



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 22.41 Thursday, October 13, 2016 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

## School Board selects Crawford to fill vacant seat

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
*Independent Editor*

At Monday's regular meeting, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education considered nine applicants to fill the vacant board seat created when vice president Martha Toth recently resigned to move out of state.

They selected April Crawford, who is scheduled to be sworn in during the special 7 p.m. meeting Oct. 17 at the administration building. She will serve until the end of the year when the newly elected board members take over.

She was not present at Monday's meeting, nor were any of the other finalists.

The other applicants were: Joseph Baynesan, Sheila Bryant, Shekitra Green, Shauntay Hooper, David Peer, Regina Pierce, Randy Priest, and Vincent Warren.

Joseph Baynesan, an applicant, was in the audience and told the board he was disappointed in the choice because diversity is important. He pointed out the schools have many minority students and yet not a single person of minority descent is on the school board.

He said it should have been required for a minority to be appointed to the board.

Later in the meeting members of the audience suggested the candidates should have been asked to attend the meeting during which they were being considered.

During discussion on the candidates, Trustee Sherry Frazier said, "It's kind of hard when you haven't met them."

School Board president Brent Mikulski had given fellow board members a list of applicants and their applications and asked them to mark their top three candidates.

After much discussion, he said that Crawford had been listed by four out of the six board members – Trustees Frazier, Kathy Kovach, and Alison Bennett and Secretary Kevin English. The board voted unanimously for Crawford based on her credentials.

Crawford, who lives in Van Buren Township, currently serves as Clinical Case Manager for the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan/Family Division – Juvenile Clinic for Child Study in Detroit. She holds a bachelor of arts in Social Work and a master of arts in Special Education/MAT, specializing in Emotionally Impaired.

She is married with three children and two of her children graduated from BHS in 2015 and her youngest son attends BHS.

She has 20 years of experience working with children, youth, and adults in the field of social work. She said her goal is to become a certified teacher in the state of Michigan.

Also at Monday's meeting, the board:

*(continued on page 17)*



*Independent photo by Robert Mytych*

About 900 people attended Saturday's Harvest Fest on Fourth Street in downtown Belleville. There were old-time events at the museum, right, and at the library across the street were pony rides, farm animals to pet, and crafts for children. Across Main Street on the Fourth Street Square there were booths selling chrysanthemums, dahlias, knitted goods, children's items, canned goods, tomatoes, hot peppers, baked goods, and other items.

## School Board audit turns up problem with VBT paperwork

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
*Independent Editor*

Thomas M. Taylor of Taylor & Morgan presented the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education with the audit of its finances for the fiscal year ending June 30.

This was at Monday's regular meeting of the school board and the board accepted the audit.

Taylor said the district received an unmodified audit opinion, which is the highest level of assurance possible for the district's financial statements.

He said an audit shows a snapshot in time and this report was as of June 30, 2016. He said he found all the books and records were properly stated.

During his firm's audit, however, he discovered that some captured taxes were not reported properly to the state by Van Buren Township, so not only the township sent about \$350,000 to the school district, but the state sent another \$350,000 to the district to cover what it thought VBT was capturing.

Taylor said the district booked the state's \$350,000 as a liability and will send it back to the state once invoiced.

"The township has to correct that and

report it to the state," Taylor said. "I talked to the gentleman at the township and he knows he has to report it."

After the board meeting, Finance Director Shareen Barker said she has talked to VBT Deputy Treasurer Sean Bellingham about the problem. She said he is investigating the situation.

And, she said, it's happening again during the present fiscal year.

Director Barker said something like this happened when she worked for the Southfield Schools and it took the state five years to invoice the district for the funds it was holding to pay the state back.

In other parts of the audit, Taylor said the student enrollment for 2015-16 was 4,868 -- down from the 5,030 count in 2014-15.

[In his column in today's paper, School Supt. Pete Kudlak said the Oct. 5 Student Head Count showed the present student count as 4,734.]

For the 2015-16 year, the foundation allowance per student was \$7,554. For the present 2016-17 year, it is \$7,667.

Taylor said the figures in the budget are a little skewed because of the money spent on the bus garage fire and the insurance

*(continued on page 12)*



The 149-year-old Riggs Heritage Farm House at the corner of East Huron River Drive and Martinsville Road was demolished Monday morning. The house was built in 1867 by Loren Riggs, a member of the pioneer Riggs family. On Thanksgiving 2013 the barn behind the house burned and the \$30,000 Van Buren Township got in insurance money is being used to demolish the house. The house was part of VBT's Riggs Park property, donated as part of a deal for the adjoining Country Walk subdivision.

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# SECOND FRONT PAGE



De Libera



Featheringill



Loyer Gerick



Johnston



Mikulski



Owen



Peer



Pinter

## 8 run for 4 seats on Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education

Eight candidates are running for four, four-year seats on the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education in the Nov. 8 election.

Brent Mikulski and Kelly Owen, are incumbents; Keith Johnston and David Peer, are former board members; and four are newcomers making their first bids for elective office and running as a slate: Victor DeLibera, Susan Featheringill, Darlene Loyer Gerick, and Simone Pinter.

Those on the ballot, in alphabetical order, are:

### Victor DeLibera

Victor De Libera, 44723 Greenbriar, Van Buren Township, has lived in the district for 14 years. He and his wife Margo have three children Victor Paul, Gabrielle and Isabella.

He holds a bachelor of science in Mathematics from the University of Maryland. He is employed as a cost analyst.

DeLibera holds an appointed position on the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority. He is a volunteer with the Boy Scouts, a trustee with Belleville Band Boosters, and is 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Knights of Columbus.

He said he is running for office because he and his family have lived in the township for over 14 years and he volunteers and gets involved because he has a passion for his community and his schools.

"I believe very strongly we have some of the best, most-dedicated people working in our school district," he said. "Our school system has great potential. I am interested in making a positive difference and believe strongly I can make a meaningful contribution as a member of the board."

De Libera's goals, once elected, are:

- The overall goal and vision/mission for our school district should be Students, Teachers (staff/administration) and Community, in that order.

- The children must come first and we must make every effort, working together with parents to ensure we are giving the students a well-rounded education, sufficient to enable them to become valuable members of society.

- Our teachers need the ability to be

creative within the confines of the structure of National, State, and Local boundaries.

- Our community benefits from a school district that brings in top grades and is sought after by institutions outside of our community. Schools systems are one of the most important contributors of community value.

- Transparency is how you begin to reach these goals and needs to be inculcated into the processes of the school board. Nothing should be hidden from the constituents or other board members. If the board members make mistakes, they should be held responsible with the understanding that mistakes are how we all improve.

- I believe above all else our system of government is designed to serve the people and not the other way around. As elected officials serving the community, it should be the board's duty to ensure the community has the appropriate level of awareness of board decisions and policy.

### Susan K. Featheringill

Susan K. Featheringill, 50385 S. I-94 Service Drive, Van Buren Township, has been married to Danny for 39 years. Their daughters are Amy Reeves and Sara Cortese.

Featheringill, 59, has lived in the school district for 43 years. She retired as assistant superintendent for Business Operations from the Taylor Schools.

She earned a bachelor of business administration degree in Accounting from Cleary College of Business in 1986 and a master of arts degree in Educational Leadership from Eastern Michigan University in 1991.

Her professional memberships included the Michigan Schools Energy Cooperative, where she served as president, vice president, and elected board member; Wayne County School Business Officials, where she served as president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary; and Michigan School Business officials, where she currently is an emeritus member.

Her civil involvement includes, Girl Scouts of America, Council Reorganization Committee; Southeastern Michigan Finance Committee, Women's Study Club, Staff Parish Committee, Sunday

School teacher, Junior Girl Scout Leader; Children's Choir Director; Church Finance chairperson, presently; Church Finance Committee; and Joyful Noise, the church music ministry, presently.

"I am running for the school board to be a valuable and responsible leader in the community," she said. "My husband and I, along with our two daughters, are Belleville High School graduates.

"With two grandchildren currently attending Van Buren schools and three more that are not old enough yet, I want to make sure that they receive the best possible educational experiences. As a retiree, I want to be able to give back to the community with this important position utilizing my more than 30 years of school district work experience."

As to her goals: "The school district has a new superintendent and this is a crucial time to establish appropriate relations between the board and the superintendent.

"There are many areas that the board is responsible for in this relationship. Policy, vision, budget, curriculum, union contracts, and facility needs are some of these. Policy is established by the board of education. The policies need to be reviewed to make sure the policies are still appropriate and will be followed.

"The district vision and associated goals will need to be evaluated to be incorporated as part of the new superintendent's goals. The other areas are major responsibilities for the superintendent with the board developing the major framework. Therefore, this year it will be a crucial time to make sure that each area of this relationship is evaluated to use the strengths of the new superintendent. Then, Van Buren Schools will be a successful educational system."

### Darlene Loyer Gerick

Darlene Loyer Gerick, 47675 Martz Road, Van Buren Township, has lived in the district all her life - 49 years, minus years at college.

She is married to Ron Gerick and they have a daughter Marina Gerick. She is a facility manager at UMHS-IT.

She has a bachelor of arts with a dual major, computer science and studies in organizational leadership.

Gerick has been a Girl Scout for 22 years and a leader for six. She served as registrar for Belleville Tigers Youth Football and Cheer.

"This is my town. I grew up here. I am raising my child here. I want her to have the education I had. I want her to someday care about this town as much as I do."

Her goals once elected are to improve transparency of the school board, work with local community groups for mutual benefit, and make technology decisions to benefit teachers, students, and parents.

### Keith L. Johnston

Keith L. Johnston, 39848 East Huron River Drive, Romulus mailing, has lived in the school district for 36 years.

Johnston, 57, is a printer and leases buildings. He and his wife have three children William, Jason, and Jamie.

He is a graduate of New Boston Huron High School and Hope College.

He previously served on the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education for eight years.

Johnston has been active in the Belleville and Romulus Chambers of Commerce as a member of the boards of directors, Romulus DDA chair, Boys & Girls Club advisory council member, vice president of the Community Assistance Foundation (CAF5), Cougar football coach for 18 years, Van Buren Little League softball and baseball coach, and high school assistant football coach.

"I am running for office because I enjoy being involved in the community and I believe I have the ability to make a positive impact on our schools," he said. "As my track record shows, most of what I do pertains to helping children and I aspire to increase students' test scores (paying specific attention to Language Arts).

"My main goal after I am elected would be to improve students' reading scores. I aim to do this by implementing a mentoring program that allows volunteers to take a few days a month to help students one-on-one with reading.

"My idea is simply to take a student lunch (of their choice) and read with them. This would achieve three things: First, it gets the

(continued on page 8)

# O P I N I O N S

## Editorial

### It's time to start making those ballot marking decisions

Now that the absentee ballots are out, people are marking their ballots. Some voters filled them out immediately and others are waiting for more information.

Some want to go to the polls, wait in line, and put those ballots into the counters with their own hands.

We finally have the information to offer on the eight people running for four positions on the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education.

Two are incumbents, two are former board members, and four make up a slate of newcomers wanting to turn the board around together. Four is a majority on a seven-member board, so four voting together could change a lot of things.

But, now that we've got a superintendent who actually listens to people, takes notes, and works to change things, that should really help to improve the atmosphere.

For instance, there have been a few problems in the transportation department recently and Supt. Kudlak is working to solve those problems. It is contract negotiation time, as well, for that department.

There is a severe lack of bus drivers and Supt. Kudlak said there are some days when everyone in the district with a CDL is driving a bus. This, too, will pass.

We've got the library candidate profiles this week, too. We'll get the rest of the local election information to you over the next few weeks. Read, decide, and vote.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

On Saturday around noon a Belleville fire truck and fire fighter blocked the intersection of Savage and Martinsville roads to keep traffic from heading west on Savage. The fire fighter said there was an electrical line down at Sheldon Road and DTE was on its way.

\*\*\*

Bulldozers started working Sept. 13 at the new ALDI grocery store property, just south of AutoZone on Belleville Road, and footings were scheduled to be put in place on Sept. 23. Matthew Best, deputy director of the VBT planning and economic development department, said representatives of Aldi are confident the store will be open for Christmas.

\*\*\*

What was that big boom on Friday night in the area of 8701 Belleville Road?

There are those who tell me it could have been an Exploding Rifle Target, Beaver Dam Buster, or Tannerite rifle target. You can get these exploding targets on the internet and the ingredients are perfectly safe until you mix them and shoot them with a high-power rifle. No smell. No debris.

There are different sizes, but I'm told the four-pound size would shake windows.

Just an idea.

\*\*\*

Somebody asked me at a recent school board meeting if I was related to the Riggs family who had built the 149-year-old brick house that was just demolished on Monday. I explained.

My mother's sister Ann Silvenis married Albert Riggs. So, I have no Riggs' blood, but Aunt Anna and Uncle Albert were my family. Their daughter Constance Genevieve



Riggs (a retired Van Buren Public Schools teacher) is my first cousin, as is her brother Richard Riggs, who lives in the really beautiful Riggs homestead on Haggerty Road. Their brothers Paul and Mark, also my first cousins, live in other states.

When I was growing up in Belleville, my mother told me to be careful what I said because everybody is related here.

As the town grew, that no longer was the case, but still there are a lot of local people related to other local people.

In fact, the house in which I live, also on Haggerty Road, was built in 1837 by Peter Riggs. It was 100 years old when my family moved into it in 1937, shortly after I was born.

Actually, the world is pretty small.

I recall a trip to New York when we stopped in Buffalo overnight and ran into my husband's schoolmate from Mumford. I'm sure everyone has such a story.

You not only have to be careful what you say, but, also be careful what you do. You don't know who's around the next corner.

\*\*\*

At Tuesday's meeting of the Belleville Area District Library Board, Library Director Mary Jo Suchy announced the ten-year celebration of the African American Literature Book Group. The book group is having a party to celebrate its decade of meetings. The party is at 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 27, at the library.

Everyone is invited. A special treat at

the meeting is a poetry reading by member Melvin T. Peters, PhD, acclaimed professor and speaker. Dr. Peters is the husband of district library board president Sharon Peters.

At Tuesday's meeting, Sharon said she won't be able to be at the party, but her husband has picked out some very special poetry to read.

Former Library Director Debbie Green has been leading the group all these years.

\*\*\*

At the library meeting, they also talked about the leaky roof. The board doesn't want to pay for a new roof if a new library will be built, but they can't be sure until after the Nov. 8 election.

After the last big rain, when 4" fell, the library roof leaked in many places, including a spot over a computer that took a week to dry out and also, a new place, in the library director's office.

Director Mary Jo Suchy said she lies in bed at night when it's raining worrying whether the roof is leaking onto the computers. There were several suggestions, such as putting tarps over the computers at night and taking them off in the morning. Or, perhaps, putting a blue tarp over the roof to keep out the water. They'll know better what to do after the election.



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**Letters**

**Vote YES on VBT public safety millage**

To the Editor,  
 When reading the Oct. 6th issue of the Independent, in particular the article that reported the Q and A town hall meeting regarding the upcoming Public Safety millage, I was pleasantly surprised, especially when I read that the issue of the blended-rate officers is being phased out with just 5 police officers and one ordinance officer (WHY?) still under blended rates.

In the past, I have read and witnessed many UN-complimentary remarks and complaints concerning what was originally termed "double dipping" or what is now referred to as "blended rate" wages paid to our Van Buren public safety employees.

I believe our taxpayers had reason to complain for two reasons: 1. Bad judgment on the part of the township elected officials setting a precedent that would ultimately help to put the township in deep debt; and 2. Visteon bond indebtedness.

These two decisions combined will prove to be devastating to the Van Buren taxpayers, and to think some of the same elected officials are UN-ashamedly once again running for office and asking the voters for their approval -- no apologies -- what a shame!

At this election, voters should take into consideration the character and mindsets of those officials who voted for both the continuing, very expensive "blended rate" and the beautiful, terribly Un-wise and costly Visteon. If the same township officials are re-elected, I wonder -- have we learned anything or are we prone to more debt-ridden disasters? It is not for ME to pass judgment on those few public safety officers who "worked the system" but I do know someone who will do the judging! A little sign I had posted above my desk for many years read: "Worry no more, GOD KNOWS THE SCORE."

Bottom Line -- I am proud and thankful for the many honest and devoted public servants who are willing and able to keep us safe in our tri-communities of Belleville, Van Buren and Sumpter. What really matters to all of us, as citizens and residents, is the ever-knowing assurance that our servants will help us, whatever and wherever the need.

Laying aside the "Bad Judgment" of a few, I would encourage everyone to vote "YES" on the upcoming public safety millage.

GOD BLESS AMERICA and our first line of defense -- our local police and fire officers.  
 Thank you,  
 (Mrs.) Ruth E. Bleeker, Belleville

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**Consider yes vote on Public Safety millage**

To the Editor,  
 As a resident of Van Buren Township I was honored to be asked to serve on the Public Safety Millage Committee. While I was not familiar with a lot of details about our Public Safety Department at that time, I have been pleasantly surprised to discover a few things that are important. Two details stood out more than any others.

We all wonder where our tax dollars really go. I was surprised to learn that the 2015 average cost per-capita for fire expenditures in Wayne County is \$107 annually.

In Van Buren Township it's 54% less at \$49.36 annually. That's efficient use of our tax dollars!

And the Van Buren Township Police department answers calls for service on average 7 minutes and 46 seconds. The national average is 11 minutes. Wow!

I am convinced that we need to support the Public Safety Millage request to keep our community safe and efficient. Please consider a yes vote for our community's sake. It might be you or your loved one in an emergency situation needing Police or Fire. Let's maintain our current Public Safety services. Please vote yes!  
 Proud Resident of VBT,  
 Sharon Luke Wright

**Show your support for police, fire, EMTs**

To the Editor and VBT Residents:  
 Please show your support for our Police, Fire and Emergency Service Teams! Yard signs are available at <http://supportvbps.com/> -- click on "I want a Yard Sign".

For more information about the upcoming Public Safety Millage including a Sample Ballot, FAQ's, and a Tax Calculator, please visit <http://supportvbps.com/> or find us on Facebook: @securevbtpublicsafety .

VOTE YES on Nov. 8, 2016.  
 Thank you,  
 Richard Wardwell  
 Secure VBT Public Safety Committee Member

**Thank you, my prayer has been answered**

To the Editor,  
 My Novena Prayer has been answered.  
 Thank you,  
 Unsigned, visiting from Indiana

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# Birthdays

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Oct. 17 -- Crystal Howard, Christopher DeMond  
Oct. 18 – Cyndy Jones

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# Obituaries



Robert Arnold Cyphers

## ROBERT ARNOLD CYPHERS

(July 4, 1933 – October 9, 2016)

Robert Arnold Cyphers, age 83, a long-time resident of the Belleville/Ypsilanti area.

Robert is the loving husband of Stella "Sally" Cyphers for sixty-four wonderful years; dear father of Craig (Anita) Cyphers of Clare, Christy (Roger) Parmelee of Ypsilanti and Margie (Steve) Bogle of Willis; cherished grandfather of Rachel, Amanda, Jason, Christopher, Megan, Sarah, Jessica and Justin. Mr. Cyphers is also survived by his great grandchildren, Myles, Rowan and Mia; brother, Larry (Kathy) Ward of Ypsilanti; and his special friend "Opie" the dog.

Sadly, he is preceded in death by his daughter Cheryl Innes (d.2001), father Kirmit (d.1933), brother Donald, (d.2007), brother Jack, (d.1949), and sister Linda Ward, (d.2007).

Born on the fourth of July 1933 in Ward Co., Virginia, Robert proudly served his country in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. A past member of the Belleville V.F.W., Robert enjoyed golfing, fishing, country music and following the Detroit Tigers. He was also known as a real "people person" and for loving his family very much.

A funeral ceremony with military honors, was arranged for 1 PM, Wednesday, October 12 at 1 PM at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Pastor Phil DiLernia led the prayers. A procession to Soop Cemetery for the interment followed. The Cyphers family greeted guests at the funeral home from 10 AM until the 1 PM service. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be directed to the Huron Valley Humane Society.

## League of Women Voters sets annual fall auction Oct. 22 in Livonia

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County will hold its annual fall live auction on Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Alexander Blue House at Greenmead Historical Park, 20501 Newburgh Road, Livonia.

Participants can view the items to be auctioned starting at 11 a.m. The live auction begins at 11:30 p.m.

This is the Northwest Wayne County League's only fund-raiser of the year. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Residents of Belleville, Van Buren Township and Sumpter Township are members of the Northwest Wayne County League of Women Voters.

For more information contact [lena.packer@yahoo.com](mailto:lena.packer@yahoo.com) or call (248) 536-2583.

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James William Payne

## JAMES WILLIAM PAYNE

James William Payne, 87, formerly of Belleville, MI went home to be with the Lord, Friday, October 7, 2016 at CAMC General Hospital, Charleston, WV.

James was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Eva Payne and first wife, Eileen Payne.

James was a resident of Michigan and West Virginia. He founded and operated a metal fabrication company, Payco Inc. He was involved with the Redford Union School District as the former President and board member for many years. He was very active in his church, Berean Baptist Church in Bellville, as deacon and Sunday School teacher. Jim was an Amateur Radio (ham radio) operator in Michigan and West Virginia. He was a member of the Kanawha Amateur Radio Club and the National Association for Amateur Radio. In addition, Jim was a Christian magician and member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians since 1977. After moving to West Virginia, he became an active member of Faith Missionary Baptist Church in St. Albans serving as a Deacon and Sunday school teacher.

He is survived by his wife Jean White Burgess Payne; sister Gale Nagy (Mike) of Fuquay-Varina, N.C. ; sons Jim and wife Dale of CA, Tom and wife Cathy of Redford, MI., Pastor Bob and wife Becky of Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada; daughter Kathy and husband Jim Robinson of Brighton, MI.; step-sons, Ed Burgess of St. Albans, WV, Dan Burgess and wife Beth of Lynchburg, VA; step-daughter, Mary and husband Mike Sandifar of Oakland City, IN, Carolyn and husband Jeff Brady of St. Albans, WV and Sara and husband Randy Rausch of Cumming, GA; 3 grandchildren, 19 step-grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and 17 step-great-grandchildren.

Memorial service will be held at 2 PM on Friday, October 14, 2016 at Berean Baptist Church, 6889 Belleville Rd, with his son Pastor Bob Payne and Pastor Doug Hammond officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the memorial service Friday at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations are encouraged to the widow to defer the costs of the funeral.

## Voters' guides available from League of Women Voters on line, on paper

The League of Women Voters website, [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org), is now up and running with information on the candidates in the Nov. 8 election.

Be sure to check it out before voting and remind your friends, family, etc. to do the same. It's considered one of the few unbiased, impartial sources of candidate and ballot proposal information.

A video of the candidate forum put on by the league for six of the eight candidates for Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education is available at [www.lwvnorthwestwayne.org](http://www.lwvnorthwestwayne.org).

Print voter guides are now available at the Belleville Area District Library.

# Candidates

(continued from page 3)

students reading more. Second, it allows the students one-on-one attention (which has been proven to be more effective on student learning than a classroom setting), and lastly my hope is that this program could foster bonds between students and mentors similar to the Big Sister Big Brother program.

"The student and mentor would be able to meet at the student's lunch period so that no students would have to miss any class time for this program. This would be a big commitment from staff, mentors, and students alike."

## Brent Mikulski

Brent Mikulski, 48792 Fifth Ave., Canton mailing, is current president of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education. He was elected in 2011.

Mikulski, 44, has lived in the school district for 14 years. He and his wife Stephanie have a daughter Madison and a son Kyle.

He is president/CEO of Services to Enhance Potential.

Mikulski earned a bachelor of science in Mathematics from the University of Oklahoma and a Master's of Business Administration from Wayne State University.

He is a board member for MARO (Michigan Association of Rehabilitation Organizations), a board member of Arc of Dearborn, board member of Wayne County Sheriff Youth and Senior Education Fund, board member of Lakeside Residential Program, and member of Arc of Detroit.

"I am seeking reelection because I feel work needs to continue to be done in our district," he said. "While we are in a much better place from where we were when I was first elected, our district is still facing difficult challenges."

"In 2011 our district was facing a looming budget deficit that required the attention of everyone. Since 2011, difficult decisions have been made to help balance the budget.

With cooperation from Administrative Staff, Teaching Staff, and members from the Community, we closed elementary schools, reconfigured our middle and intermediate schools, and implemented a number of programs with intent to save the district money. We now have an approximate reserve of 18%, matched by only a few districts throughout the State of Michigan.

"Additionally, efforts were initiated to increase the effectiveness of our curriculum by introducing Carnegie Math, Everyday Math, Battle Creek Science, and English and Language Arts. The development and implementation of these types of programs are critical to the success of our students and must continue. I will continue to work with district leadership to assure that evidenced-based curriculums are vetted and implemented. Without these types of initiatives, our students will begin to drop further behind neighboring districts and other districts throughout the state.

As a parent of two students in the district,

I understand the importance of supporting teachers throughout our schools with resources that will help engage our students and prepare them for their next levels of learning or career goals.

Mikulski outlined his goals, once re-elected:

"I will continue building on the progress that has been accomplished in the past five years. Many of the initiatives put in place need to be supported and continued if we want to see the desired results. We also have a new Superintendent that needs the support of our School Board. It will continue to be one of my goals to support Mr. Kudlak during his tenure as our leader.

"Our school district, much like other districts throughout the State of Michigan, are facing declining enrollment. This declining enrollment combined with the lack of suitable funding increases from the State of Michigan requires constant attention of our district's Superintendent and Administration Staff.

"I will use my educational and professional skills and experience to continue to work with our Superintendent and Administration Staff to address and manage these financial challenges.

"Similar to the financial issues mentioned above, districts statewide are challenged with a teacher shortage. With a fewer number of teachers entering the workforce and an aging workforce retiring at a higher frequency than in years past, districts are facing challenges to staff classrooms with qualified teachers.

"This challenge becomes tougher when a district seeks Language and other specialty teachers. Additionally, recent legislation continues to limit access to exceptional substitute teachers by shrinking the candidate pool to select from.

"The definition of a successful district is one that individuals want to work in. We must continue our efforts to recruit highly talented and dedicated teaching and support staff. Professional development must continue to be a part of our retention

program to promote leadership from within.

"As a Board Trustee, I will continue to work with District Leadership to assure we strive to be a district individuals seek employment with.

"Public School Districts are continuously faced with new and difficult legislative mandates and expectations put in place by non-experts in Lansing. These elected officials in Lansing continue to make decisions that negatively impact a public school district's ability to be successful. Attempts continue to be made to rank public school districts by metrics that continuously change when outcomes sought are not achieved. The ever-changing metrics make it extremely difficult for a public school district to be successful.

"It is extremely important for a School Board member to be involved at a local level, but is also critical that they are advocates in Lansing and with their elected officials. I will work to assure that advocacy continues on matters that impact our district."

## Kelly A. Owen

Kelly A. Owen, 42607 Maude Court, Van Buren Township, was elected to the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education in 2011 and is seeking reelection.

Owen, 53, has lived in the school district for 24 years. She holds an associate's degree from Washtenaw Community College and is a homemaker.

She has been married to Kyle Owen for the past 22 years and they have three children, Kendall, Kameron, and Karlee. All three children have attended the Van Buren Public Schools since the first grade.

Kendall is 20 years old and a junior at Western Michigan University. Kameron is 18 and a freshman at Eastern Michigan University. Karlee, 15, is a sophomore at Belleville High School.

Owen has been a member of the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation for the past six years and its recording secretary for the past two years.

She has been a member of the Tiger Parent/Senior party Committee for the past four years, PTO president for three years and vice president for one year at McBride

(continued on page 9)



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### Is Probate Court Really That Bad?

In a basic sense, to "probate an estate" refers to the distribution of a deceased person's belongings. It is necessary to probate the estate if the deceased owned property titled in his or her name alone. If there is a valid Will, then its terms will govern the distribution. If the deceased did not have a valid Will, then distribution will be controlled by the state's rules of intestate succession.

The purpose of probate is to protect the estate until the Will has been verified, the estate inventoried, heirs notified, creditors paid, and taxes paid. Once that is done, the court can issue an order distributing the property and closing the estate. Depending on circumstances, this process can take six months to many years.

The complexity of the probate process depends on the presence of a valid Will and the size of the estate. Presently, for estates valued at less than \$22,000, it may be possible to utilize "shortcut" procedures to re-title assets and avoid the expense and delay of probate proceedings. For estates larger than \$22,000 the probate process may be formal or informal.

Informal probate begins with the application to serve as the Personal Representative. If approved, the court will issue Letters of Authority which allow the Personal Representative to begin administering the estate.

Formal probate can be supervised or unsupervised. Supervised formal probate means that the court oversees the entire process and must approve the distribution of all property. Unsupervised means the court must approve specific actions taken by the Personal Representative, such as the sale of real estate.

I hope you enjoyed this series of articles. If you have any questions, please contact Amy at (734)718-8574 or at amy@amyeversolelaw.com.

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# Candidates

(continued from page 8)

Middle School. She has been a part of the District School Improvement Committee for the past five years. She was in charge of the Santa Shop at Haggerty Elementary for five years and was a paraprofessional at Haggerty Elementary for three months. She also enjoys beading and scrapbooking.

"I love being involved in our schools," Owen said. "I am a stay-at-home mom and have had the opportunity to spend the last 15 years at our schools volunteering and staying involved in my children's education. I believe in our teachers, principals, and administrators, and know that they are doing their very best to give our children the finest education possible."

"I have enjoyed sitting on the Board of Education for the past four years and have learned a lot. This past year has been

a trying time for our community and has made me see that even though we may be on different sides at times, we all want what is best for our students. I believe that education, like anything else, you get out of it what you put in. I want to help my children, and others, to get the most out of school, and lead productive, successful lives.

"We have one of the most generous and passionate communities around, and I believe that together we can make Van Buren Public Schools a district that is envied by the surrounding communities, and one that is looked upon as an ideal of what a school district should be."

Her goals, once reelected:

"I believe that the most-pressing issue facing our school district is rebuilding the trust and relationship between the community and school board, and I would like to see this repaired. I believe in open and honest lines of communication with students, parents, teachers, administrators, and all staff. I am willing to listen to any and all concerns, and help find solutions whenever possible."

### David Peer

David Peer, 2511 S. Grove Street, Ypsilanti Township, has lived in the school district for 39 years.

He is married to Sandra Peer and they have a daughter, Samantha, and a son, Alexander.

He is retired from Ford Motor Company and is a UAW member. He attended

Washtenaw Community College.

Peer, 62, served on the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education for five terms.

He enjoys woodworking and spending time with his family.

When asked why he is running for office, Peer replied:

"Keith Johnston was concerned with the growing lack of trust between at least a portion of the community and the board. Keith asked if I would be interested in running with him to improve transparency and communication between the board and community."

"We know that as board members we need to be able to explain what we are doing and how taking that action is going to help the district improve."

"When we do that it opens the door for a discussion with and the opportunity to listen to others."

"Keith and I served together on the board for eight years. I believe that we made an honest effort to listen to everyone that had concerns about an issue. That is not to say that everyone agreed with every decision we made. I know that we always made the decision that we believed would help the district meet the needs of kids."

"I believe I can help us put our focus back on teaching kids the skills they need to be successful."

"There are many positive things happening in the district that have been overshadowed by the M-STEP investigation."

"The level of trust did not exist between at least some of the staff and prior central office administration that would allow the district to move forward."

"We now have a new Superintendent and administrative staff. I am confident the new administration is committed to building that trust."

"I attended board meetings for about four years before I was elected the first time. I was elected on my third try. I then served five terms. I doubt that I missed more than 10 meetings during those 25 years. I worked with five different superintendents during my time on the board. I believe I have the experience and commitment to help the district move forward."

His goals, once elected, include:

"Work with the other board members to find a meeting format that allows the board to deal with the agenda and allows

community members the opportunity to ask questions about items we are going to take action on."

"Reinstate the monthly work study session."

"The board needs to gain a clear understanding of and support for what the district is doing to improve student achievement. According to the 2015-2016 M-STEP, 1,388 or 67% of the students in grades three through eight were not proficient on the ELA test and 1,493 or 72% were not proficient on the math test."

"I believe it is time for everyone to say out loud that the system is not meeting the needs of a majority of the kids."

"The low level of proficiency that tests like the M-STEP show do not indicate that the students have failed to learn or the teachers have failed to teach them. I believe that all of our students are learning. I also believe that our teachers are responsible for that learning."

"I think the system teachers teach in and students learn in is responsible for a majority of our students not learning at the level they should be."

"The district is currently working with consultants to learn how to begin changing that system."

"We need to agree that no one is satisfied with the results the system is currently producing. We then need to agree that pointing fingers or looking for someone to hold accountable does not change those results."

"I believe that if we all become active participants in the process the consultants are proposing we will see all of our students make significant gains. They will make those gains because teachers and administrators will be working in and continuously improving a system they create. That system will be designed to support their efforts to ensure all students are learning," Peer said.

### Simone Pinter

Simone Suzanne Pinter, 48496 Ellen Court, Van Buren Township, has lived in the school district for 36 years.

She and her husband Larry have three children, Tiffany, Tabitha, and Matthew.

Pinter, 54, is a florist and graduated from high school and floral design school.

(continued on page 10)



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### 3 run unopposed for 3 seats on Belleville Area District Library Board

Three seats on the Belleville Area District Library Board will be filled in the Nov. 8 General Election.

There are three seeking these three seats so all will be elected.

Incumbents Joy Cichewicz and John Juriga are running for reelection and newcomer Alma Hughes-Grubbs is seeking the seat vacated by Michael Boelter who decided not to run again.

#### Joy Cichewicz

Joy Cichewicz, 49885 Willis Road, Sumpter Township, is librarian/branch manager for the Ypsilanti District Library-Michigan Avenue Branch. She is married to Rick Cichewicz.

Cichewicz earned a master's degree in Library Science from Wayne State University and a bachelor of science degree in Psychology and Social Work from Eastern Michigan University.

She explains why she is running for reelection:

"Libraries serve very important functions. At a very low per-person cost, libraries provide life-long learning opportunities, endless entertainment, job hunting assistance, free programs that enrich lives and educate youth, a community gathering space, and access to the Internet, books, magazines, movies, music, audio books.

"I feel particularly qualified because of my background. I've been a librarian for 19 years. For the past eight years I've

been the branch manager of the very busy downtown branch of the Ypsilanti District Library. Prior to that, I worked eight years at Brighton District Library as Head of Automation, three years at U of M in the Undergraduate Library and Social Work Library, and a few months in the UAW/Chrysler Technology Training Center in Detroit."

Once elected she said: "The first priority is to make sure that we provide an adequate library building for this community. After the failed 2014 efforts, in which we tried to pass a millage and bond for a dream building, we went back to the voters. We had several forums, we used a survey that I developed and collated, and we talked to people in the community.

"We received strong feedback that the voters wanted two things: they wanted their library to remain downtown and they wanted a new building at a lower cost. We have worked hard to work with the three communities, including our elected officials, to come up with an option that keeps the library downtown and lowers the overall cost of both the bond and the operating increase to about 1/3 less. The new library would move our library forward into the next 50 years in a way that makes it clear that we heard the voters!"

#### John Juriga

John Juriga, 327 East Huron River Drive, Belleville, retired from the Romulus Schools in 1999, after 30 years of service.

He has a bachelor of science degree in Industrial Education from Murray State University, a master of arts in Industrial Education from Eastern Michigan University, and additional hours towards a specialists degree at Michigan State University.

He has served for the past 13 years on the City of Belleville Planning Commission and before that three years on the Van Buren Township Planning Commission. He served on the city's Board of Canvassers and the Façade Committee for the Belleville Downtown Development Authority.

Currently he served on the Senior Transportation Committee, has been a church trustee for five years, and is a board member for the Belleville Area Historical Society and Museum.

He started the Romulus and Belleville Boys & Girls Clubs and is on the Advisory

Council for both clubs.

He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Jamaica in 1967-68 and a Red Cross volunteer, including work following hurricanes in Texas and Florida. He also worked on church volunteer missions building senior housing in Moscow, Russia in 1991 and building a school in Haiti in 1986.

Juriga is married to Deborah and they have three sons: Justin, Travis, and Jesse. He has lived in the library district for 47 years.

"I feel that this area deserves a quality library and I want to finish the job in seeing that is accomplished," he said. "Presently, we have approximately 122,000 people coming to the library on a yearly basis. I would love to see this number doubled and the return of our residents who are going to libraries in surrounding areas coming back

(continued on page 11)



Cichewicz

Hughes-Grubbs

Juriga

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### Candidates

(continued from page 9)

She has been involved with fund raisers for Stephanie Smith and Kathy Hammond, Relay for Life, Veterans, and many school fund raisers.

She said she is running for school board "to help bring the school back to the place people want their children to go."

Her goals once elected: "I want VBPS to be the school of choice everyone wants their children to go to, but can't because we are full."

### Breakfast Special

8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
 With Beverage Purchase. Dine In Only.

2 Eggs, Sausage or Bacon,  
 Hashbrowns & Toast.....\$1.99  
 (No Substitutions)

### OCTOBERFEST

OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

LIVE MUSIC FEATURING  
**"WRECKAGE"**  
 8 P.M. - MIDNITE

### FALL DINE-IN SPECIALS

Beverage Purchase Required for Each Meal. No Coupon Necessary. 4pm to 9pm.

#### ANY TWO FOR \$16.00

11am to Close - Beverage Purchase Required for Each Meal - Dine In Only  
 1/2 Slab of Ribs • Broasted Chicken  
 Fish Dinner (Cod) • Smelt Dinner  
 Above Includes Salad, Potato or Rice  
 Fiesta Salad or Fried Chicked Salad • Lasagna

#### SUNDAY

1/2 Price  
 Pizza



#### TUESDAY

Slab of Ribs  
 Choice of Potato & Salad

**\$11.99**



#### WEDNESDAY

4 pc. Broasted  
 Chicken

**\$6.49**



#### THURSDAY

Tacos

**\$1.50**



#### FRIDAY

All You  
 Can Eat  
 Fish & Chips

**\$7.99**



#### SATURDAY

1 lb. Crab  
 Legs

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- Burgers
- Subs
- Broasted Chicken



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**FIRST FOUR SUNDAYS OF OCTOBER**

Questions, Call Don Swinson @ 734-674-4980

**SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER**  
 Registration Starts @ 11:30 a.m.  
 October 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>

Police Firing Range at Old Landfill on W. Willow Rd. (Between Sumpter & Elwell Road)

Rules: 12, 16, 20 Gauge Shotguns - 30" Barrel Max., NO Scopes or extended chokes  
 410 Shotgun (Kids 12 & under only)

Prizes: Turkey, Ham, Bacon & \$\$ rounds  
 Ammo provided

**Belleville ZOMBIE 5K Run/Walk 2016**

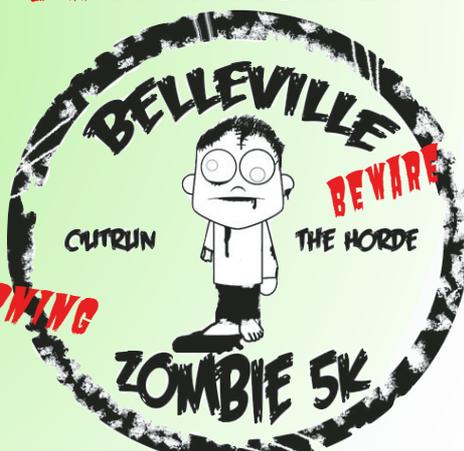
**Saturday October 15**  
 10am / Check In starts 9 am

Start/Finish at Horizon Park

Register at Active.com

Free T-shirt for First 150 Participants

Costumes Encouraged/Optional



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--	---	--

\*WAC. Certain restrictions apply. Offer ends 10-31-16.



**District Library**  
 (continued from page 10)

to Belleville.

"My goals continue to include getting a larger library that will house more computers, more books for all ages, various meeting rooms, and a large children's area. I envision a community library where people cannot only come to read, learn, and use computers, but also hold meetings and special events such as plays, concerts, conferences and presentations. I would continue to support a multi-story library in downtown Belleville."

**Alma Hughes-Grubbs**

Alma Hughes-Grubbs, 47755 Bentley, Van Buren Township, is retired as a sergeant from the Detroit Police department where she served as a polygraph examiner. She has lived in the library district for 16 years.

After retirement, she worked for the Wayne State University Library.

Hughes-Grubbs graduated from Cass Tech High and has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Central Michigan University and a master of science degree in Administration at Wayne State University. She is divorced.

This is her first run for elective office.

Hughes-Grubbs is a golfer and belongs to the African American Book Club at the Belleville Area District Library.

She belongs to the Retired Detroit Police group and the American Polygraph Examiners Association and the Michigan

Association of Polygraph Examiners.

"I am a strong supporter of the Belleville Area District Library and see a great need for a new facility," she said. "I would like to be a part of this project."

"My goal is to support a new library building if approved by voters to assure that the library staff has the necessary technology to assist patrons."

"This library services three communities. It is my belief that our library staff provides awesome service with their limited resources. I have observed the large amount of patrons that utilize the services offered. The staff is outstanding, always eager to provide assistance, however, they are saddled with very limited resources to stay on par with other neighboring communities."

"It is my belief that as a community grows, so should the amenities provided. A new library building is a great investment in our community. I have visited other neighboring libraries and our library lags very far behind," she said.

Hughes-Grubbs said her goal is to assist in implementing a facility that will service the community for the next 50 years.

**Vote**  
**November 8**



**SPECIAL FALL MENU**

<b>Monster Burger</b>	<b>\$5.69</b>
3 Pattie Bacon Cheeseburger - w/Monster Fixins - Mayo, Ketchup, Mustard, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickles & Onion Rings	
<b>Franken-Weenie</b>	<b>\$2.99</b>
Brat w/Sauerkraut, Grilled Onions & Peppers & Mustard	
<b>Hometown Chile</b>	<b>\$2.69 Bowl</b>
<b>Pumpkin Shake</b> sm	\$2.69 med \$3.09 lg \$4.09
<b>Hot Chocolate</b>	<b>\$1.59</b>

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(continued from page 1)

paid.  
 He said the district is adding a little each year to the fund balance and as of June 30 it had \$8,734,826, which is 18.31% of the budget. The state average for fund balances is 8.05%, excluding the Detroit Public Schools.

Taylor said he generally recommends a 15% fund balance for schools so they don't have to borrow in the summer when the state payments come in late in the fall.

He said last year the GASB 68 financial reporting for pensions became effective. This adds the district's share of the MPERS unfunded pension liability to the government-wide statements.

The Van Buren Public Schools calculated portion of the unfunded liability is \$69,513,233.

"We're going to have some funding issues coming up," Taylor said.

**Homegrown Knowledge series to feature talk on Halloween candy**

The Belleville Area District Library is presenting a Halloween-themed edition of its Homegrown Knowledge series on Thursday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. As part of the library's Booville programming during October, those from the Sugar Plum Candy Shoppe will discuss "The Golden Age of Candy: 1950-2000."

**Van Buren Township BZA meetings canceled for October, November**

The Van Buren Township Board of Zoning Appeals meeting for Oct. 11 was canceled due to a lack of agenda. November's meeting was canceled in January due to the Nov. 8 Presidential Election. There are items on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting at 7 p.m., Dec. 13. Also, a new chairman will need to be selected at that December meeting.

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**DAILY DINNER SPECIALS** 4 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

**SUNDAY -- TURKEY DINNER & POT ROAST**

**MONDAY -- GERMAN PORK**

**TUESDAY -- FATTOUSH SALAD & MEDITERRANEAN PLATE**

**WEDNESDAY -- ITALIAN NIGHT**

**THURSDAY -- POLISH DINNERS**

**FRIDAY -- AYCE FISH - \$9.49**

**SATURDAY -- CHEF'S CHOICE**

**JOIN US NOVEMBER 2ND AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 5TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A RIBBON CUTTING. 10% OF SALES WILL GO TO OUR LOCAL GOODFELLOWS!**

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--	---	---

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**More Letters**

**Pull the lever and pray  
 for God's mercy**

To the Editor,

This last week's controversy involving Mr. Trump's vulgar language reminds me of a campaign for Prime Minister of England. The opponent of Winston Churchill said, "You can't vote for Churchill. He's a drunkard."

The reply was, "I'd rather have Churchill drunk than you sober." Winston Church

was elected, continued his drinking and led England from near total destruction to victory in WWII.

I'm not saying Mr. Trump is comparable to Churchill.

We have two very flawed candidates this time, so choose your medicine. Pull the lever or mark your ballot and pray for God's mercy on America.

Mickey Widener  
 Van Buren Township

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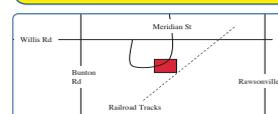
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*We look forward  
 to seeing you soon.*

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**Charter Township of Van Buren - Community Services Department - (734) 699-8926**

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day**



**What:** FREE one day drop-off for Van Buren Township residents  
**When:** *Saturday, October 15, 2016 9:00 am - 2:00 pm*  
**Where:** *US Ecology* (East parking lot)  
 49350 North I-94 Service Drive  
**Why:** To dispose of household hazardous waste in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.

**Acceptable Items**

**Kitchen/Bathroom**

- Bug Sprays
- Floor Care Products
- Furniture Polishes
- Metal Polish w/Solvent
- Medicines
- Nail Polish
- Cleaning Products

**Miscellaneous**

- Household Batteries
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- Artist Paints/Mediums
- Dry Cleaning Solvents
- Fiberglass Epoxy
- Solvents
- Lighter Fluids
- Pool Chemicals
- Computer Waste/TV's
- Pharmaceutical Waste

**Garage**

- Transmission Fluid
- Auto Batteries
- Battery Acid
- Brake Fluids
- Car Waxes
- Diesel Fuel
- Fuel Oil
- Antifreeze
- Gasoline
- Kerosene
- Motor Oil
- Propane Tanks

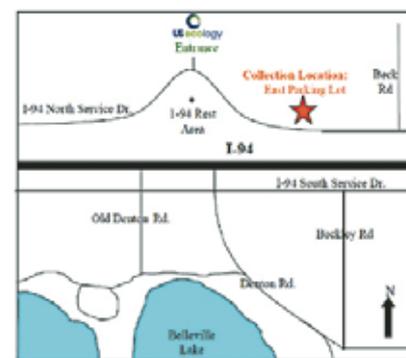
**Garden**

- Fungicides
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Pesticides
- Fertilizers
- Rat Poison



**Workshop**

- Paints (All)
- Paint Thinners
- Varnish & Stains
- Wood Preservatives
- Gun Cleaning
- Cutting Oils
- Turpentine
- Aerosol Cans
- Smoke Detectors
- Fire Extinguishers
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors



**Put household  
 HAZARDOUS WASTE  
 where it belongs!**

**Unacceptable  
 Items**

- Explosives & Ammunition
- Industrial Waste
- Tires
- Asbestos

*For odor complaints please call the Community Services Department at (734) 699-8926 Mon-Fri, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm, after hours please call the Public Safety Department at (734) 699-8930.*

## Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Oct. 13** – “Sugar Plum Candy Shoppe” is the subject of this month’s Homegrown Knowledge presentation at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Dorene Mroz and Jeff Vernon will tell about popular Halloween treats of the past and the Golden Age of Candy. Free. Refreshments served.

• **Saturday, Oct. 15** – It’s a free Hazardous Waste Collection Day for Van Buren Township residents only from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at US Ecology East parking lot, 49350 North I-94 Service Drive.

• **Saturday, Oct. 15** – The Detroit Institute of Arts says, “Leave the driving to us!” It’s Wayne County Day at the DIA and they are offering a free bus ride from the Belleville Area Museum, leaving at 9:30 a.m., to the DIA and then a ride back, departing the DIA at 2 p.m. Free ride and free entry to the DIA. Have to buy your own lunch. But, you must reserve a spot by calling (313) 833-4005 or go to tickets.dia.org .

• **Saturday, Oct. 15** – Bring your dog in costume to the Monster Mutt Walk in downtown Belleville from 1 to 3 p.m., put on by the CBC, with the help of Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue. They’d like to see the people participating in costume, too.

• **Saturday, Oct. 15** – Second-annual Craft & Vendor Show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. sponsored by Victorious Life Church of God at 860 E. Clark Road, Ypsilanti 48198. Food, crafts, much more. (734) 482-4293.

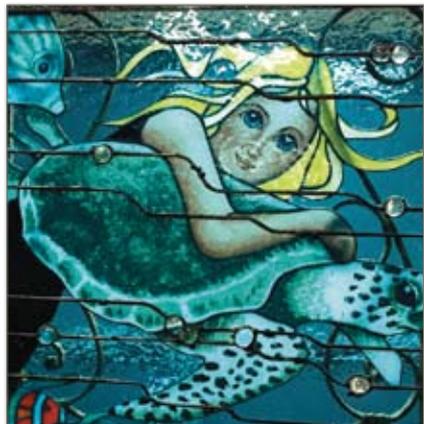
• **Saturday, Oct. 15** – Huron Valley Ambulance 35<sup>th</sup>-annual Fall Festival, 1-4 p.m., at its main campus, 1200 State Circle, Ann Arbor. Free food and drinks, music, lawn games, photo booth, CPR demonstrations, free blood pressure check, Andy the Ambulance, pets to adopt from Huron Valley Humane Society, collecting non-perishable goods for Food Gatherers, and more.

• **Saturday, Oct. 15** – Stop and say “hi” to Jim Adams and help raise money for his medical bills from 5 to 10 p.m. at the American Legion, 44 Wabash St., Milan 48160. Jim recently had a heart attack and went through open heart surgery to receive the LVAD (left ventricular assist device). He will receive a heart transplant when one becomes available He is unable to work. Information: Kelly Wenzel, (734) 657-5397; Dawn McDougall, (734) 972-3230.

• **Saturday, Oct. 15** – St. Anthony Men’s Club Annual Autumn Dance runs from 6:30 p.m. to midnight at the Fr. Folta Building. Cocktails, dinner, dancing, raffle with \$5,000 grand prize. Tickets to event: \$25 per person. Raffle tickets are \$50 each or three for \$100. For dinner or raffle tickets call Pete Pitzen (734) 699-8563.

• **Sunday, Oct. 16** – Southern Express performs from 2 to 5 p.m. at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township. Free. Information: Mike Hoben (734) 260-1170 or Lynette Jordan (734) 699-8918.

## Now Accepting Entries through Oct. 21



Entry forms are available at the Belleville, Area District Library, Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, Belleville Yacht Club, Garden Fantasy on Main, the Professional Building, Sumpter Ace Hardware, Twisted Rooster and Van Buren Township Hall, or print from the website.

[www.bacaartshow.org](http://www.bacaartshow.org)

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**MUM HANGING  
BASKETS**

**\$9.99 Each**

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**3" PERENNIALS -- \$1.00 EACH**

**FALL CEMETERY CONES**

**SWEETEST DAY IS OCT. 15  
BOSSSES DAY IS OCT. 16**

**OPEN: MONDAY – FRIDAY 9 A.M. – 6 P.M.**

**SATURDAY 9 A.M. – 5 P.M. • SUNDAY 1 P.M. – 5 P.M.**

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**Fax: (734) 699-0505**



**ORPHAN  
OF THE  
WEEK**  
**“JASMINE”**



Jazzy **Jasmine** says it’s her time to shine in a new fur-ever home. She’s an 8 year and 5 month old Chihuahua mix that arrived in very bad shape this past April. She was extremely overweight, had severe skin and ear infections and was sorely in need of some TLC. She immediately got the royal treatment and was treated to a soothing bath, ear cleanse and tons of gentle pets. Blood work revealed that an untreated thyroid condition was partly to blame for her extra weight and the infections were treatable with medications. Her weight was impacting her health to the point she was having trouble breathing and moving so she was put onto a strict diet much to her dismay. While under our care, **Jasmine** has blossomed into a bright-eyed, alert and happy girl who can’t wait to share her life with a family. She has more weight to lose and will need a family committed to the healthy dieting and exercise she needs to regain her best doggie self. Her thyroid condition will need daily medication and monitoring but she will reward her family by being a faithful best friend for years to come. **Jasmine** has a sweet and lovable personality that she loves sharing with everyone she meets. She will enjoy a home where she is given the chance live out the rest of her life in health and happiness. Call today to meet **Jasmine**; she’s spayed, vaccinated, and micro-chipped. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.

# VBT board approves contract for Harbor Club Lift Station

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

At a 17-minute meeting on Oct. 4, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved a contract for \$379,400 with low-bidder Lawrence M. Clarke to construct a new Harbor Club Lift Station for the sewer system.

Also approved was a 10% contingency of \$37,940 for use at the discretion of Public Services Director James Taylor and up to \$35,900 to Wade Trim engineers for engineering construction administration fees.

This is all being paid out of the Water and Sewer budget.

Harbor Club Lift Station is the oldest sanitary lift station in VBT. Director Taylor said it has been experiencing increasing equipment failures, including the elevator that is used to provide staff access for maintenance 45 feet below the top of the station.

The location of this station, at a high point

on the property, places the well at a depth that requires an elevator to access and makes the well inaccessible to the Vactor.

Director Taylor said it has become a priority to replace and rebuild this station to improve the functionality and accessibility to the station.

There were three bidders for the project, with Clarke's \$379,400 being the lowest bid. Other bids were Dunigan Brothers, Inc. at \$584,288.77 and Weiss Construction Company at \$594,315. The engineer's opinion of construction cost for this project was \$450,000.

Dave Nummer of Wade Trim said they were concerned with the large difference between the bidders on the project. After talking to the contractors it was determined they all understood the scope of the work, but Clarke bid lower because he was local and had been to the site and had opened the manholes to inspect the work so had a better understanding of the work required.

Director Taylor told the board there is no

start date yet, but they would like to start as soon as possible and be done by June 1.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the 2017 Departmental Fee Schedules, but pulled the page containing the "FOIA Procedures and Guidelines Wage Information" used to determine how much to charge someone requesting a FOIA based on the wage of the person doing the work to assemble the information. The 2016 hourly wages were on the list and it should be the 2017 hourly wages. After the board sets the new hourly wages in January this page will be adjusted and approved by the board;
- Approved the attorney's recommendation

for settlement of circuit court condemnation law suits 16-009339-CC and 16-009115-CC brought by Wolverine Pipeline. Trustee Jeff Jahr explained that VBT was joined in the case because they have property involved, but the township is not paying any settlement;

- Learned the absentee ballots were mailed to VBT voters on Sept. 30. If voters don't get their ballots by Oct. 7 they should call the clerk's office at 699-8909. Sample ballots are on the VBT web site at [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org).

The meeting was chaired by Treasurer Sharry Budd since Supervisor Linda Combs and Clerk Leon Wright were absent.

## Belleville Civil Service Commission selects four finalists for clerk slot

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

During a session that lasted from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 4, the Belleville Civil Service Commission interviewed eight candidates and selected four finalists for the position of payroll / building clerk.

City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said the CSC stipulated each of the four should be offered the position in turn, based on her place on the list, until one accepts.

Kollmeyer said she is offering the position to Meagan Gallagher, who was first on the list.

Second was Kim Tindall (a city councilwoman), third was Karin Tyler, and

fourth was Sarah Kovalak.

Kollmeyer said the procedure is for her to hire the employee and it does not need to go before the city council for approval.

She said just two members of the CSC were present for the interviews: Chairman Douglas Dalton and Jacqueline Schank-Ulch. The third member of the CSC, Monique D. Gary, who was appointed the night before the CSC meeting, was not present. Kollmeyer said Gary works for the City of Detroit and while her schedule is flexible she was not able to attend the meeting on the morning after her appointment.

## Airports to hold public auction of surplus equipment, found items

The Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA), which operates Detroit Metropolitan Airport and Willow Run Airport, will hold a public auction of its surplus equipment this weekend.

The event will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15 at Martin's Towing & Sales, 17180 Dix-Toledo Highway in Brownstown, near the intersection of Pennsylvania and Allen roads.

On the auction block will be a variety of used goods no longer needed by the Airport Authority including office furniture, plumbing and electrical supplies, HVAC supplies and vehicles.

The auction will also feature a wide variety

of unclaimed "lost and found" items ranging from computer accessories and digital cameras to jewelry and musical instruments. Before becoming part of the auction, all lost and found items are inspected for any distinguishing characteristics and kept for six months in an effort to reunite them with their owners.

"This auction is an opportunity for members of our community to purchase worthwhile and even unique items from our airports," said Airport Authority Interim CEO Joseph Nardone. "Their participation enables us to generate revenue and return the items to good use."

The auction will begin promptly at 10 a.m. Parking is limited; interested bidders should arrive early to secure a parking space and register. A refundable \$200 deposit is required in order to bid.

Auction items will be available for advance viewing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 14, and for one hour prior to the start of the auction on Saturday. Interested bidders may register during the Friday preview to save time on the day of the auction.

For more details, contact Martin's Towing & Sales at (734) 283-8003.



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**Location:**  
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**Abbott Building**  
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Belleville, MI 48111  
Off I-94 at Belleville Rd exit near I-275



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February 21	June 12	October 16
March 20	July 10	November 20
April 17	August 21	December 18

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# INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

## AUCTION

### ONLINE AUCTION

#### Local Pick Up

Oct. 14-18

Furniture, Appliances & More

#### LIVE AUCTION

Friday, Oct. 21 at 7pm

The Q (879 Sumpter Rd.)

JNGAuctions.com

734-489-4636

## GARAGE/YARD SALE

MULTI-FAMILY. 15571 Martinsville. October 15 ONLY, 10am-4pm. Men's stuff, horse items, vintage glassware, riding mower. Something for everyone. 10/13

ESTATE SALE. Oct. 15 & 16, 9am-5pm. 12286 Hannan, South of Huron River Dr. Loaded garage plus house & shed. All for sale - some priced, others make offer. 10/13

TOOLS, FURNITURE, & TOOLS. 47818 W. Huron River Dr. Oct. 21, 22 & 23, 9am-5pm. 10/20

## FOR SALE

EGGS! Fresh free range, \$4/dozen or \$5.50 for 18. Available at Hollow's Landscaping Supply, 6280 Rawsonville. (734) 482-7263 10/13

SEASONED OAK firewood. \$70/face cord. Free delivery with 3 face cords. (734) 379-9599 or (313) 300-3344 10/13

MOVING SALE. Too much to list. All very nice-high end. Call for appointment (734) 674-8302 10/13

ASSORTED HUB CAPS \$5, must take all. Oak cabinet, 28" long x 8 1/2" high \$10. Brand new Mojack for riding lawn mower \$60. Metal table for saw, 19 1/2" x 10" \$40. (734) 483-9656 10/20

FRIGIDAIRE upright freezer, \$250. (517) 918-6445 10/27

PIGS FOR SALE. Yorkshire Duroc Cross born May 9. Approx. 100 lbs. apiece. \$100/ea. Info call (734) 812-5119 10/27

CHEVY ENGINE, 1.8 multi-port FI & 4-speed auto trans. 84457 actual miles. No leaks. U pull or complete auto, \$700. TRAILER FRAME (steel) 6 1/2' x 9'. Needs floor & lights, \$200. (734) 699-2912 10/27

19' JAVELIN BASS BOAT, fish & ski model, 150 H.P. Johnson w/trailer. Year 2000. Also: boat hoist w/canopy if interested. Call (734) 697-8336 10/27

## FOR SALE

VINTAGE 1950'S Electric Pepsi pop cooler. Blue & White. You pick up. Best offer. (734) 578-2824 10/27

## VEHICLE FOR SALE

HONDA GOLDWING w/Cyclemate trailer, 1994. Both in excellent condition. Many, many extras. \$5,000. (734) 699-6623 10/13

1994 BUICK CENTURY. 140K miles. Runs great. Some surface rust. \$1,800. (313) 779-0238 10/20

1972 CHEVY C10 CHEYENNE. Off frame restoration, Georgia truck, \$25,000. 1987 OLDS CUTLASS CIERA. 45,000 actual miles P/S- P/B-AC. Georgia car. \$4,000. 3-aluminum 30lb L.P. RV Tanks, 1 full. \$250 OBO. (734) 309-5732 10/20

1978 MUSTANG KING COBRA Project Car. Includes 2 motors, 1 original & 1 rebuilt. All other parts original. \$1,600 OBO. Larry (313) 350-1264 after 3:00 p.m. 10/27

## WANTED

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

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

H & W TOWING. Top \$ cash paid for junk vehicles. Free towing. (734) 223-5581 10/27

VENDORS & CRAFTERS for Holiday Bazaar at Village Green Apartments in Belleville. Saturday, Nov. 12, 1pm-5pm. Bring your own table - no charge. Call Debbie (734) 301-8390 10/27

## HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER

BEAUTIFUL HOME on approx. 6 acres. All handicapped equipped. 6 bedrooms & 3 baths in Van Buren Twp. \$350,000. Call (904) 445-1016 or (734) 674-8302 10/13

BEAUTIFUL BRICK half duplex in New Boston. In mint condition. All appliances stay. Finished garage. (734) 753-9107 10/20

FISHERMAN'S DREAM on the water. 3 bdrms, 2 baths, built-in appliances, basement, 2 car garage w/storage addition. Prequalified buyers ONLY. (734) 697-8336 10/27

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**734-699-7700**

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**Van Buren Estates**

**734-697-6159**

*3 miles south of I-94 at the Rawsonville Exit*

**Mohawk**

**734-513-4108**

*Joy Road between Middlebelt and Inkster*

\* WAC. Certain restrictions apply. Offer ends 10-31-16.



### 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.

## SERVICES

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WILL PROVIDE cleaning, residential & office, baby sitting, prepare meals, dog walking, house sitting, elder care. Any hours/days. References (734) 325-6255 10/13

## SERVICES

### A&L SERVICES

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# INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

## School Board

(continued from page 1)

### HELP WANTED

**Hiring Reliable & Dedicated Bus Drivers for Van Buren Public Schools. Starting Pay: \$14.31/hour. Paid Training. Call 734-699-5100 or Apply Online At www.tinyurl.com/GM7SR2D**

### HELP WANTED

MPB Restorations is looking for an experienced auto body, painter, fabricator, tech that has high attention to detail & loves to work on classic cars. (734) 587-3597 10/13

### LOST

MALE, GRAY & WHITE short haired cat named Twilight – lost in Haggerty Sub. (734) 644-1451 10/13

MISC. BATTERY POWER TOOLS: Rigid screw gun & Dewalt screwdriver set. Fell off my truck on Haggerty Road between Huron River Drive & Bemis. Reward. (313) 826-5723 10/20

### FREE

MATCHING REFRIGERATOR, stove & over the stove microwave. (734) 699-6623 10/13

MAHOGANY CONN MINUET 541 organ with bench. Good condition. You pick-up. (734) 635-7641 10/13

FRASER, adorable, black 5-year old Australian Shepherd Border Collie mix needs a good home. Housebroken, crate trained, knows commands. Licensed. Negative: he's a dirt dabbler. Call Al (734) 778-4863 after 1pm. 10/20

### FOR RENT

OUTDOOR SPACE for motorhome storage. Also indoor 10'x20' storage space with cement floor. Reasonable. (734) 578-2824 10/20

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE at 19435 Sumpter Road, Belleville. Call for more info (734) 740-8027 11/3

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT on Main Street, Belleville. (734) 776-1684 10/13

### Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, Oct. 13 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 17 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education work/study session, 7 p.m., Administration Building. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 18 – Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 19 – Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 25 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township work/study at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 26 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 7 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

### CLERICAL/OFFICE

**Property Management Company For Mobile Home Parks In Canton/Belleville Area. Mail Resume To: Owner P.O. Box 85530 Westland, MI 48185**

AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call (734) 697-1800 TFN

DRIVERS: Co. & O/O's. Home DAILY! \$3,000 Sign-on. Great Benefits. Paid Weekly! CDL-A. New Grads Welcome. 888-300-9935 10/13

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**Apartment Communities in Belleville and Gibraltar are looking to fill full time maintenance positions. Fair pay & full benefits will be offered to Dependable, Hardworking, Enthusiastic people. Qualifying applicants; are also required to have basic knowledge of electrical, plumbing, and carpentry. HVAC Certified preferred a valid drivers license is a must. We look forward to receiving your resume at [bellevillepointe@pmpts.com](mailto:bellevillepointe@pmpts.com)**

### HELP WANTED

### 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.

## Quest, Inc. is HIRING

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**Send Letter/Resume to: [recruiter@questserv.org](mailto:recruiter@questserv.org) or Call (734) 458-8140**



• Approved the district use the Michigan Association of Schools Boards evaluation tool for superintendents. The board studied three different tools and chose the MASB model. Under the Michigan School Code school districts are required to meet certain stipulations in the evaluation;

• Heard Supt. Pete Kudlak explain the district's non-homestead tax proposal that is on Nov. 8 ballot. Under Proposal A in 1994 property was classified as homestead and non-homestead. Property that is not homestead can be assessed up to an additional 18 mills for local school operating purposes. Van Buren Public Schools voters approved a renewal of the 18 mill non-homestead operating millage on Nov. 8, 2011, which will expire with the December 2016 levy. Beginning with the 2016 tax levy, the district is only levying 17.7822 mills of the 18 mills permitted as a result of a permanent Headlee rollback. An additional 2 mills is included in the proposal which would boost the tax back to 18 after a rollback. He stressed the district is not allowed to levy more than 18 mills. Trustee Sherry Frazier said the district would lose \$8.9 million in taxes if the non-homestead tax doesn't pass. It is only a renewal, she stressed;

• After a closed-door session, voted to reinstate with conditions a student who was expelled during the 2015-16 school year and came before the board for consideration of reinstatement after the expiration of the expulsion period. The student and the parent met with the District Reinstatement Committee on Sept. 28 and a recommendation from that committee was before the board;

• Met in closed-door session to consult with attorneys on two pending law suits: 16-cv-11805 and 14-cv-13466-ACC-DRG;

• Approved the resignations of non-instructional staff members Ricky Tomlin from BHS after nine years as of Sept. 23; LaKeisa Branham from Owen after two years as of Sept. 15 (accepted other employment); Donna Wise as of Sept. 1 (moved); Paulette Cook of Food Service after four years as of Oct. 3; and Kathy Straight of Food Service as of 20 years as of Sept. 1;

• Approved the employment of Candice Testorelli as a paraprofessional at Owen as of Sept. 6;

• Approved the resignation of teacher Melissa Taub-McNabb of Owen after 10 years of service as of Sept. 30;

• Approved employment of teachers Christina Barrett, starting Sept. 6 at Owen; Thomas Purcell III, starting Sept. 26 at Owen; and Steven Szumanski, starting Oct. 4 as a social studies teacher at McBride. Szumanski was the only new teacher present at the meeting and he shook hands with all the board members;

• Approved the Sixth Grade Science Camp for Nov. 14-18 at YMCA Camp

(continued on page 19)

**Court Watching:****Judge Oakley binds over Shunk on charges of assaulting woman**

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

Frederick George Shunk, 51, has been bound over to Wayne County Circuit Court to face charges of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and domestic violence/aggravated assault.

He was at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice on Oct. 5 for an arraignment on the information before Circuit Judge David Groner, where a plea was made. On Oct. 7 he was at a calendar conference before Judge Michael Callahan. A final conference was set for Nov. 8 before Judge Megan Maher Brennan.

Shunk is free after posting bond of \$50,000/10%.

34<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley presided over Shunk's preliminary exam on Sept. 21.

The single witness at the exam was Amy Porter who came into the courtroom on a walker with her leg in a bright magenta cast.

She testified that on Aug. 28 in an apartment at 48541 Denton Road [Harbour Club Apartments] where she had been staying with Shunk, she was assaulted and had to be hospitalized.

Porter said she has known Shunk all her life and he was a friend. She had stayed with him for two weeks and was leaving. She said she had been paying bills at the apartment.

She said Shunk texted her that he was in custody in the Washtenaw County Jail, so she thought she could go to the apartment and get her things. She said she went to the apartment at 5:30 a.m. She said Doug brought her there because her car was at the apartments and Doug was going to help her carry her television set. Her other things were clothes and personal items, she testified.

But, Shunk was home and sleeping, she testified. She went in to get her stuff and Shunk woke up. She said he was angry that she brought Doug with her and Shunk pushed her against the table and lamp and

she fell.

Porter testified Doug told Shunk not to put his hands on her and then Shunk and Doug started fighting. She said she got in between the two and was screaming for them to stop.

"I told Doug to get out," she testified. "I felt bad because Fred is bleeding."

She testified then Shunk threw her purse over the balcony and it fell three stories down. She said she went to the sliding glass window, but didn't put her foot on the porch because she thought he might push her out there and lock the door.

Then he grabbed her hair and pulled her out into the hallway.

"I fell backwards. He was kicking me down the stairs," she said, adding, "He said I'm going to kill you now. You're just like your sister."

Porter said Shunk stomped on her and when she was at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital she needed to have two rods put in her leg with four bolts. She said doctors told her that her injuries could not come from just falling down the stairs, and she had been stomped.

She said a male neighbor came out and carried her down the stairs and outside. She said her bone was coming out of her leg.

"He was at the top of the stairs throwing my shoes at me," Porter testified, referring to Shunk. "One hit me in the head."

Shunk's court-appointed attorney Clifford Woodards cross-examined Porter, asking her if she had taken medication that day and she said she took Percocet for the pain at 6 a.m. Her testimony came after 11 a.m.

She testified she had never been convicted of a crime and did have keys to the apartment. She said she was unaware that she was carrying both sets of keys.

Woodards accused Porter of dishonoring and disrespecting Shunk by bringing another man into the apartment. She replied she brought him to help carry her TV and to give her a ride to the apartment. She said in the past she had other men in the apartment and it was never a problem.

"I didn't think Fred was there," she testified. "I thought I could just grab my stuff and leave."

Woodards asked Porter why his client would say he was in jail in Washtenaw County and Porter replied, "That's what scares me the most. We're not in any kind

of relationship. Why send out that you're in jail."

Woodards asked if Shunk thought she was going to smoke the medical marijuana in his room. She said she didn't know what he thought, but she has her texts on her iPad to prove they never did mention marijuana.

The prosecutor pointed out they have her iPad in the courtroom to prove what was written. Van Buren Township Detective Ken Toney had retrieved the iPad from Porter's father's car in the court parking lot.

Woodards said that Porter and Doug attacked Shunk, but Porter denied that. She said she told Doug to leave and he did.

"I'm hurting," she said as she slowly left the courtroom after being as a witness.

Defense attorney Woodard said she wanted to take Shunk's medical marijuana and smoke it and the prosecutor said there was no testimony on that.

The prosecutor asked Judge Oakley to bind Shunk over to circuit court for trial, saying Shunk kicked Porter down the stairs, she suffered a compound fracture, her leg was stomped or kicked repeatedly.

Judge Oakley found probable cause that a crime had been committed and Shunk could have been the one who did it. He bound Shunk over to circuit court and continued the bond and continued the order for no contact with Porter.

"There's two sides to this," the defense attorney called out.

**Frank Charles Stachulski**

Frank Charles Stachulski, 31, who is

lodged in the Wayne County Jail on a bond of \$100,000/10%, waived his preliminary exam at 34<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Sept. 21 and Judge Oakley bound him over to circuit court for a Sept. 28 arraignment on the information.

Stachulski is charged with assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, fourth-degree arson, assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault), and domestic violence.

Judge Oakley continued Stachulski's bond after his court-appointed attorney Susan Dunn said she had no motion to reduce bond since he is also dealing with a previous case.

Stachulski is accused of trying to set his girlfriend on fire and, failing that, set a car on fire on Aug. 28 in VBT.

Stachulski was before Circuit Judge Deborah Thomas on Sept. 28 for an arraignment on the information and an AOI plea was made. Judge Thomas referred Stachulski to pretrial services for a bond review. A disposition conference was scheduled to be held before Judge Thomas on Oct. 13.

**William Calvin Hunt**

William Calvin Hunt, 51, was supposed to be present for a probable cause conference on a charge of retail fraud—first degree in VBT on Jan. 3. He was free after posting \$5,000/10% bond and was to be wearing a tether, but he didn't show up for court. Judge Oakley issued a bench warrant for his arrest. Hunt is a habitual offender.



DETROIT METRO • WILLOW RUN  
WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

## Community invited to attend 2nd Public Information Meeting on Willow Run Airport Master Plan Study Update

Willow Run Airport is updating its Master Plan, which will help guide the airport's future development goals. Willow Run will host a Public Information Meeting to share, discuss and receive feedback on the alternatives being considered for implementation at the Airport.

**The 2nd Public Information Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel 46194 N. Interstate 94 Service Dr. Belleville, MI**

(Use rear entrance adjacent to parking area)

Please visit us on the web at

[www.willowrunmasterplan.com](http://www.willowrunmasterplan.com)

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**Belleville Auto Supply**

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Belleville, MI 48111  
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# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 8, 2016

In accordance with Michigan Election Law, Act 116 of 1954 Section 168.653 (a), notice is hereby given to the registered voters of the Charter Township of Van Buren that the General Election will be held TUESDAY, November 8, 2016.

All Polling locations are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST. Polling place locations for Van Buren Township:

Precinct #1	McBride Middle School	47097 McBride
Precinct #2	Wayne County Community College	9555 Haggerty Rd.
Precinct #3	Van Buren Township Hall (Board Room)	46425 Tyler Rd.
Precinct #4	Van Buren Township Hall (Gym)	46425 Tyler Rd
Precinct #5	Tyler Elementary School	42299 Tyler Rd.
Precinct #6	Belleville High	501 W. Columbia
Precinct #7	Belleville High	501 W. Columbia
Precinct #8	Haggerty Elementary School	13770 Haggerty Rd
Precinct #9	Savage Elementary School	42975 Savage Rd
Precinct #10	Owen Intermediate School	45201 Owen St.

All polling places are handicap accessible. To obtain election instructions in an alternative format (audio or Braille), contact the Clerk's Office prior to Election Day.

The November 8, 2016 General Election will be conducted in all voting precincts of the Charter Township of Van Buren for the purpose of consideration of proposals and nominating candidates for the following office(s):

**PRESIDENTIAL: President and Vice President CONGRESSIONAL: District Representative in Congress. LEGISLATIVE: District Legislative Representative. STATE BOARDS: Member of the State Board of Education, Regent of the University of Michigan, Trustee of Michigan State University, Governor of Wayne State University. COUNTY: Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds and County Commissioner. TOWNSHIP: Charter Township of Van Buren Supervisor, Treasurer, Clerk and Trustees JUDICIAL: Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice of the Supreme Court Incumbent (Partial Term), District Judge of the Court of Appeals Incumbent Position, District Judge of Circuit Court Incumbent Position, District Judge of Circuit Court Non-Incumbent Position, District, District Judge of the Circuit Court Incumbent Position (Partial Term), Judge of Probate Court Incumbent Position, Judge of District Court Incumbent Position. VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Board Member. DISTRICT LIBRARY: Board Member Belleville Area District. PROPOSALS COUNTY: Authorizing the Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan to Levy an assessment of 1.2 mils for 20 years beginning 2016. PROPOSAL TOWNSHIP: Charter Township of Van Buren Public Safety Millage 6.5 mils for seven years beginning 2017. PROPOSAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT: Van Buren Public Schools Operating Millage Proposition Exempting Principal Residence and other Homestead Property 20 mils for eight years beginning 2017. PROPOSAL LIBRARY: Belleville Areas District Library I Bond Proposal to borrow the sum of not to exceed fourteen Million Dollars and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds for all or a portion of the amount 0.75 mil for a maximum of 21 years beginning in 2017, Belleville Area District Library II District Library Operating Millage Proposal 0.75 mil for 20 years beginning 2017. PROPOSAL INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT: Regional Enhancement Millage Proposal Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency 2.0 mils for six years beginning 2016 (RESA District members)**

### STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY ACT 278 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF 1964 Amending the Property Tax Limitation Act

The County Treasurer's Statement:

I, Eric R. Sabree, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan do hereby certify that, as of September 20, 2016 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

Wayne County			
<u>Wayne County Michigan</u>			
<u>Taxing Authorities</u>	<u>Date of Election</u>	<u>Voted Increases</u>	<u>Years Increases</u>
			<u>Effective</u>
County of Wayne	November 3, 2009	1 mill	2019
Wayne County Jail	August 7, 2012	1 mill	2021
Wayne County Parks	August 2, 2016	0.25 mills	2020
Wayne County	November 6, 2008	1.25 mills	2020
Community College	November 6, 2012	1 mill	2022
<u>School Districts</u>			
Lincoln Consolidated Schools	November, 2012	18 mills	2018 (non homest)
	November, 2012	.1 mills	2018
Van Buren Public School District	August, 2011	18 mills	2016 (non homest)

A sample of the ballot may be obtain at the Van Buren Township Clerk's Office 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township, MI 48111 or on the Township website [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org) . Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk's Office. The deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the November 8, 2016 General Election is Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Clerk's office.

Publish: 10-13-2016  
Posted: 10-10-2016

# School Board

*(continued from page 17)*

Copneconic in Fenton, with transportation of the approximate 225 Owen sixth graders and BHS 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade counselors by school bus. Cost to students is \$235 each. Ratio of chaperones to students is one teacher to every 30 students (counselors and sixth graders combined) and ratio of counselors to campers is one to ten;

- Approved the Symphony Band trip to perform as an invited band at the Music for All National Concert Band Festival, March 8-12 in Indianapolis, IN. Sixty-five students in grades 10-12 are expected to attend at a cost of \$800 per student. They will travel by chartered bus;

- Approved the trip to Mackinac Island and Mackinaw City for more than 200 fifth graders at Owen Intermediate School May 10-11. Cost to students is \$288 each. Transportation is by motor coach and ferry;

- Heard reports from cabinet members Curriculum Director Jeff Moore, Finance Director Shareen Barker, and Human Resources Director Abdul Madyun; and

- Heard Supt. Kudlak urge board members and others to attend a School Funding Reform Town Hall Meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 13, at the Livonia Franklin High School Performing Arts Center, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia 48150. He said the Van Buren Public Schools is sponsoring this session along with Wayne-Westland, Plymouth-Canton, and Livonia Public Schools to inform the public on the details of how schools are funded. It also will discuss the county-wise Education Enhancement Millage.

## More Letters

### Have we not learned from history?

To the Editor,

Have we not learned from history?

One thousand nine hundred and eighty five years ago the mass hysteria of the day is now being repeated by some raucous electorates who would rather have another liar, cheat, thief, crook, fraud, swindler, con person, and more (though power and position has deflected more serious charges / offenses to society).

And "Then cried they all again, saying, 'Not this man, but Ba-rab'bas.'" Not this man, but Hilliary! Give us Hilliary! God Help Us

Cornell Anton, Jr.  
Belleville

"Democracy is worth dying for, because it's the most deeply honorable form of government ever devised by man."  
– Ronald Reagan

**Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych**



**Charter Township of Van Buren Downtown Development Authority Public Notice**

**Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority  
Annual Report - Calendar 2015**

Filed with:  
Local Audit and Finance Division  
Michigan Department of Treasury  
P.O. Box 30728  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8228

With October in full swing, the Belleville Central Business Community and the Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue have teamed up to bring a Costumed Monster Mutt Walk this Saturday, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Fourth Street, next to the museum.

The entry fee is \$10 plus one can of dog food. See their ad in today's paper for the details and walking route, sidewalks only. Medals will be awarded in three categories - Scariest, Cutest and Best Mutt & Family. Applications are still available online at [www.bellevillecbbc.org](http://www.bellevillecbbc.org) or call (734) 558-5368 after 3:30 p.m.

FMAR will also have adoptable pets on hand. The Belleville Zombie 5 K Run/Walk is also this Saturday, beginning with a 9 a.m. check-in at Horizon Park. Registration can be made at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). The first 150 participants will receive a free t-shirt. Costumes are encouraged, but optional. The event is sponsored by BHS New Tech. See a list of Booville events in October at [www.buyitinbelleville.com/boo-ville](http://www.buyitinbelleville.com/boo-ville).

\*\*\*

Leo's Coney Island on Belleville Road will be celebrating its fifth anniversary on Nov. 2 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Belleville Chamber and an all-day dine-to-donate fundraiser with the proceeds going to the local Goodfellows. There will also be a check presentation from the restaurant's recent 9/11 dining event going to the Van Buren Fire Department. The public is invited. The times for the activities are still being worked out. Call (734) 697-1000.

\*\*\*

Calling all artists! Applications are being accepted through Oct. 21 for the Belleville Area Council for the Arts Annual Community Art Show, Nov. 4-6 at the BYC on East Huron River Drive in Van Buren Township. Artist categories include Adult, Teens and Children with cash prizes. Visit [www.bacaartshow.org](http://www.bacaartshow.org) for details and entry forms are available at the library, Belleville Chamber, BYC, Garden Fantasy Main Street, Sumpter Ace Hardware, VBT Hall, Twisted Rooster, and here at the Professional Building on Main Street. Call (734) 357-8000.

\*\*\*

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce invites everyone to Friday's ribbon-cutting ceremony at Belles Resale, beginning at noon at 381 Main Street. The store sells consignment art of all media, along with home goods, furniture, women's clothing, jewelry and more. Call (734) 697-7151 for info.

\*\*\*

The Van Buren Township Fire Department will be holding a Breakfast with your Firefighters this Saturday, Oct. 15, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Fire Station 2 at 7981 Belleville Road. Adults are \$5 and children 10 and under are \$3 with the proceeds going to the VBT Fire Prevention Programs. Breakfast includes sausage links, coffee, juice or milk. Call (734) 699-8900 ext. 9416.

\*\*\*

The Crafted Modern Handmade Boutique at 204 East Columbia Avenue in Belleville is celebrating its two-year anniversary with an all-day party this Saturday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. There will be appetizers and beverages to go with door prizes, new merchandise arrivals, and special sales. Over 100 Michigan artists are among the shelves of home décor, jewelry, accessories, clothing, bath, and Michigan-made items.

	<u>Plan 1</u>
<b>A. Revenue:</b>	
Captured Taxes	\$ 1,227,307
Interest Income	54,653
Local Community Stabilization Share Appropriation	10,277
Bond Sales Proceeds	-
Bond Sale Premium	-
<b>Total revenues</b>	<u>1,292,237</u>
<b>B. Bond reserve</b>	530,480
<b>C. Expenditures</b>	
Administrative:	
Director Wages	75,735
Employee Wages - Administrative	63,333
Employee Wages - Maintenance	23,460
Fringe Benefits	50,140
Office Supplies	1,679
Operating Supplies	12,120
Auditing/Accounting	5,250
Parcel Maintenance Fee	17,176
Membership & Dues	29,017
Secretary	-
Engineering	15,903
Consultant	27,266
Public Relations	44,427
Transportation	1,787
Training	4,133
Printing & Publishing	17,649
Insurance	4,332
Workers Compensation Insurance	658
Utilities	55,425
Other	8,967
Legal Fees	3,470
Bank Charges/Bond Handling Fees	5,391
<b>C. Expenditures (continued)</b>	
Infrastructure improvements and other:	
Capital outlay	72,030
Traffic Signalization	46,713
Belleville/Ecorse Intersection	473,544
Amenities fund	-
Sidewalks	317,245
Belleville Streetscape	23,593
Belleville Rd. Right of Way	25,281
Streetscape Maintenance	27,825
Belleville Road Placemaking	500
Property Acquisition	8,923
Landscape Design Services	278,505
Debt service:	
Interest	227,688
Principal	300,000
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<u>2,269,165</u>

**D. Outstanding bonded indebtedness (Plan 1)**

2012 Tax Increment Revenue Bonds	2.00-4.00%	
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
10/1/2016	200,000	141,425
10/1/2017	200,000	137,425
10/1/2018	205,000	133,425
10/1/2019	215,000	127,275
10/1/2020	220,000	120,825

(continued on page 25)

**Charter Township of Van Buren Downtown Development Authority Public Notice**

(continued from page 24)

10/1/2021	225,000	114,225
10/1/2022	230,000	107,475
10/1/2023	240,000	100,575
10/1/2024	245,000	92,475
10/1/2025	255,000	84,206
10/1/2026	265,000	75,600
10/1/2027	275,000	66,656
10/1/2028	285,000	57,375
10/1/2029	295,000	46,688
10/1/2030	305,000	35,625
10/1/2031	315,000	24,188
10/1/2032	330,000	12,375

2014 Tax Increment Revenue Bonds	Principal	2.00-3.75%
		Interest
10/1/2016	105,000	80,263
10/1/2017	110,000	77,113
10/1/2018	110,000	73,813
10/1/2019	115,000	70,513
10/1/2020	120,000	67,063
10/1/2021	120,000	63,463
10/1/2022	125,000	59,863
10/1/2023	130,000	56,113
10/1/2024	135,000	52,213
10/1/2025	140,000	47,656
10/1/2026	145,000	42,931
10/1/2027	150,000	38,038
10/1/2028	155,000	32,413
10/1/2029	160,000	26,600
10/1/2030	165,000	20,600
10/1/2031	170,000	14,000
10/1/2032	180,000	7,200

E. Initial assessed value	IFT	Prop tax
Base Value	-	25,103,784

**F. Captured value - 2014 tax year, received in 2015:**

Captured value - Winter	-	71,672,652
Captured value - Summer	-	73,788,274

**G. Tax increment revenues from 2014 tax year, received in 2015:\***

	Mills	Dollars
County	6.6380	487,712
Jail	0.9381	67,236
HCMA	0.2146	15,381
WCCC	3.2408	232,277
SET**	6.0000	-
RESA 125**	3.4643	-
School Oper 125**	18.000 (real) or 6.000 (personal)	-
Detroit Institute of Art	-	-
Zoological Auth.	-	-
Township	0.9144	65,537
Public Safety	4.0000	286,691
Library	0.7000	50,171
Parks	0.2459	17,624
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,222,629</b>

\* there may be a timing difference from item A.

\*\* captured amounts on school mills were limited

Publish: October 13, 2016

**Superintendent's Corner**  
 By Pete Kudlak  
 Superintendent,  
 Van Buren Public Schools



Since we are all up to our ears in the current political scene, I thought that it would be a good time to give the State of the District. October is ideal for this as we have our fall student count day and we typically have our audit report back from the previous school year.

This information is very important as we are a \$47 million business. With that being said, we need to continue to spend our time and energy focusing on improving the teaching and learning for our students.

Van Buren Public Schools receives \$7,667 per student in Foundation Allowance. This is about \$100 more than the lowest funded districts in the state and about \$5,000 less than the highest funded. Yes, you read that correctly ... some districts get over \$12,000 per student! I am not sure why the State of Michigan believes that some students are worth more than others.

Over the past five years, our enrollment has dropped by 613 students. That is a \$4.7 million per year change in revenue. As of last Wednesday (Count Day in Michigan), we had 4,734 students. These students are spread over 88 square miles and are picked up by 66 bus runs.

The birth rate in Michigan had a steep decline during the recessionary years. Incoming kindergarten classes have been smaller than the graduating seniors each year. This year that difference equates to 96 students.

The student loss across Michigan has been causing financial distress in many school districts. It has even caused some districts to dissolve. Van Buren Public Schools saw this coming and with the support of our 549 employees (who took major financial concessions) weathered the storm and avoided the State Control that some of our neighbors have experienced.

At year's end, we had an 18.31% fund balance. That is our savings account that gets us through payroll times when we do not receive our state aid checks from the state, as well as, any unplanned major repairs (that happens when you have just over one million square feet of buildings). Many districts have to borrow money for these times which causes them to incur interest charges.

While we are in solid financial position, we have some clear needs as a district. Most of our salary scales are not competitive and it causes us to lose great employees to other districts for more pay. We also need to add some staff in key areas (some class sizes are large). I would love to offer a more robust selection of courses at the Middle and High Schools, as well as an increased use of technology in educating our students.

If you are interested in learning more about school finance, please join us at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 13, at Livonia Franklin High School for a Town Hall discussion. VBPS, Wayne-Westland, Livonia, and Plymouth-Canton school districts are hosting this event to organize an active community group together to make changes in this broken system that values students differently based upon their zip code.

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

## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*Out of the 554 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.*

### Sunday, Oct. 2:

0009 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Tyler  
0017 – robbery, Haggerty Rd.  
0415 – noise complaint, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
0917 – larceny, Parkwood Dr.  
0921 – larceny, Huron River Dr.  
0938 – larceny, Hull Rd  
0948 – property damage, Briarwood Ct.  
1020 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.  
1307 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Walmart  
1314 – abandoned auto, Denton Rd.  
1404 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Oak Ln.  
1512 – larceny, Hull Rd.  
1709 – malicious destruction of property, N. Cumberland Dr.  
1727 – intimidation threat, Maple Dr.  
1741 – intimidation threat, Maple Dr.  
1753 – larceny, McBride Ave.  
1955 – property damage accident, Savage Rd.  
2026 – civil matter, Maple Dr.  
2040 – family trouble, Dellor St.  
2154 – disturbance, N. Ponderosa Trl.

### Monday, Oct. 3:

0227 – assault & battery, Rose Blvd.  
0506 – vehicle repossession, Oak Ln.  
0804 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Oak Ln.  
0904 – property damage accident, Belleville  
1027 – fraud, Denton Rd.  
1240 – property damage accident, Belleville  
1248 – abandoned auto, Beckley Rd.  
1328 – property damage accident, Belleville  
1335 – retail fraud, Rawsonville Rd.  
1431 – fight, Rose Blvd.  
1438 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1450 – fraud, Robson Rd.  
1456 – personal injury accident, Ecorse/Belleville  
1603 – family trouble, Hamilton Ct.  
1733 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Denton  
1753 – harassment call, Park Estates  
2025 – private property accident, Meijer Gas  
2234 – suicide or attempt, Maple Dr.

### Tuesday, Oct. 4:

0234 – assault & battery, Meadows Cir.  
1015 – code enforcement, Ecorse Rd.  
1212 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1348 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1551 – harassment call, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1938 – personal injury accident, NB I-275/Ecorse  
1945 – shots fired, Haggerty Rd./E. Huron River

### Wednesday, Oct. 5:

0132 – overdose, Tyler Rd.  
0457 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0759 – larceny, Denton Rd.  
0852 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Robson  
0914 – larceny, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
0938 – property damage accident, Belleville / Meijer  
1151 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.  
1207 – disorderly conduct, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1218 – property damage accident, Van Born  
1237 – property damage accident, Costco  
1317 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1341 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1353 – fraud, Sawgrass Ct.  
1400 – family trouble, Cross St.  
1402 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1436 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Haggerty Rd.  
1445 – breaking & entering, E. Cherry  
1508 – malicious destruction of property, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1808 – child abuse, Rawsonville Rd.  
1847 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2013 – traffic hazard, Haggerty Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.  
2036 – trespassing, Haggerty Rdd.  
**Thursday, Oct. 6:**  
0006 – harassment call, Kirkridge Park Dr.  
0030 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.

0300 – hospice, Martz Rd.  
0446 – assault & battery, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
0927 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1027 – vehicle repossession, Visteon  
1032 – neighbor trouble, Bog Rd.  
1115 – suspicious situation, W. Huron River Dr. / Lake Pointe Pass  
1158 – breaking & entering, Belleville/Ecorse  
1618 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Independence  
1638 – trespassing, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
1956 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2007 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2110 – intimidation threat, Denton Rd.  
2134 – PPO violation, Oak Ln.  
2208 – noise complaint, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
2228 – disturbance, Denton Rd.

### Friday, Oct. 7:

0528 – hold-up alarm, Van Born  
1000 – retail fraud, Rawsonville Rd.  
1117 – disorderly conduct, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1152 – disorderly conduct, Parkwood Dr.  
1216 – private property incident, Parkwood Dr.  
1322 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1413 – property damage accident, Ecorse/I-275  
1733 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1824 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1916 – juvenile complaint, Denton/Belleville  
1937 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr./Haggerty Rd.  
1937 – personal injury accident, Haggerty Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1947 – trespassing, Bog Rd.  
2023 – traffic hazard, E. Huron River Dr. / Haggerty Rd.  
2149 – disorderly conduct, N. Woodbury Dr.

### Saturday, Oct. 8:

0138 – assault & battery, Kennedy Ct.  
0257 – disorderly conduct, Jackson St.  
0340 – operating while intoxicated, Haggerty Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.  
0930 – hunting complaint, Haggerty School  
0955 – larceny, North Shore Dr.  
1202 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1910 – civil matter, Richmond Dr.  
1939 – private property accident, Ecorse BP  
2100 – malicious destruction of property, Brandi  
2348 – disorderly conduct, Denton Rd.

Also on this week's log are 177 traffic stops, 33 of which were on the I-94 freeway.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Oct. 2:

0023 – assist fire dept., E. Waterbury Ct.  
0123 – parking complaint, Carmell St.  
0312 – suspicious situation, N. Liberty St.  
0447 – agency assist, N. Ponderosa  
1319 – intrusion alarm, Main St.  
1625 – juvenile complaint, Owen St.  
2347 – domestic assault, S. Liberty St.

### Monday, Oct. 3:

0148 – agency assist, Savage/Pond Ridge  
1142 – background investigation, Main St.  
1147 – neighbor trouble, Second St.  
1155 – animal complaint, S. Edgemont Ave.  
1556 – civil matter, E. Waterbury Ct.  
1754 – civil matter, S. Liberty St.  
2023 – civil matter, Carmell St.  
2053 – civil matter, Loza Ln.

### Tuesday, Oct. 4:

1339 – harassment call, Main St.  
1644 – civil matter, Light Tower Dr.  
1656 – civil matter, Loza Ln.

### Wednesday, Oct. 5:

0818 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
1141 – animal complaint, Astor  
1221 – vehicle lockout, Sumpter Rd.  
1302 – assist fire dept., San Carlos St.  
1441 – background investigation, Main St.  
1516 – suspicious situation, W. Columbia Ave.  
1517 – suspicious situation, Clarence St.  
1805 – fraud, Chase Bank  
1812 – welfare check, Carmell St.  
1909 – personal injury accident, Church St.  
2234 – intimidation threat, Belle Villa Blvd.

### Thursday, Oct. 6:

0507 – motorist assist, N. Liberty St./1<sup>st</sup> St.

0543 – suspicious vehicle, Denton/Belleville  
1044 – miscellaneous complaint, Owen St.  
1206 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.  
1206 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.  
1325 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
1357 – private property accident, Main St.  
1422 – sexual assault, Church St.  
1606 – vehicle repossession, Henry St.  
1634 – traffic complaint, Main St./Denton Rd.  
1724 – background investigation, Main St.  
1726 – background investigation, Main St.  
1834 – motorist assist, Belleville/Denton  
2048 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.

### Friday, Oct. 7:

0419 – parking complaint, Carmell St.  
0504 – warrant arrest, Sumpter/Bemis  
0845 – assist fire dept., Harbour Pointe Dr.  
0935 – assault & battery, W. Columbia Ave.  
1131 – background investigation, Main St.  
1342 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
1518 – civil matter, J&T  
1845 – warrant arrest, Tyler  
1854 – suspicious person, Biggs Ave.  
1943 – vehicle lockout, Lakeview

### Saturday, Oct. 8:

0612 – noise complaint, Loza Ln.  
1134 – assist fire dept., Victorian Ln./Savage  
1206 – suspicious person, Owen  
1343 – traffic complaint, Main St./E. Columbia  
1521 – information, N. Liberty St.  
1558 – vehicle lockout, Main St.  
2224 – vehicle lockout, Lakeview

Also on this week's log are 28 traffic stops.

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Oct. 2:

0221 – fire dept. assist, Timberlane Dr.  
0504 – assist other agency, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.  
0959 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 21000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
1103 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Willis  
1338 – suspicious incident, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.  
1637 – animal complaint, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1716 – fire dept. assist, Second St.  
1903 – juvenile complaint, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.  
2259 – animal complaint, Judd/Martinsville  
2356 – neighbor dispute, Wayside

### Monday, Oct. 3:

0009 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.  
0020 – noise complaint, Second St.  
0057 – suspicious incident, 24000 bl. Haggerty  
0334 – suspicious incident, Colorado  
0343 – mental health commitment, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.

0706 – animal complaint, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.  
0959 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1005 – recovered property, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1039 – assist other agency, Willow/Rawsonville  
1107 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1404 – juvenile complaint, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1721 – 911 hang up, Clark/Judd  
1734 – fire dept. assist, Pecan  
1752 – well-being check, 10000 bl. Rawsonville  
2005 – warrant arrest pick up, Rawsonville/Judd

### Tuesday, Oct. 4:

0349 – ordinance violation, 24000 bl. Sherwood  
0606 – suspicious incident, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0756 – citizen assist, Carriage Ln.  
0758 – runaway juvenile, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1135 – civil dispute, 40000 Harris Rd.  
1203 – neighbor dispute, Colorado  
1330 – well-being check, Pecan  
1338 – civil dispute, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1803 – suspicious incident, 18000 bl. Martinsville  
1808 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1830 – noise complaint, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1855 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Roy Ct.  
2041 – reckless driver, Sumpter/Willis  
2100 – abandoned vehicle, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2234 – family trouble, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

### Wednesday, Oct. 5:

0031 – animal complaint, Sherwood/Oakville  
Waltz  
0336 – suspicious incident, Montana  
0740 – alarm, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.  
0802 – 911 hang up, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.

1635 – property damage accident, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

2006 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Haggerty / Willis

### Thursday, Oct. 6:

0015 – suspicious incident, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
0334 – civil dispute, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
0701 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.  
0937 – well-being check, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1036 – alarm, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1417 – threats complaint, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1524 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1711 – lost property, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
1834 – larceny, New Mexico  
1848 – juvenile complaint, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1854 – disorderly person, Second St.  
2124 – suspicious person, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
2133 – citizen assist, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2302 – suspicious vehicle, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

### Friday, Oct. 7:

0044 – disorderly person, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.  
0332 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.  
0839 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1036 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1229 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1414 – harassment complaint, 25000 bl. Clark Rd.  
1419 – well-being check, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1809 – alarm, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1836 – neighbor dispute, Walnut  
1845 – fraud complaint, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
2104 – assist other agency, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2132 – ORV complaint, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

### Saturday, Oct. 8:

0151 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Liss  
0830 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1314 – animal complaint, 27000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1743 – assault, 19000 bl. Clark Rd.  
1814 – civil dispute, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2055 – well-being check, Arizona

Also on this week's log are 14 follow-up investigations, 46 miscellaneous details, 109 patrol checks, and 51 traffic stops.

## What was that big explosion in VBT on Friday night?

Van Buren Township Public Safety Director Gregory Laurain said there were eighteen 9-1-1 calls within one minute's time at about 8:40 p.m. Friday after a huge explosion shook windows and sent people out into the streets in northern VBT.

The calls came from the Ecorse/Mida Drive area to the north and Andover Farms to the south.

Director Laurain said the explosion seemed to be located at 8701 Belleville Road, the Belleville Manor mobile home park.

He said all the fire fighters were called out and police went into the neighborhood looking for signs of explosion, but found no smoke or odor and no debris.

Officers talked to people who came out of their homes after the explosion and were standing in the street, but there was no clue as to what had happened. Public Safety personnel were there for more than an hour investigating, Director Laurain said.

"It was significant enough to shake a lot of houses," Director Laurain said of the explosion. He said by Monday there still was no solution to the mystery of what had exploded.

A resident of Crowley Drive emailed the *Independent* on Monday asking about the explosion that shook her house. She said her friends who live two miles away on Hannan Road also heard the blast.

"We ran outside expecting to see a fire and cloud of smoke, but there was nothing but the sound of emergency vehicles. How can the police not know what happened when there are reports of at least seven patrol cars, a firetruck, and two ambulances zooming down Belleville Road?" she asked.

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City of Romulus	13.5579 Municipal Mills
Canton Township	10.9000 Municipal Mills
Van Buren Township	7.4144 Municipal Mills (Proposed)
Van Buren Town <b>EXPIRED</b>	4.9144 Municipal Mills (Current)
Sumpter Township	4.7904 Municipal Mills

\*Millage rates given reflect ONLY municipal rate (Excludes the rates of all other taxing jurisdictions, i.e., county, schools, etc.)

Data Sources:  
-2015 Apportionment Report, Charter County of Wayne  
-Washtenaw County 2015 Apportionment Report

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