
2349 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2354 – suicidal person, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Friday, Oct. 4:

0042 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0214 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
0235 – civil matter, Robson Rd.
0446 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0740 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0831 – juvenile complaint, McBride
0905 – parking complaint, Turnberry Ct.
1004 – intrusion alarm, Kouza Ct.
1012 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Rawsonville Rd.
1008 – assist other dept., Sumpter Rd.
1015 – mental subject, W. Adams/Bog Rd.
1028 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1137 – noise complaint, Sumpter Rd.
1048 – private property/property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1056 – traffic offense, Bemis Rd./Sumpter Rd.
1100 – lost property/child, Belleville Rd.
1137 – malicious destruction of property, Hannan
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Parkwood Dr.
1207 – motorist assist, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.

1248 – animal complaint, Denton Rd.
1316 – motorist assist, W. I-94/Rawsonville Rd.
1359 – welfare check, Rawsonville Rd./Bemis
1408 – mental subject, Hoeft Rd.
1421 – suicidal person, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1459 – domestic, Haggerty Rd.
1502 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.
1639 – animal complaint, Westlake
1826 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
1838 – civil matter, Chandler Dr.
1754 – fight, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Purple Sage Ct.
1848 – domestic, Belleville Rd.
1918 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
2012 – misc. complaint, Haggerty Rd.
2021 – disorderly, Daisy Blvd.
2137 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2330 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.

Saturday, Oct. 5:

0010 – warrant arrest, Rawsonville Rd.
0532 – disorderly, Vernon St.
0845 – intrusion alarm, Wildbrook Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Sadie Ln.
1133 – domestic, Daisy Blvd.
1318 – welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
1405 – mental subject, Chinkapin Dr.
1347 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.

1400 – assist fire dept., Martz Rd.
1405 – sexual assault, Maple Dr.
1412 – domestic, Daisy Blvd.
1503 – noise complaint, Briarcliff Dr.
1534 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1718 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1656 – 911 welfare check, Mott
1723 – animal complaint, Brookside Dr.
1733 – family trouble, Stonebridge Dr.
1852 – juvenile complaint, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1905 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1941 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd.
1951 – traffic offense, Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.
1958 – personal injury accident, Martinsville Rd.
2039 – domestic, Fay Dr.
2042 – juvenile complaint, Martinsville Rd.
2103 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ventura Dr. / Peninsular Dr.
2159 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
2253 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belle Pointe Dr.

Also, on this week's log are 77 traffic stops, 17 of which are on the I-94 freeway. There also were 39 ordinance violations -- all 7300 MICR codes.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Sept. 29:

xxxx – repossession, W. Columbia Ave.
1117 – malicious destruction of property, Astor
1208 – animal complaint, Main St./High St.
1443 – property damage accident, W. Columbia
1634 – trespassing, W. Columbia Ave.
1743 – civil matter, Main St.
2300 – property check, Hull Rd.

Monday, Sept. 30:

0022 – property check, Owen St.
0924 – warrant arrest, Main St.
1145 – private property impound, S. Industrial Pk.
1233 – disorderly, S. Industrial Pk. Dr.
1341 – assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave.
1639 – property damage accident, Main St./First
1736 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Denton Rd.

Tuesday, Oct. 1:

0659 – property damage accident, Roys/Church
1051 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1142 – malicious destruction of property, Savage
1351 – juvenile complaint, Sumpter Rd.
1603 – misc. complaint, S. Industrial Pk. Dr.
2019 – larceny, Main St.

Wednesday, Oct. 2:

0025 – assist other dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0514 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.
0826 – property damage accident, Main St. / E. Huron River Dr.
1523 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, S. Aberdeen Ct.
1558 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,

Sumpter Rd.
1751 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1956 – fight, W. Columbia Ave.
2115 – civil matter, Menlo Park Dr.
Thursday, Oct. 3:
1421 – intrusion alarm, Victorian Ln.
1612 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Columbia Ave.
1945 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.

Friday, Oct. 4:

1008 – assist other dept., Sumpter Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
1426 – neighbor trouble, Henry St.
1502 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd.
1523 – animal complaint, N. Biggs Ave.
1636 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./N. Liberty St.
1732 – juvenile complaint, Astor
2046 – traffic offense, Sumpter Rd./Belle Villa Blvd.

Saturday, Oct. 5:

0247 – misc. complaint, Henry St.
1038 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1131 – parking complaint, Main St.
1556 – civil matter, Main St.
1625 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Thornhill Ct.
1937 – domestic, E. Columbia Ave.
1948 – property damage accident, Moon Star Express
2041 – assist other dept., Martinsville Rd.
2049 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd.

There are 118 reports on this week's log and 70 of those are traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Sept. 29:

0003 – noise complaint, 22000 bl. Martinsville
0224 – family trouble, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.
0404 – suspicious vehicle, Rustic Ln.
0500 – 911 hangup, Rustic Ln.
0658 – civil matter, Texas St.
0803 – civil matter, Idaho St.
0956 – fire dept. assist, Birch Dr.
1118 – suspicious circumstance, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1157 – noise complaint, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
1242 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1252 – citizen assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1412 – disorderly person, 44000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1647 – civil matter, Arizona St.
1925 – ORV complaint, Arkona Rd./Martinsville
2144 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
2243 – noise complaint, Rustic Ln.

Monday, Sept. 30:

0628 – 911 hangup, Martinsville/Harris
0645 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0933 – suspicious circumstance, 46000 bl. Willis
1037 – suspicious circumstance, 50000 bl. Willis
1114 – citizen assist, Rustic Ln.
1151 – assist other agency, 21000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
1236 – suspicious circumstance, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1243 – trespassing complaint, 46000 bl. Traskos
1251 – civil matter, 21000 bl. Fenster Ave.
1309 – animal complaint, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1443 – suspicious circumstance, 46000 bl. Claxton
1515 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1528 – neighbor dispute, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1553 – suspicious circumstance, Carriage Ln.
1603 – civil matter, Washington St.
1607 – suspicious person, Willis Rd./Wilmot
1638 – mental health call, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1812 – 911 hangup, Edgewood Dr.
1841 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.
1848 – 911 hangup, Colorado St.
2329 – noise complaint, Mulberry Dr.

Tuesday, Oct. 1:

0902 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0930 – driving while license suspended/ops license, Sumpter/Willis
1154 – civil matter, Country Club Blvd.
1201 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd./Wear Rd.
1320 – suspicious circumstance, 21000 bl. Elwell
1350 – follow-up investigation, 21000 bl. Clemmons Ct.

1427 – 911 hangup, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
1510 – mental health call, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.

(Continued on page 25)

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 24)

- 1529 – harassment complaint, 49000 bl. Collyer Ln.
- 1809 – 911 hangup, Rustic Ln.
- 1939 – felony warrant arrest, Willis Rd./Elwell Rd.
- 2329 – assist other agency, Birch Dr./Magnolia Dr.

Wednesday, Oct. 2:

- 0639 – animal complaint, Walnut St.
- 1024 – suspicious circumstance, Mulberry Dr.
- 1130 – civil matter, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
- 1233 – animal complaint, Arizona St.
- 1420 – follow-up investigation, 49000 bl. Collyer Ln.
- 1647 – misdemeanor warrant arrest, Arizona St.
- 1953 – juvenile matter, 17000 bl. Lohr Rd.
- 1955 – misdemeanor warrant arrest, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

2035 – civil matter, New Mexico St.

- 2200 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
- 2302 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Thursday, Oct. 3:

- 0022 – family trouble, Utah St.
- 0545 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Arkona
- 0603 – family trouble, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
- 1020 – follow-up investigation, Utah St.
- 1150 – civil matter, Birch Dr.
- 1153 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
- 1155 – civil matter, 20000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
- 1426 – 911 hangup, Delaware St.
- 1440 – property damage accident, Martinsville Rd.

- / Bemis Rd.
- 1700 – 911 hangup, Mulberry Dr.
- 1724 – misdemeanor warrant arrest, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
- 1736 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
- / Bemis Rd.
- 1913 – citizen assist, Arizona St.
- 1952 – misdemeanor warrant arrest, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 2207 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
- 2221 – juvenile matter, Willis Rd./Martinsville Rd.

Friday, Oct. 4:

- 0114 – civil matter, Redwood St.
- 0241 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 0600 – traffic complaint/hazard, Sumpter Rd./Harris Rd.

- 0838 – fire dept. assist, 8500 bl. Meadow Springs
- 0927 – mental health call, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
- 0942 – assist other agency, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 1137 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.
- 1141 – recovered stolen vehicle, California/Texas
- 1333 – follow-up investigation, 49000 bl. Wear
- 1334 – larceny complaint, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.
- 1356 – 911 hangup, New Mexico St.
- 1530 – found property, 5600 Oakville Waltz Rd.
- 1603 – assist other agency, Rawsonville Rd. / Talladay Rd.
- 1637 – lost property report, 22000 bl. Martinsville
- 1705 – noise complaint, Virginia St.
- 1910 – larceny complaint, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
- 2047 – civil matter, Arizona St.

Saturday, Oct. 5:

- 0246 – family trouble, Colorado St.
- 0525 – suspicious circumstance, 20000 bl. Wilmot
- 0753 – animal complaint, Redwood St.
- 1036 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1047 – animal complaint, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1125 – follow-up investigation, 51000 bl. Arkona
- 1206 – personal injury accident, 44000 bl. Willow
- 1310 – traffic complaint/hazard, Sumpter/Bemis
- 1311 – welfare check, Colorado St.

- 1354 – abandoned vehicle, Rawsonville/Willow
 - 1723 – assist other agency, Rawsonville/Rustic Ln.
 - 1843 – citizen assist, Bemis Rd./Sumpter Rd.
 - 2028 – fire dept. assist, Knollwood Dr.
 - 2106 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
 - 2142 – suspicious vehicle, 29000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
 - 2242 – welfare check, Colorado St.
 - 2249 – assist other agency, 34000 bl. Willow Rd.
- Also on this week's log are 173 patrol checks, 45 traffic stops, and 5 misc. details.

BHS at-home games

- **Thursday, Oct. 10** – Freshman Football vs. Saline HS, 4:30 p.m.; Freshman Volleyball vs. Pioneer HS, 5 p.m.; JV Volleyball vs. Pioneer HS, 5 p.m.; Varsity Volleyball, Pioneer HS, 6:30 p.m.
- **Friday, Oct. 11** – Varsity Football vs. Wayne Memorial HS, 7 p.m., Homecoming
- **Tuesday, Oct. 15** – Freshman Volleyball vs. Franklin HS, 5 p.m.; JV Volleyball vs. Franklin HS, 5 p.m.; Varsity Volleyball, Franklin HS, 6:30 p.m.

Diane Kiessel
BHS Athletics Secretary

Birthdays

- Oct. 11 - Sheila Dufek
- Oct. 12 - Korena Johnson, Angela Jones, Pierre Rice, Todd Schreengost
- Oct. 13 - Sherry Olds
- Oct. 14 - Shane Convery, MJ Dawson

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.

City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 16, 2024 - 7:30 pm

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Beebe	Present
Council Member Kissel	Absent - Excused
Council Member Priest	Absent - Excused
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Present
Mayor Voigt	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS

- a. Presentations
 - i. Valerie Kelly-Bonner from SOOAR gave a presentation on the importance of her program and encouraged the city to adopt a Harm Reduction Ordinance.
 - ii. HRWC (Huron River Water Council) rick Lawson, gave presentation on Rain Garden projects and their benefits to our rivers and lakes.
- b. Citizen Comments
 - i. Victoria Robinson of Belle Villa Lakes/Meadows expressed concern over possible hazards in their community and not getting good response from management.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to approve the agenda as presented, with the addition of item "I", award of bid for new fence in Victory Park.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mayor Voigt	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye

Motion Carried.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda groups routine meeting discussion points into a single agenda item. In so doing, the grouped items can be approved in one action, rather than through the filing of multiple motions.

- a. Approval of Minutes
 - i. September 3, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting
- b. Communications
- c. Council Follow Up List
- d. DPS Activity Report
- e. Special Events

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe approving the consent agenda as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe	Aye
Mayor Voigt	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

- a. ATI Workstation Assessments & Ergonomic Training Proposal – Council chose to defer this item to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.
 - b. Resolution 24-029 L-4029 Amendment
- MOTION:** Motion by Beebe, supported by Bates to approve the Resolution 24-029.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye
Mayor Voigt	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye

Motion Carried.

c. Sany Front Loader Repair/Purchase

Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to pay rental/repair fees and return front loader to Sany.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mayor Voigt	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye

Motion Carried.

d. Church Street Repairs

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to approve Church Street repairs.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye
Mayor Voigt	Aye

Motion Carried.

e. Fire Department Roof Replacement

Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to approve Advanced Roofing Inc. to replace the roof at the Fire Hall in the amount of \$46,85.00

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe	Aye
Mayor Voigt	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

- a. Accounts Payables
 - b. Departmental Expenditures
- MOTION:** Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to approve accounts payable and departmental expenditures over \$500.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mayor Voigt	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Bates	Aye

10. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Road safety audit has been completed. Finalize draft report and will present to us within 90 days. Will provide synopsis at next meeting.

Harbor Pointe project moving forward. Some road blockages but it was resolved.

Trees and sidewalks plan, made through Wabash and Davis to identify trees and sidewalks repaired/replaced.

MML gave small business deep dive draft, will be present within the next two meeting.

Litigation filed for hazardous material.

11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Beebe – Appreciate speakers coming in. Asked if we could get links on our website for the HRWC. The city should lead by example, is there a location in the city we can do this? Belleville High School has a greenhouse, can the high school participate? Hopeful to have resolution for the residents at Belle Villa Meadows/Lakes

Mayor Pro-Tem Bates – Appreciate Mayor Voigt and City Manager Smith for attending conference on Mackinaw.

12. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Ver good conference at Mackinaw Island, one accomplishment MML lobbying team to get support on board with the radioactive waste.

Went to Conference of Western Wayne meeting, Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara and Mayor spoke on issue to make CWW aware of hazardous waste issue. Encouraged all other communities to get involved.

13. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

- a. None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to adjourn at 9:16 pm.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye
Mayor Voigt	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye

Motion Carried.

Submitted respectfully by Michelle Bellingham, Deputy Clerk

Published: October 10, 2024

City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, September 13, 2024 - 6:30 pm

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Beebe	Present
Council Member Kissel	Absent - Excused
Council Member Priest	Absent - Excused
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Present
Mayor Voigt	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS

- a. Presentations – None.
- b. Citizen comments on non-agenda item – None.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Beebe supported by Bates to approve the agenda.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye
Mayor Voigt	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye

Motion carried.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

a. Discussion of intergovernmental litigation against Republic/Wayne Disposal. Mayor Voigt read resolution aloud.

Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to approve Resolution No. 24-028

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye
Mayor Voigt	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye

Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to approve

expenditure of \$5,000 to join litigation regarding Republic/Wayne Disposal

ROLL CALL

Council Member Beebe	Aye
Mayor Voigt	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye

Motion carried.

Citizen comment from James Bratby, thanked council for their support. Concerned about other material being delivered that is not reported. Bigger conversations need to be had about waste, perhaps a local tax, or fee for disposals.

6. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

A. Responded to citizen comment regarding tipping fees and informed audience on Rep. Miller introducing house Bill 5923

7. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

8. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

9. CITIZEN COMMENTS

10. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to adjourn at 6:48

ROLL CALL

Council Member Beebe	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye
Mayor Voigt	Aye

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Michelle Bellingham

Published: October 10, 2024

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, Oct. 10 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 14 – Van Buren Township Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS
- Tuesday, Oct. 15 – Van Buren Township regular meeting, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 16 – Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 6 p.m. Also, City of Belleville Downtown

Development Authority, 6 p.m.

- Monday, Oct. 21 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 22 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 3 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop/regular meeting, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 23 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 28 – Van Buren Township Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS
- Tuesday, Nov. 5 – Van Buren Township regular meeting canceled due to election.
- Monday, Nov. 11 – Van Buren Township Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m.,

BHS.

- Tuesday, Nov. 12 – Sumpter Township workshop/regular meeting, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library board, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 13 – Van Buren

Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

- Thursday, Nov. 14 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES - OCTOBER 1, 2024

Treasurer Budd called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Zoom Meeting ID for public participation: 894 2765 4392. Present: Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Boynton, Trustee Martin, Trustee Frazier and Trustee Kelley. Absent/Excused: Supervisor McNamara. Others in attendance: Deputy Supervisor Selman, Recording Assistant Beaudry, Director of Community Services Renaud, Deputy Director of Community Services Dohring, Director of Recreation Gerhart, Director of Public Services Luckett, Director of Water and Sewer Lawrence, Director of Municipal Services Akers, Assessor Stamper, and an audience of eleven.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA:

Treasurer Budd outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Frazier moved, Wright seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA: Wright moved, Boynton seconded to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction of 2027 instead of 2024 for the Environmental Commission member's expiration year: Board Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2024, Prepaid List of September 19, 2024, Prepaid List of September 26, 2024, Voucher List of October 1, 2024, and Approval of the reappointment of Ben Ross and Ron Merritt to the Environmental Commission with terms to expire on October 1, 2027. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Kelley moved, Frazier seconded to open the Public Hearing at 6:06 p.m. to receive comments on: The 2024 Amended and 2025 Proposed General Fund Budget, The 2024 Amended and 2025 Proposed Water/Sewer Budget, and The 2024 Amended and 2025 Proposed Special Revenue Budgets: Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) Fund, Landfill fund, Belleville Area Museum, E-9-1-1 Service Fund, Federal Forfeiture Fund, State Forfeiture Fund, Long Term Debt Fund and Capital Improvement Fund. Motion Carried.

Boynton moved, Kelley seconded to close the public hearing at 6:08 p.m. Motion Carried.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

A resolution from the Environmental Committee was read supporting the Board of Trustees participation in intergovernmental litigation to prohibit the acceptance of radioactive waste and Clerk Wright reminded voters to make

their plan to vote either by absentee ballot, visiting Township Hall between October 26 and November 3 to early vote, or by visiting their precinct on Election Day. The Clerk also emphasized the need to plan ahead and not wait until the last minute to find your precinct or turn in your absentee ballot as there will be long lines at the Clerk's Office on Election Day.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): A member of the public spoke on action she feels should be taken to prohibit radioactive waste being brought into Van Buren Township.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Boynton moved, Frazier seconded to approve Resolution 2024-19: 2025 Departmental Fee Schedule. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Boynton seconded to approve Resolution 2024-13: Disposal of Township Owned Parcel, 83 099 99 0015 706, Haggerty Road. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Boynton seconded to approve an amendment to the Walden Woods Development Agreement to allow Pulte Homes of Michigan to build an eighty-eight (88) unit single family residential development. Motion Carried.

Boynton moved, Frazier seconded to approve a special land use request for a gas station and drive thru restaurant (Planning Case 24-005) for Skilken Gold/Sheetz, to be located at the NW corner of Ecorse and Haggerty Road. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Frazier seconded to approve the second reading of Ordinance RZ 09-17-24(1) Rezoning of parcel west of Costco Truck Terminal (parcel ID number 83 014 99 0004 704) from M-1- Light Industrial to M-2- General Industrial. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Wright, Budd, Kelley, Frazier, Boynton and Martin. Nays: None. Absent/Excused: McNamara Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: a member of the public commented on water/sewer access with regards to new housing developments.

BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Trustee Martin commended the Community Services and Parks staff on the upgrades made to French Landing Park and Clerk Wright announced the birth of his first grandchild.

ADJOURNMENT: Boynton moved, Kelley seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Published: October 10, 2024

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ORDINANCE RZ 09-17-04(1) NOTICE OF ADOPTION

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at the regular meeting of the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees, the second reading of the following proposed amendment to the Van Buren Township Zoning Ordinance 5-2-17(2) was approved and is hereby adopted:

ORDINANCE RZ 09-17-24(1): REZONING. An ordinance to amend the Charter Township of Van Buren Zoning Ordinance 05-02-17(2), as amended, to amend the zoning map by rezoning the following parcel from M-1 – Light Industrial District to M-2 – General Industrial District: Parcel ID Number V-125- 83 014 99 0004 704. The subject parcel is east of Beck Road south of Michigan Avenue.

A true copy of the proposed Ordinance may be viewed and inspected at the office of the Township Clerk located at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan during recent business hours, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The adopted Zoning Ordinance amendment will be effective seven (7) days after the date of publication.

Adopted: October 1, 2024
Published: October 10, 2024
Effective: October 17, 2024

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Van Buren Public Schools will receive sealed bid proposals until **2:00 p.m. on October 29, 2024**, for the **Tyler and Savage Elementary Schools Secured Entry Renovations Project**. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud 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.

Bid documents may be viewed and downloaded at:
<https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/586e447faea7a50f00fa5702>

After you create your free Building Connected account and join the project, all bids and questions must be submitted electronically at:
<https://www.buildingconnected.com/>

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on October 10, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. via a Microsoft Teams Meeting online:

Join the meeting now
Meeting ID: 265 013 385 972
Passcode: UygWAM

A Bid Security executed by a U.S. Treasury listed Surety Company acceptable to the Owner or a cashier's check in the amount of at least five percent (5%) of the bid must be included along with a 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. An Iran Disclosure Statement must also be included along with a Criminal Background Disclosure Affidavit and a Non-Collusive Affidavit. Accepted bidders may be required to furnish Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price.

Documents will be available for viewing on **October 8, 2024**. Any questions, contact Mark Davenport, Davenport Brothers Construction Company at: Mark@davenportbrothers.com.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

FREE ONE DAY DROP OFF
Driver's License with
Van Buren address required

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024
9AM-1PM

US ECOLOGY (East Parking Lot)
49350 N. I-94 Service Dr.

Many household products require special attention in their use, storage, and disposal. A product is considered "hazardous" if it is:

- Toxic or Poisonous
- Ignitable/Flammable
- Corrosive
- Reactive (products that can explode if exposed to heat, air, water, or shock)

Check the label to see if a product is hazardous. If it says **Warning, Caution, Danger, or Poison**, consider it hazardous. Unwanted portions of hazardous products are considered to be hazardous waste and should be treated in a careful manner to avoid accidents or polluting our environment.

All products should be tightly sealed to prevent spillage while transporting to the facility, and all containers brought to the collection must be left at the collection.

Products will not be accepted in milk jugs because the plastic is thin and punctures easily.

Sharps will only be accepted in sharps containers or thick detergent bottle.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

KITCHEN/BATHROOM

Bug Sprays, Floor Product, Furniture Polishes, Nail Polish, Metal Polish, Medicines, Cleaning Products.

GARAGE

Trans Fluid, Auto Batteries, Battery Acid, Brake Fluids, Car Waxes, Diesel Fuel, Antifreeze, Gasoline, Kerosene, Motor Oil, Propane Tanks (20 lbs max).

GARDEN

Fungicides, Herbicides, Insecticides, Pesticides, Fertilizers, Rat Poison.

WORKSHOP

Paints (15 gal max), Paint Thinners, Varnish & Stains, Gun Cleaning, Wood Preservatives, Cutting Oils, Turpentine, Aerosol Cans, Smoke Detectors, Fire Extinguishers, Carbon Monoxide Detectors.

MISCELLANEOUS

Household Batteries, Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Artist Paints/Mediums, Dry Cleaning Solvents, Fiberglass Epoxy, Solvents, Lighter Fluids, Pool Chemicals, Computer Waste, Pharmaceutical Waste, Cameras, Christmas Tree Lights, Televisions, Sharps (accepted in sharps container or thick detergent bottle).

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Explosives & Ammunition, Industrial Waste, Tires & Asbestos



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vanburen-mi.org



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CHARTER TOWNSHIP

BACA

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October 11-13, 2024

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Fri. 7-9pm

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Meet the Artist

Sat. 11am - 6pm

Viewing

Sun. 11am-4pm

Viewing

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(BYC)**

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Belleville, Mi 48111

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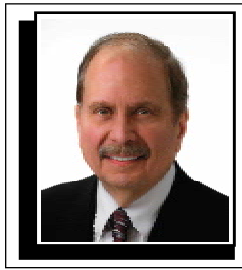
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34729 MICHELLE, ROMULUS

ROMULUS BRICK RANCH with 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, Fireplace, Dining Area, Large Living Room, Family Room, Full Basement 1,008 Sq Ft, Big Barn, Work Room \$167,000



13300 EDGEDALE, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

THIS IMPRESSIVE VICTORIAN home offers an open family room and dining room with Hardwood floors showcasing the arched windows. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms \$279,900



45716 VICTORIA, SUMPTER TWP

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13350 LAKEPOINT, VAN BUREN TWP

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31 CLARENCE, BELLEVILLE

GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths 2 Kitchens, Finished Walkout Basement, Fireplace, Sunroom & Large yard, 3 Car Garage & Additional separate lot \$269,900



209 MAIN STREET, BELLEVILLE

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BELLEVILLE 3 RESIDENTIAL LOTS ONE PRICE. TOTALING .41 ACRES WITH CITY WATER AND SEWER AT STREET ACROSS FROM BELLEVILLE LAKE NOW \$49,000

3 ACRES - COMMERCIAL CORNER AT SUMPTER AND WILLOW NOW \$150,000

GRANT & WAHRMAN 4 ACRES LT IN DBY METRO AIRPORT \$250,000

20728 GRANT, City TWP 1 Acre, New at Street and

SOLD

City Water Site \$45,000

HAGGERTY 1.5 AC VAN BUREN \$70,000

WILLIS RD 1 AC SEWER & WATER \$60,000

WILLIS & MARTINSVILLE 1.64AC \$65,000

JUDD ROAD SUMPTER TWP 2 AC \$39,500

HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$29,900

GRANT ROMULUS 1.8 AC LT IN DB \$59,500

50540 BOG RD ONE HALF ACRE \$55,000

4 PARCELS ON THE CORNER OF BEMIS AND MARTINSVILLE. PRICED \$40,000 and \$50,000 BUILDER SPECIAL for 3 LOTS

VACANT LOUISA DREAM LOT \$55,000

BROWNSTOWN 27102 DEBIASI \$85,000

VACANT MARIO ANN ROMULUS \$33,000

CORNER OF SHERWOOD & JUDD ROAD SUMPTER TWP 1394X670 21 ACRES TO FARM OR BUILD NOW \$200,000

19+ ACRES BREST RD, TAYLOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY - PAVED STREET NEAR INKSTER ROAD. \$550,000

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