



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Belleville DDA considers new city clock on 4th St. Sq.

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Oct. 16, the Belleville Downtown Development Authority agreed something should be done about the malfunctioning clock on the Fourth Street Square.

Assistant City Manager/DDA Director Steve Jones reported the clock, which is from the 1990s, is not in good repair and is hours behind. He said he reached out to the Verdin Clock company in Cincinnati, which installed the clock and was told that particular model is obsolete. It has been 2010 since the Belleville clock was maintained.

Director Jones said there is a refurbishment option that would require attaching a small box at the base of the clock because the present clock is not big enough to hold the mechanism needed.

He said the basic refurbishment would be \$7,385 and about \$13,000 with new dials and the box.

A brand-new clock, similar to the present clock but with the controller built inside, would be \$17,413.

Mayor Ken Voigt said the existing clock is pushing 30 years old and is cast iron or aluminum and he doesn't like the idea of a separate box at the base.

DDA vice chairman John Winter asked if there are guarantees for refurbishing or for the new clock and Jones said he didn't know.

"We'd be better off with a whole new clock," Mayor Voigt said looking at the prices.

Jones said with a new clock it is run by a photo cell and the light comes on and off by itself and the time can be updated by WiFi.

Winter, who was running the meeting in the absence of chairwoman Alicia McGovern, said they need to know the

(continued on page 16)



Photo courtesy of TerryChristensen@tcdrone.net

Last week, DTE crews drilled beneath Belleville Lake to put a gas pipe in place under the Denton Road Bridge. Other DTE work will take until the end of the year and the bridge is expected to be demolished in January.

VBT approves budgets for 2025, honors Commissioner Haidous

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees which has been working on its 2025 budgets since April, held the required public hearings at the last meeting, and finally on Oct. 15, unanimously approved the documents.

This included approval of the amended 2024 and proposed general fund budget with a 2025 salary schedule; the amended 2024 special revenue funds and 2025

special revenue funds budget; and the amended water sewer fund budget and the proposed 2025 water sewer fund budget, with a fee schedule.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara said the general fund budget of \$24 million is balanced, as required.

He said the township has the second-lowest water rates in the region and in 2025 there will be a zero rate increase for water and sewer. He said the township is having a rate raise from DWLS, but won't raise

the township rates since they had a little surplus.

Before the board dealt with its brief agenda, which held mostly the budget approvals, it welcomed State Rep. Reggie Miller, D-Van Buren Township, who brought a framed tribute from the State Legislature honoring Wayne County Commissioner Al Haidous.

She said Commissioner Haidous will retire from the county commission at the

(continued on page 3)

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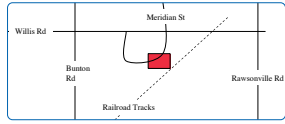
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT Board

(continued from page 1)

end of the year. She read a long list of his accomplishments.

Supervisor McNamara pointed out the Van Buren Township board honored Haidous a few months earlier. But, "He's been a pretty good egg to Van Buren Township and we want to celebrate that."

Haidous was invited to say a few words and his comments ended with, "Thank God for the USA where a story like mine could exist."

Officials from the city of Wayne, Romulus, and Belleville were present, along with the Assistant Wayne County Executive, other county officials, along with Commissioner-elect Allen Wilson and Haidous' family members.

The assistant county executive said he is related to Haidous and "his son-in-law is my first cousin." He said Haidous was an Arab-American elected mayor of Wayne, just after 9-11. He was the only Arab in the city and showed others that they could make it here.

Van Buren Police Chief Jason Wright said Haidous was his mayor when he served in Wayne. Chief Wright said he came to Wayne in 1993 as a 23-year-old patrol officer and Haidous taught him the art of compromise. He pointed out other police officers in the audience that were a part of that team in Wayne.

Romulus councilwoman Tina Talley read a proclamation from the Mayor of Romulus Robert McCraight, who could not be present.

Belleville Mayor Ken Voigt told Haidous, "The city of Belleville loves you."

VBT Clerk Leon Wright said 16-18 years ago he met Haidous going door to door as a candidate in Wright's front yard and he's known him ever since.

VBT Treasurer Sharry Budd said she's known Haidous since serving on the community block grant board with him in 1998. She said his story is when he and his wife were looking for a place to move in Michigan, they ended up in Wayne because of a flat tire. People came out and helped them and they decided that was the place for them. She said if it weren't for that flat tire, they could be residents of Van Buren Township.

Trustee Kevin Martin said he has known him for 10 years and he has been an exemplary commissioner.

Supervisor McNamara ended the comments with his story of his father telling him to go sit on Al Haidous' stool in his party store and talk to him if he wanted the answer to a particular question. He didn't want to sit on a stool and then someone else told him to go sit on the stool and eventually he did. He said Haidous use to talk politics for hours with people sitting

on his stool while he waited on customers.

In other business at the Oct. 15 meeting, the board:

- Heard Jeneen Rippey of Van Buren Township and Therese Antonelli of Belleville support the township's legal action against the radioactive waste coming into Wayne Disposal. Rippey said they are in a group with more than 750 residents gathering information on this;

- Heard Reg Ion say there wasn't a fuss at the time when the landfill started taking toxic waste. He said some of those on the board have taken money from the landfill company. "You let us down, bigtime," he said, adding that now there is quite a battle, and he can't imagine fighting a battle with the mafia. He also said the township still hasn't put up the deer-crossing signs it promised and the fence along the south Ecorse Service Drive was taken down and never put back up. He repeated, "The board sold us out and now you guys can fix it." (McNamara said the township has the deer signs and is waiting for permission from Wayne County to put them up);

- Heard Ms. Stevens say she has not a lot of faith in government, but she asked them to stop the radioactive waste and send it somewhere else;

- Heard John Williams of Van Buren Township since 1998 who said he served in the Marines and is a cancer survivor from Camp Lejuene. Now his cancer has stirred back up. "I don't trust government, don't trust big money," he said. "I hope the big money doesn't win out";

- Heard the president of Robinson River Park Homeowners Association implore the board to do everything it can to stop the radioactive waste;

- Heard McNamara say he stopped by the Denton Road Bridge earlier that day and DTE has bored the hole underneath the lake and reported the clay was very strong. They have to reem it out and make it bigger and then they have to put the pipe in and it will take weeks to put in valves and other things;

- Heard McNamara also say that the court case against Wayne Disposal was due in circuit court Oct. 16, but it has been moved to federal court at the request of Wayne Disposal. He said since the township is in litigation, along with the cities of Wayne, Romulus, and Belleville and Canton Township, he is not permitted to talk about the case; and

- Heard Clerk Wright say it was 25 days before the election and early voting begins Oct. 26 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. He said 7,895 absentee ballots were out and 2,151 back so far. Election day voting could have long lines, he said, urging everyone to make a plan to vote.



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

Officials from the cities of Belleville, Romulus, and Wayne attended the meeting, along with Wayne County officials, and other officials of many kinds, along with Commissioner Al Haidous' wife and daughters in the front row in the audience.



Wayne County Commissioner Al Haidous was honored for his years of service with a tribute from the state legislature, presented by State Rep. Reggie Miller at the Oct. 15 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees.

Correction:

Enhancement Millage was approved by voters in 2016, not 1994

The Wayne County Regional Enhancement Millage was approved by voters in 2016, not 1994 as reported in last week's story on the Oct. 14 Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education. It was not passed in 1994, but was passed after the 1994 law that said districts could not ask voters for more funds for operations.

Also, 33 school districts and 90+ public school academies will receive funding, not 32 districts as reported, stated Jacqueline Waynequite, communications strategist at Byrum & Fish, a firm based in East Lansing.

This request for a correction was sent to the *Independent* by Waynequite, who said she is working to promote the RESA Enhancement Millage.

We do not recall School Supt. Pete Kudlak mentioning 90+ charter schools at the Oct. 14 school board meeting, however.

We apologize for any errors.

Rosemary K. Otzman, editor

Law suit over radioactive waste disposal moved to federal court

Wayne Disposal, Inc., the hazardous waste landfill in Van Buren Township, moved the lawsuit filed against it to federal court on Oct. 15, citing a constitutional clause it argues blocks western Wayne County communities' fight against its disposal of waste from a Manhattan Project cleanup site.

According to a report in *The Detroit News*, Wayne Disposal cited the U.S. Constitution's Commerce Clause in its notice to move the case to U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Michigan.

The company contends the clause "has long provided that 'the problems of waste disposal' represent 'a matter national in scope and in concern'" and does not allow states or local governments to unilaterally stop shipments of out-of-state waste.

It also argued stopping the waste shipments would "fundamentally interfere" with the federal hazardous waste program and create a problem for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is charged with remediating Manhattan Project sites.

Belleville, Romulus, Canton Charter Township, Van Buren Charter Township and Van Buren Township fire chief filed a lawsuit against Wayne Disposal Inc. in September in Wayne County Circuit Court, with Wayne County later joining their effort.

The municipalities argue the landfill put their residents in danger by disposing of waste with low levels of radioactivity. They said they were "kept in the dark" about the hazardous material and are not equipped to respond if the material escapes.

The case has so far resulted in a delay of Wayne Disposal Inc.'s plan to import and dispose of waste with low levels of radioactivity from a cleanup site in western New York, although Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Kevin Cox allowed the landfill to continue importing similar waste from other sites.

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O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Roundabouts at 5 Points, Third St. considered by city

Belleville City Manager Jason Smith delivered a report on the SEMCOG Road Safety Audit that talked about pedestrian and vehicle safety in the city between Five Points and High Street.

The recommendations were written by SEMCOG people who stayed most of a day in Belleville to look things over. Guess what? A round-about at Five Points was suggested, along with a mini traffic circle at Main and Third streets. This is all to make traffic safer and reduced in speed.

Smith said the grant SEMCOG used to do the audit only allowed them to do the study from Five Points to High Street and didn't cover the troublesome intersection at Main and N. Liberty. Also, the grant didn't cover them giving the report themselves, so that's why Smith gave the report.

Five Points is complicated and confusing and a single-lane roundabout with a bit of a dogbone is suggested. Mayor Voigt, who likes roundabouts, said that maybe some of the property owned by the city could be used to make it happen so other property at the intersection wouldn't be impacted.

The mini traffic circle at Third was suggested because A&P no longer brings the traffic on Third that the light used to control and it could be eliminated.

There are no roundabouts in Wayne County and some city officials would like Belleville to be the first to have one.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

We are saddened to hear of the death of former Van Buren Township Trustee Al Ostrowski. He was an animal control officer when VBT had its own dog pound on Tyler Road, near Hannan.

Al loved animals and they loved him back. Since he started his own animal removal service, he comes into the office occasionally and last year showed me the baby racoons he rescued at a nearby apartment complex. I keep a picture among others with animals over my desk and I've got one of him lovingly caring for a puppy. Although I haven't seen him a lot lately, he will be missed by me and others. His truck with the large animals on the side was a regular down Main Street and the pictures always brought a smile.

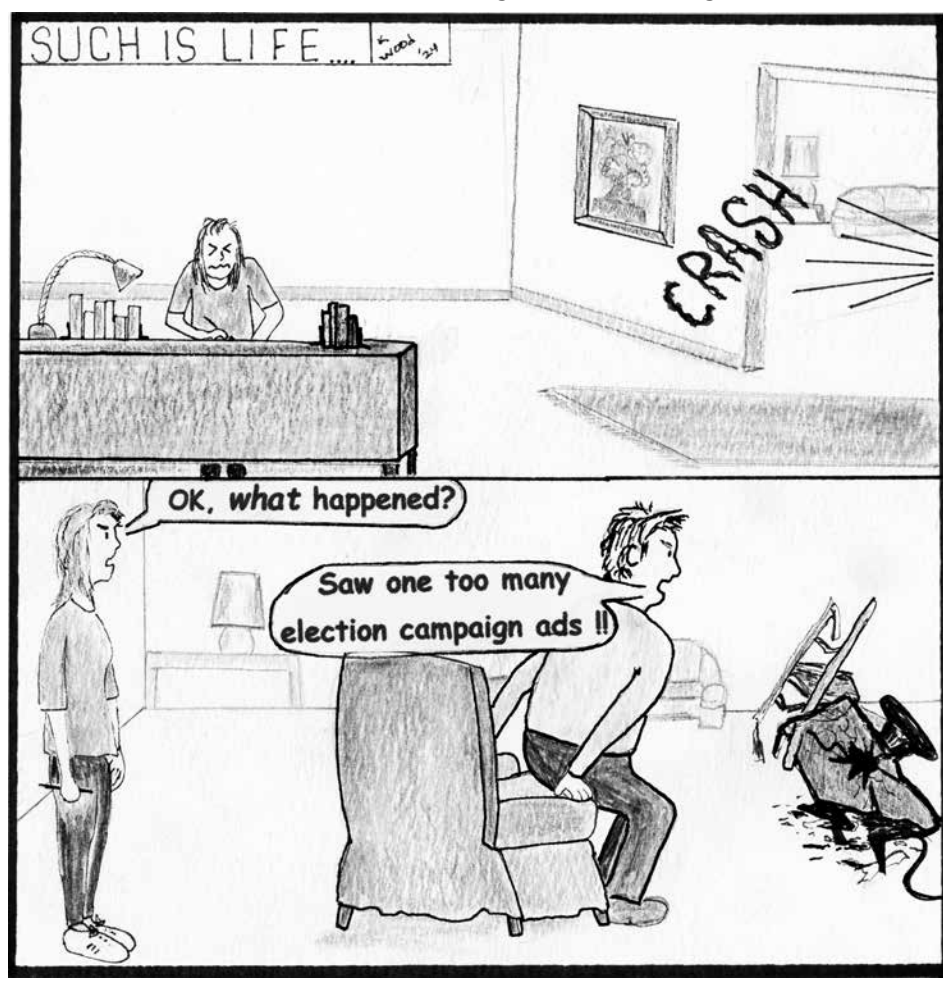
It's hard to tell what time it is for sure in Belleville. The clock at the Fourth Street Square has had the wrong time for years. Now it's hours off. The DDA is looking at options and may decide to replace it completely.

The clock on the wall at city council meetings is also an hour or so off. The mayor joked about it at Monday's meeting and he was told they plan to fix that soon.

The clock on the wall at the school board meetings in the high school cafeteria also is way off, but nobody mentions it at all.

You may think I'm a bit of a clock-watcher and I am. I like to keep track of how long governmental groups discuss a subject and there's no way I can look at the clock on the wall and be sure that's the right time.

I can't wear a watch so, I bring my own little clock and use that. At each meeting, I arrange my pad of paper, my pen, and then make sure my little watch is close by so



I'll know the time of day. I don't use a cell phone or a recorder at meetings. It's just me and the pen and paper. Works swell.

Someone dropped off a note at the office to share with readers: "Something to think about. From the Euphrates river to the sea, Israel will be free. Read Chronicles One, Chapter 18, verse three. Any questions? Ask you local orthodox Rabbi. He should know the answer."

At the Belleville DDA meeting last week, assistant city manager/DDA director Steve Jones said that at the Oct. 14 car show trunk or treat on Main Street, sponsored by Egan's Pub, one of the participants gave out 500 toy Matchbook cars to the children who attended. Reports say attendants of the final car show of the season were a huge mob.

In her written report on her projects for the month of October, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell said: "I have had two cataract eye surgeries a week apart, which is why you see me wearing sunglasses (it may be the only thing I am doing the doctor appreciates). I am listening to him, but I attended an event for a short period of time an hour after the second one and I will tell you it is a miracle how much more one can see after this surgery. The leaves are beautiful and I didn't know what I wasn't seeing until I could suddenly see again. Modern medicine has the potential to make so many lives better."

Belleville Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Bates is back from her latest trip to Florida and she reports she brought back 107 shells, but she also was attacked by No See Ums and she has 40 bites on her arms and back and she apologized for having to put cold compresses on them at Monday's city council meeting during the session.

Mayor Ken Voigt asked her if there are any shells left in Florida. She regularly reports on the hundreds she brings back from each visit.

She recommended that everyone should take the paid time off they are entitled to at work because when you stay home you look around and see everything that needs doing. If you go off and see other things it clears your mind and you feel better.

The Huron River Watershed Council reports that this summer, the Council and the City of Ypsilanti searched for mussels in the Huron River below Peninsular Dam in Ypsilanti. Before the dam can be removed, the team needs to identify, count, and locate mussels so they can be relocated before demolition.

We hope the plants that had to be moved from along the Denton Road Bridge are all safely moved and growing in their new locations.



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Letters

I want to thank the people who helped me

To the editor
 Last Friday, at about 4 p.m., I fell on the sidewalk near the cleaners on Main Street. I injured the left side of my face badly and was bleeding like crazy. It filled my handkerchief with blood. A lady saw me and came to help and then two guys came to help and they called 911.

The lady sat with me until the ambulance came and she was my savior.

I got a nice ambulance ride to the hospital and called my wife from the ambulance. Then I called her from the hospital and she came and stayed with me.

I would like to thank the people who helped me in person.

If you will call the *Independent* at 734-699-9020, they will give you my phone number. Please call me. I would like to thank you in person.

Dr. Les Neinas
 Van Buren Township

Give emergency vehicles the right of way

To the editor:
 At 5:42 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19, my husband and I were stopped at a traffic light on SB Belleville Road and Tyler. A fire truck was heading NB on Belleville Road. While it was safe, vehicles proceeded to turn right from WB Tyler and stop in the right lane of Belleville Road.

When the fire engine was within 100 feet of the intersection, employing three warning signals, two cars proceeded through the traffic signal heading WB on Tyler. Thankfully the fire truck was able to stop. These drivers ignored the blasting horn, strobe lights, and screaming siren.

Wake up, be alert, and give the emergency vehicles the right of way. It's the law.

Peggy Jacobs
 Van Buren Township

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Almost Halloween, but you were not ghosted

To the editor and those who applied for jobs:
 A message from Nicole Sumpter, Van Buren Township Director of Human Resources
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Due to a high volume of resumes received, we want to confirm that we **have received your resume** if you applied directly through the "Apply For A Township Job" link under the HR tab. We will review your resume within 7-10 working days. If you are selected for an interview, our HR Director will contact you via text message to schedule it. Please don't get discouraged if you do not receive an interview invitation.

We encourage you to check our website frequently and apply for other job openings that match your skills and interests. Your resume will be kept on file for at least six months after you apply. If you see a position that closely matches your skill set during this time, please email jobs@vanburen-mi.org to express your interest. There is no need to reapply.

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Vote for Robert Coutts for 34th District Judge

To the editor
 I have known Mr. Coutts through the Belleville Moose Lodge, legal counsel for the Belleville National Strawberry Festival and other charitable organizations in the Belleville area.

Mr. Coutts has been tireless in making his community better through his donated time to many organizations in the area. For a fact, many times, I picked up pallets of surplus food or bottled water from a local trucking company. Mr. Coutts facilitated Swift Trucking to donate surplus pallets of food and/or bottled water to the Sumpter food banks or other non-profit organizations. Mr. Coutts may be angry with me for telling you this. He didn't care about "getting the credit." All he cared about is that food and water went to needy families.

I cannot think of a better person to be the next 34th District Court Judge.

Danny Williams, Belleville

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Musings
By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director



Well Fordson showed up to play last Friday but the BHS Tigers walked away with another win, 31 to 0. I guess we should at least give them props for being willing to take the loss that they knew was coming. Tomorrow Belleville has a crossover (KLAA East meets West) away game with Howell High School. Tournaments start on Nov. 1.

Hope many of you had the opportunity to shop at Sumpter's Vendor Market over last weekend. Their last one of the year will be on Dec. 13 and 14. Tables will be available for \$10/each for crafter/vendors.

Sumpter Township has scheduled a Trunk or Treat on Monday, Oct. 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Community Center front parking lot. To reserve a spot to participate, call Erica, (734) 256-4417. The rest of you who just need more candy – save that date!

Booville events last Saturday had great turnouts. Lots of fun at the Monster Mutt Walk, good crowd to welcome Lance Parrish to Belleville plus yummy apple pies, and to end the day lots of candy and kids at the Van Buren Township Candy Loop. This month is so jam-packed with events you really have to be on your toes so you don't miss out.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the "Season's Reading Book Sale" on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 2 and 3. This will be the last used-book sale until spring at the Belleville Area District Library. A members-only sale will take place 11 a.m.-noon on Saturday for the Friends of the BADL. Memberships will be available at the door. The used-book sale will be open to the public on Saturday, Nov. 2, from noon to 3 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 3, from 1 to 4 p.m. On Sunday only, there will be a bag sale. Fill a bag for \$4/each.

Did you notice that Van Buren Township is having its annual Pumpkin Roll out on Nov. 2 at 10 a.m.? Bring your pumpkins to the sledding hill at Van Buren Park and give them a roll. The first 100 participants will get cider and donuts. Wonder who gets to clean up that mess.

BHS at-home games

• **Thursday, Oct. 24** – Freshman Football vs. KLAA Crossover, 4:30 p.m.; JV Football vs. KLAA Crossover, 6:30 p.m.; Girls Varsity Swim/Dive vs. Franklin HS, 6:30 p.m. Go Tigers!

Diane Kiessel
BHS Athletics Secretary

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Obituaries



Albert "Al" Ostrowski Sr.

ALBERT OSTROWSKI, SR.

(February 18, 1955 – October 18, 2024)
Albert "Al" Ostrowski Sr., age 69, of Belleville, MI, passed away on October 18, 2024. He was born on February 18, 1955, in Trenton, MI, to Felix and Rhea (LaRue) Ostrowski. After high school he began his family. He then worked as an Animal Control officer for many cities, and later became a Trustee for Van Buren Township. He was an animal lover and enjoyed his work. In his earlier years he loved to hunt and fish and be outdoors. Other things Al enjoyed included working on cars, carpentry, and his love of action movies. He loved to hear his movies loud, and he would watch them on repeat. Most of all he loved his family. Al is survived by his loving companion of many years, Joanna "Joanie" Wazney of Belleville, MI; his children, Ronald (Shelley) Ostrowski of Wyandotte, Al jr. (Tuesday) Ostrowski, of Wyandotte, MI, and Shelly (Cody) Clark of Carleton, MI; his sister Rhea "Kitty" Ostrowski, of Southgate, MI; his grandchildren, Kylie, Zachery, Emily, Quinton, Ashton, Kelsie, Hailey, Ariana, Emma, Allora, and Jackson; his great-grandchildren, Finn and Margo; as well as his neighbors and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Raymond Ostrowski.

According to his wishes, dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Donations may be made if desired in his memory to Buster Foundation. <https://busterdogs.com/our-links/>



KENNETH EDWARD GORHAM

(September 30, 1951 – October 16, 2024)
Age 73. BHS 1969. U.S. Army veteran. Survived by children Jessica Webb and Kenny Gorham; 4 grandchildren; siblings Bill Gorham, Jr., Judy Miotke, Karl Gorham, Laurie Piper. Cremation rites accorded. Local arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home. www.davidcbrownfh.com



Christopher Joseph Gurk

CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH GURK

(March 21, 1965 – October 18, 2024)
Christopher Joseph Gurk, affectionately known as Chris, passed away on October 18, 2024, at the age of 59, with his wife by his side. He was born on March 21, 1965, to the late David Gurk and Josephine Schilck in Ann Arbor, MI. Chris leaves behind a legacy of cherished memories with his surviving family, including his devoted wife Barbara (Bunyea) Gurk, who he married on June 5, 1993; mother Carole (Fisher) Gurk; sister Kristi Harvey; brother Ken Fisher (Kim); and a host of nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews. His family was his pride and joy, and his presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him. A graduate of Dexter High School in 1983, Chris was a man of many passions. He found joy in collecting and restoring antique tractors, tractor pulling competitions, admiring antique construction toys, tinkering with vintage snowmobiles, and studying various weapons. His enthusiasm for these hobbies was contagious, and he enjoyed sharing his knowledge and expertise with others. Beyond his personal interests, Chris was known for his exceptional skills, especially his ability to expertly maneuver a semi-trailer into the tightest spots. His talent and precision were unmatched, and he took great pride in his work. Chris made significant contributions to his community through his spirit of generosity and willingness to lend a helping hand. His impact on those around him was profound, and his kindness and thoughtfulness will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. A memorial service to celebrate Chris's life will be held at Faith Lutheran Church on North Territorial Road in Dexter, MI, on Saturday, October 26, at 11:00 a.m. Friends, family, and acquaintances are invited to honor his memory and share their stories of this remarkable man. In lieu of flowers please make contributions to the Cancer society or the humane society in Chris's name. In addition to his many accomplishments and contributions, Chris had a special bond with his grandfather during his formative years. This connection shaped him into the caring and compassionate person he became. He also shared a unique relationship with his grandnephew Maverick, creating lasting memories that will be cherished forever.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Oct. 28 – Special meeting of Belleville City Council at 6 p.m. to open bids for asphaltting the alley between W. Wabash and Henry streets. Also, Van Buren Township Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS
- Tuesday, Nov. 5 – Van Buren Township regular meeting canceled due to election.
- Monday, Nov. 11 – Van Buren Township Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS.
- Tuesday, Nov. 12 – Sumpter Township workshop/regular meeting, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library board, 7:30 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 13 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

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Belleville city council to sell all the Priority Waste bins left in city

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

When the city of Belleville signed a contract with a new trash service, its former provider, Priority Waste, pretty much left town before the end of its contract.

Residents were told to put out their recycling bins by the curb to be picked up and it never happened. DPW crews came in on a Saturday to pick them up and they have been stored in the DPW yard and the city's empty lot next door.

Mayor Ken Voigt said, at Monday's regular council meeting, that city manager Jason Smith had made many calls to Priority Waste to ask it to pick up the bins, to no avail. The city had its attorney send an official letter and Priority Waste responded with a brief letter saying it didn't want the bins.

At Monday's meeting, the council approved auctioning off the bins with other items it is auctioning and to keep 40-50 to rebrand with the city's name for special events. They will be sold in bunches of 10-20, city manager Smith said.

In other business at Monday's one-hour-14-minute meeting, the council:

- Heard a report from Michigan Municipal League representative Richard Murphy about opportunities for local entrepreneurs. He said they did a "deep dive" in Belleville and suggested popup events, minigrants, and to use regional sources available. The complete report was in the packet;

- Heard Smith give a report on the SEMCOG Road Safety Audit that was done between Five Points and High Street along Main, which included a roundabout at Five Points and a mini traffic circle at Third Street. This study is needed to apply for the Safe Streets for All grant the city is pursuing, Smith said. Fire Chief Brian Loranger said a roundabout at Five Points next to his business is not the answer and it would make things worse for his business and others because of the influx of vehicles from the high school in the afternoon;

- Approved the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Sale on the streets of Belleville April 11, 12, 13 to raise funds for Michigan Citizens with Disabilities;

- Approved the Belleville VFW/PLAV Veterans Day ceremony at 11:11 a.m. on Nov. 11 at the Veterans Memorial on High Street;

- Approved the annual Cinnamon Car Show at Victory Park on Father's Day, June 15, 2025. The show brought 126 cars

last year. Steve Cinnamon said he walked the site recently and said because of the changes to the park, the entrance for the cars will be a little bit further east at the end of the fence and there is a low spot that will have water if it rains and the grass will get beat down by the cars. The council said the grass would grow back;

- Approved selling the old street sweeper to Brown City. The vehicle was posted for sale and Brown City offered \$7,000;

- Approved \$1,191.07 worth of new data cabling because a new lieutenant/detective position is being created and there is no data drop in the area where the officer will have an office;

- Approved a contract for the next financial audit by Alan C. Young and Associates. Smith said last year it was not to exceed \$16,020 and this year it is not to exceed \$18,975;

- Set a special, brief meeting for 6 p.m., Monday, Oct. 28, to open bids for asphaltting the alley between W. Wabash and Henry streets so it can be done before the asphalt plants close for the season;

- Approved accounts payable and an expenditure in excess of \$500 to Atchinson Ford of \$626.38 for vehicle maintenance of a 2018 Ford Explorer;

- Approved having Osier Electric fix the electrical service on the roof of the fire department, so the new roof will be ready to be installed. A light on the roof does not work and Osier will be asked to put that into service, as well;

- Approved quotes from Leffler and Randy Brown for removing trees that are damaged;

- Heard city manager Smith report that the milling and capping of High and Liberty streets is being studied; boardwalk repairs start Thursday; hydrant flushing is under way and loss of pressure will be experienced by residents, leaf pickup starts Nov. 4, and the MDOT is coming out to inspect the city's vehicle to see what repairs need to be made;

- Heard Mayor Voigt report he tasted 17 pies as a judge in Saturday's Apple Pie Baking Contest and his "youngest son" won second place in a category of the Monster Mutt contest the same day. He referred to Alex, a rescue dog he now owns that came from Texas. He said Alex was dressed as a dragon. He said it cost the city \$200,000 to improve Church Street and it would have cost \$750,000 to improve the whole thing, but the city didn't have the

money and is trying to fix the streets the best it can without raising taxes;

- Heard Mayor Voigt report that he likes to go to the home football games at the high school and last Friday the police and fire departments had to do extra service and they are commended. He said two cars caught on fire in the Early Childhood Center's parking lot and damaged the lot. There also were a couple of fights. Mayor Voigt said some charges may be brought in the incidents. Police Chief Kris Faull was not present at the meeting;

- Discussed the monster pothole on High, the senior transportation issue, and progress Davenport is making on cleaning up the residentially zoned property next to the Co-op on Sumpter Road; and

- Invited everyone to join in with eating a piece of the cake brought by planning

commissioner Becky Hasen to celebrate both the Oct. 10 birthday of city manager Jason Smith, as well as the one-year anniversary of his position as city manager.

More Letters

Only one question

To the editor

I voted last week. Only had one question: Am I better off today than four years ago? My answer: A loud NO.

Mickey Widener
Van Buren Township



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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman
 On Friday, State Rep. Reggie Miller, D-Van Buren Township, presented a check for \$750,000 to the city of Belleville for bank stabilization and landscaping at Horizon Park. From left are Chris Donley, Bellevilleville Downtown Development Authority; Police Chief Kris Faull; City Manager Jason Smith; Rep. Miller; City Councilman Randy Priest; Mayor Ken Voigt; Councilwoman Julie Kissel; Assistant City Manager Steve Jones; and DDA treasurer Sabrina Robinson-Williams. The ceremonial check also is signed by State Senator Darrin Camilleri and is from the state's general fund, recently approved.



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The Belleville Central Business Community Invites You
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Sophia Sloan of Belleveille brought her dog Maybel to the Mutt Walk.



Mayor Ken Voigt brought Alex to the Mutt Walk. Alex is a rescue from Texas.

Monster Mutt Walk

Winners by Category

There were 34 participants in the Monster Mutt Walk this year.

Cutest

- 1st, Maybel, French Bulldog, Sophia Sloan, Belleveille
- 2nd, Alex, Shitzu mix, Ken Voigt, Belleveille
- 3rd, Koko Bean, PomChi, Tracy Jackson

Scariest

- 1st, Wolfy Baldrige, Pomeranian, Rebecca Baldrige, Sumpter Twp.
- 2nd, Millie, Mix, Victoria Baker, Romulus
- 3rd, Chewie & Sissie, Newfoundlands, Connie Sroda, Van Buren Twp.

Best Mutt

- 1st, Baxter, Lab/Pitbull, Caitlin Henry, Van Buren Twp.
 - 2nd, Lily & Maya, Labs, Martha Degenhardt, Belleveille
 - 3rd, Winston, Raggle, Heather Asfour, Willis
- ### Family
- 1st, Penny & Pebbles, Golden Retrievers, Michelle Davenport
 - 2nd, Kenobi, Rot., Heeler, Lab, Jessica Richison, Van Buren Twp.
 - 3rd, Sofia, Doberman Pinscher, Leslie Watt, Van Buren Twp.

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Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

On Saturday afternoon, former Detroit Tiger Lance Parrish and writer Tim Gage signed their "Enchanted Season" book during a session under a tent at the Fourth Street Square sponsored by the Belleville Downtown Development Authority and put together by DDA member Kelly McWilliams.



There were 17 pies entered in the Apple Pie Baking Contest put on Saturday at the Fourth Street Square. Martha Hanoian won first place, Emily McHugh won second and Sami Powers won third.

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Sumpter board approves 3 reappointments to planning commission

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its meeting on Oct. 8, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved the supervisor's reappointments of three members to the planning commission.

Jane Stalmack and Matt Oddy were reappointed to both the planning commission and the zoning board of appeals, with Stalmack's term to expire Nov. 14, 2027 and Oddy's to expire Nov. 20, 2028.

Daniel Watson was reappointed to the planning commission, with his term to expire Nov. 13, 2027.

In other business at the 58-minute meeting on Oct. 8, the board:

- Approved the quote provided by PPM Tree Service for the Graham Park project at a total cost of \$22,850;
- Removed from the agenda approval of a one-year contract renewal with JaPro Janitorial at a 3% incrd rate of \$3,401 per month, effective Oct. 1, 2024. Township manager Tony Burdick asked for the removal in order to improve services;
- Heard a resident of Elwell Road ask if there is any more information about the illegal slaughtering in their neighborhood. Attorney Rob Young reported it's in the court process and they had a hearing. They are looking for temporary compliance, "which we have now ... they are not operating a slaughter house." The man asks Young how he knows that? Young said police have given him no new citations. The man said harassments are being stepped up now against the neighbors, and threats. "It's in the court now," Trustee Oddy said. The man asked to have someone responsible for letting the people know when it's going to court and Young said he was the one asked to do that and he said no. Young said he doesn't set the docket or the adjournment. "We don't provide updates on ordinance violations," Oddy said. "That's not what

we do in board meetings." Young said if there is a problem to call the police and they will come out and investigate. "You can smell it, plain as day, all day long," the neighbor said, referring to the slaughtering and the burning of the entrails;

• Heard Mary Ban say that Trustee Tim Rush brought her some good news and she thanked him. Trustee Rush said he had to shake a lot of trees and had to go to the state, because of outrage with the service of Comcast. He said he was told in two to three business days an engineer would call and five minutes later an engineer called. Rush said Comcast will buy the township a new encoder and install it free. That is expected to solve the problem of the township channel. Ban also asked about the progress on the handicapped access doors at the community center and was told the parts will be coming in the next two weeks. She also said the paved parking lots are beautiful and good for people in wheelchairs and walkers;

• Heard township manager Burdick say they are getting another bid for HVAC units for the community center, the Willis Road

sewer work is being reviewed, and the Willow Road water main is being studied by Hennessey Engineers who have a draft-level report. Also, 89% of the \$984,000 in township ARPA funds have been used, leaving \$105,000 to apply;

• Heard Young report about two lots, owned by Sumpter Township, that people

have offered to buy and there are questions, so he will get the surveyor in. This was added as an agenda item and passed unanimously to get a surveyor in; and

• Heard Young report on the ongoing Republic Waste lawsuit brought by surrounding communities.



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Tractors raise \$1,240 for Guiding Harbor

To the editor:
 Belleville Harvest Festival Tractor Parade

was a success. We have raised \$1,240 to be given to Guiding Harbor Belleville (www.guidingharbor.org).

We would like to thank the tractor participants for donating and the following people/companies: Belle Nails,

Sumpter NAPA Auto Parts, Dale Biniacki Committee, Wayne County Farm Bureau, and Temples Tree Service.

Thanks to Belleville Central Business Community for providing lunch for the tractor participants. Thanks to Sumpter and Belleville Police Departments for their escorts. Tractors left the Traskos residence on Willis Road.

Diane Traskos, Sumpter Township
 Photos courtesy of Jake William Maness

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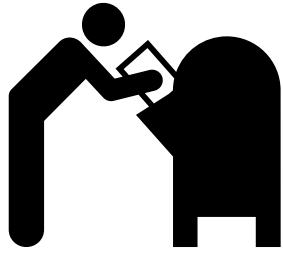
Judicial Endorsements:

Judge Kathleen McCann, 16th District Court
 Judge Richard Hammer, 21st District Court
 Judge Victoria Shackelford, 23rd District Court
 Judge Raeigen Evans, 36th District Court



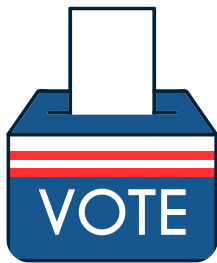
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CLERK'S OFFICE

UNDERSTANDING 2024 VOTING



Absentee Voting

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



Early Voting

October 26 to
November 3

Early Voting allows voters to cast their votes in person **nine days** prior to the General Election, starting Saturday, October 26th, until Sunday, November 3rd from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This process allows voters to cast their ballot in a tabulator (including their absentee ballot) just as they would on election day. All voters early vote at Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road.



Election Day

On **Election Day**, voters must vote at their designated precinct.

Do not wait until the last minute to make your plan to vote! To locate your precinct and sample ballot, visit mi.gov/vote.

Voters can also find a precinct map at vanburen-mi.org. Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. on November 5th.

For more information, call [734-699-8909](tel:734-699-8909) or email elections@vanburen-mi.org

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2024 SWDC Voter Guide

Moving Michigan

Forward

Who We Are

A group of like minded residents from The City of Belleville, Huron, Sumpter, and Van Buren Townships seeking to protect the rights and freedoms of the people in Michigan.

Flip the Ballot. Complete the Non-Partisan section.

Justice of the Michigan State Supreme Court

- Kimberly Ann Thomas
- Kyra Harris Bolden

Wayne County 3rd Circuit Court

- Adrienne G. Scruggs

Wayne County Probate Court

- Macie Gaines
- Ron L. Haywood

Why Vote Blue?

To stop Project 2025. The Trump Republicans' plan to eliminate our rights. Michigan Democrats will protect our rights to keep overtime pay, public education, freedom of choice and to use fertility treatment, and the ability to love who you want as you are.

“We’re not going back” Kamala Harris

so

“Mind Your Own Damn Business” Tim Walz

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- Kamala Harris
- Tim Walz

US Senate

- Elissa Slotkin

US Representative – 6th District

- Debbie Dingell

MI House of Representatives

- Kyle Wright - 29th District
- Reggie Miller - 31st District

Wayne County Commissioner 11th District

- Allen R. Wilson

State Board Of Education

- Theodore Jones & Adam Zemke

U of M Board of Regents

- Denise Ilitch & Shauna Ryder-Diggs

MSU Board of Trustees

- Rebecca Bahar-Cook & Thomas Stallworth III

WSU Board of Governors

- Rasha Demashkieh & Mark Gaffney

VOTE BLUE

Paid for by Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club, PO Box 1182, Belleville, MI 48112"

Belleville DDA

(continued from page 1)

warranty for both options and the cost out the door, and have Jones bring the information back to the next meeting.

Mayor Voigt said somebody needs to go measure the current clock to make sure the replacement is the right height.

Jones said he will find out what it would cost to get the city seal on the clock.

Full-time DDA Director

The DDA also discussed at length the proposal to hire a full-time DDA Director. The DDA currently shares Jones with the city.

Treasurer Sabrina Richardson-Williams said as a first step she got the job description for DDA's previous full-time director Carol Thompson and went to Van Buren Township DDA Director Merrie Coburn's job description and Coburn gave her copies of the Holly and Romeo job descriptions.

She said the committee said the DDA needs a full-time director. There was discussion about whether Jones would come on full time and leave his city position and she didn't know what Jones wants to do.

DDA member Valerie Kelley-Bonner said there is a uniqueness in what Jones is doing and the DDA hasn't even been a part of the city discussion on how that would work.

"It's not an emergency to make a decision on this tonight," said Mayor Voigt. He said the city is trying to hire a DPW director and the person accepted the job and then withdrew, putting the hiring back to square one with advertising.

Mayor Voigt suggested giving everyone time to think about it and table action until the first of the year.

DDA member Chris Donley suggested rewriting the 2016 job description.

Richardson-Williams asked Jones if he would be willing to be DDA director and he said he doesn't know the details of how that would be.

Mayor Voigt said things are getting done now.

Jones said he would like a job description before making a decision.

Mayor Voigt suggested forming a personnel committee to work on a job description and he would be happy to help.

Donley said Jones is very involved with Music Lakeside and asked if that would continue as a part of his duties.

Mayor Voigt said Jones has been working on Music Lakeside for 15 years without pay.

Kelley-Bonner said the DDA needs to know what it needs and how much it's going to cost.

Mayor Voigt said it could be a three-person committee.

Richardson-Williams said she got his present salary and the DDA could afford to pay him, but it paid \$300,000 for the parking lot and 20,000 to hard-surface the alley, and now more is needed for the hardware store.

Mayor Voigt said the DDA has a fund

balance of about \$1.2 million and it isn't a problem to spend it. Later he explained a salaried position could not come out of the fund balance.

He said the DDA has three options: Hire Jones full time, hire someone else full time, or go on the way it is now. He said the first step would be to put together a job description.

Mayor Voigt said having a good DPW person is essential to this board and the city has to have higher standards than in the past.

What he's been doing overlaps with the city and change should be taken slowly and they shouldn't rush into anything, Mayor

Voigt said.

The DDA voted to set up a three-person committee for the job description. It will be made up of Mayor Voigt, vice chairman Winter, and chairman McGovern, if she wants it, and Donley if she doesn't want to be on the committee.

Kelly McWilliams, of the Economic Development Committee, asked for the committee to put a performance review in the job description, remind them that Richardson-Williams has been asking for a job review for Jones for some time.

In other business at the Oct. 16 meeting, the DDA:

- Heard Donley report from the Marketing

Committee that there is a Facebook page now. Jones said they just got it last week;

• Heard Richardson-Williams report that the Budget and Finance Committee determined if the DDA paid \$80,000 for a director, they would have a deficit. She said they have to be mindful. She said the summer taxes will be coming in;

• Heard Kelley-Bonner report on the youth project her SOOAR business is doing with the school. She said it is not a DDA project, but it goes along with the idea Richardson-Williams has for an alley project. Donley said they need more things

(continued on page 17)



Festival of Holiday Trees

2024 REGISTRATION



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Belleville DDA

(continued from page 16)

for kids to do downtown;

- Heard artist Vera Redden report she has finished the mural on the hardware store and she passed around a picture of the final result. Richardson-Williams said the ordinance calls for one-third of the window to be left clear, but Redden made a mistake and just painted one-third. Donley said the result was shorter than he envisioned and Kelley-Bonner said she thought it would be bigger and it's hard to see just driving by. "We should have been out there with eyeballs" while it was being done, Donley said. After discussion, the DDA approved paying her the original amount due of \$1,208.71 and authorized another \$600 for more paint and more of her time to make the drawings bigger. Donley said he had some ideas and would meet with her;
- Tabled the hardware store wall project until after the election. This will give city engineers time to look at the project and make a recommendation. Bids are currently required by the city charter for any project over \$5,000. Mayor Voigt pointed out

changes to the city charter are on the Nov. 6 ballot and bidding is included, so maybe they should wait until after the election. Jones had presented two proposals with quotes, with one being to completely take out and rebuild the wall, which was costly, and one to build another attached wall to reinforce the failing wall, which was a third of the cost;

- Heard McWilliams promote the Oct. 19 book signing and apple pie baking contest at the Fourth Street Square, along with the Mutt Walk at the Fourth Street Place. The Witches Ball was mentioned along with trick or treat coming up downtown. Mayor Voigt said Belleville really does well with events, "Better than most communities."

Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Friday, Oct. 25** – Bridges & Boots: Strategy Shift Workshop to end Domestic Violence for Women, 6 p.m., Holiday Inn Suites, Belleville. Follow Bridges and Boots on Facebook for guest speakers and event information. Proceeds to Guiding Harbor, Belleville. Info: Sonja@TranquilStudio.org. Wear purple boots to receive a complimentary copy of the Bridges and Boots workbook with your ticket.
- **Thursday, Oct. 31** – Trick or Treat in downtown Belleville, 5-7 p.m., when businesses hand out candy to kids. The Belleville Central Business Community presents a costume contest at 6 p.m. in Fourth St. Square with prizes.
- **Friday, Nov. 1** – Potato Pancake Dinner begins at 4 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 28320 Waltz Rd., New Boston. \$15 per dinner. Take out orders begin at 5:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, Nov. 2, and Sunday, Nov. 3** – Used Book Sale at the Belleville Area District Library, 167 Fourth St., put on by Friends of the Library. Presale for Friends' members only is 11 a.m. to noon on Saturday, with the sale open to the public from noon to 3 p.m. On Sunday the sale is 1-4 p.m. On Sunday only, fill a bag with books for \$4. Sale prices are 2 hardcovers for \$1; and all paperbacks, children's

books, DVDs and CDs, and audio books are 4 for \$1.

- **Thursday, Nov. 7** – Sauerkraut Dinner at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 19109 Craig St., New Boston. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., seating begins at 5 p.m. Cost is \$15 which includes pork or kielbasa, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, squash, beverage, and choice of homemade pumpkin or apple pie. Carry-out available. (734) 753-9048
- **Saturday, Nov. 9** – Guiding Harbor presents "The Greatest Gala on Earth" from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Baronette Renaissance, 27790 Novi Rd., Nov 48377. Back by popular demand is Cameron Zvara, a comedy magician and entertainer. Call Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce for information, (734) 697-7151.

Birthdays

- Oct. 24 – Allison Robertson
 - Oct. 25 – Mary Ann Wells
 - Oct. 27 – Bill Wolters, Sherry Mastropietro
 - Oct. 30 – Amanda Riggs Cozart
- Do you have a birthday soon? Does someone you know have a birthday? Let us know and we will print the name as soon as possible. For more information, call (734) 699-9020.

Eagles to appreciate veterans with free supper on Sat., Nov. 9


The Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township, will present a Veterans' Appreciation Supper on Saturday, Nov. 9. The meal is free to all veterans and \$10 per guest.

The supper is 5 to 6:30 p.m. with a program and entertainment by DJ Anthony Richendollar to follow.

Menu is: Soup bar, salads, sandwich, and dessert.

Those participating must pick up their free veteran and guest tickets at the Eagles Lodge by Nov. 1 for the supper, so they will have a head count.

Questions? Call Ginger Bruder at (734) 461-2498.



Vote for Incumbent
Dionne Falconer
4 School Board
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Paid for by the Committee to Elect Dionne Falconer, 43705 Dorchester Dr., Belleville, MI 48111



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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES - OCTOBER 15, 2024**

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Zoom Meeting ID for public participation: 894 2765 4392. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Boynton, Trustee Martin, Trustee Frazier and Trustee Kelley. Others in attendance: Deputy Supervisor Selman, Recording Assistant Beaudry, Director of Community Services Renaud, Deputy Director of Community Services Dohring, Director of Recreation Gerhart, Director of Parks Locke, Director of Public Services Lockett, Director of Water and Sewer Lawrence, Police Chief Wright, Deputy Police Chief Monte, DDA Director Coburn, Director of Human Resources Sumpter, Director of Municipal Services Akers and an audience of 28.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

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

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA: Boynton moved, Budd seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2024, Prepaid List of October

3, 2024, Prepaid List of October 10, 2024, and Voucher List of October 15, 2024. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None
C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS: Candy Loop is taking place on Saturday, October 19 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at Quirk Park; DTE has begun work boring a hole into the lake bed of Belleville lake to install a pipe for the Denton Road Bridge construction; court proceedings regarding the radioactive waste from New York has been moved to federal court; and Clerk Wright informed voters of their three options for voting, Absentee Voting, Early Voting and Election Day Voting, and reminded voters not to wait until the last minute to make a plan to vote.

State Representative Reggie Miller recognized Wayne County Commissioner Al Haidous for his years of service. Commissioner Haidous's family, friends and coworkers, along with the Township Board all honored his accomplishments over the years.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Boynton moved, Martin seconded to approve Resolution 2024-17: 2024 Amended General Fund Budget and 2025 Proposed General Fund

Budget and Resolution 2024-16: 2025 Salary Schedule. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Frazier seconded to approve Resolution 2024-18: 2024 Amended Special Revenue Funds Budget and 2025 Proposed Special Revenue Fund Budgets. Motion Carried.

Kelly moved, Frazier seconded to approve Resolution 2024-15: 2025 Water/Sewer Fee Schedule and Resolution 2024-20: 2024 Amended Water Sewer Fund Budget and 2025 Proposed Water/Sewer Fund budget. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: The June 2024, July 2024, and August 2024 Financial Reports were accepted as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Multiple residents expressed their feelings on the New York radioactive waste and thanked the board for taking action, and a resident inquired about signs to protect deer on local roads.

BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Boynton moved, Kelley seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Published: October 24, 2024

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

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

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

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City of Belleville Public Notice



Hillside Cemetery Advisory Committee REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 295 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, Oct. 13:

0031 – welfare check, Lighthouse Dr.
0111 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
0354 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0526 – intrusion alarm, W. Huron River Dr.
0728 – missing person, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0804 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1100 – property damage accident, Timberland Dr.
1151 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1203 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1254 – neighbor trouble, Parkwood Dr.
1330 – hospice death, Martz Rd.
1505 – juvenile complaint, Parkwood Dr.
1510 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.
1514 – civil matter, Denton Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Westlake Cir.
1525 – threat, Edison Lake Rd.
1547 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Quirk Rd.
1620 – assist other dept., Sylvia Dr.
1654 – harassment call, Park Estates Dr.
1657 – 911 welfare check, Locust Dr.
1731 – missing person, Bemis Rd.
1803 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2045 – vehicle lockout, Lauren Ct.
1913 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
1945 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
2031 – PPO violation, Hardwood Dr.
2031 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd./Riggs Rd.
2144 – domestic, S. Woodbury Dr.

Monday, Oct. 14:

0000 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
0211 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
0704 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0812 – shooting, Kirkridge Park Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Purple Sage Ct.
0835 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0841 – harassment call, McKinley St.
0845 – breaking & entering, Belleville Rd.
0849 – animal complaint, W. Adams/Lincoln Ct.
0849 – property damage accident, Southport Apts.
0915 – fraud, Solitude Ln.
0940 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1045 – juvenile complaint, Parkwood Dr.
1222 – intrusion alarm, Morton Taylor Rd.
1228 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Rose
1321 – civil matter, Ecorse Rd.
1355 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.
1355 – animal complaint, Rogers Ave.
1437 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1515 – disorderly, Holly Ln./Redwood Dr.
1523 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Hannan
1523 – parking complaint, Bemis Rd.
1530 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1540 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1549 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr. / Haggerty Rd.
1657 – fraud, Assembly St.
1812 – threat, Maple Dr.
1800 – mental subject, Parkwood Dr.
1834 – road hazard, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.
1835 – threat, S. Bellridge Dr.
1849 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Timberview Dr.
1918 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
1933 – welfare check, Victoria St.
2015 – domestic, Oak Ln.
2033 – welfare check, S. Bellridge Dr.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.

Tuesday, Oct. 15:

0039 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Woodbury Dr.
0736 – intrusion alarm, Stamford Rd.
0804 – malicious destruction of property, S. Bellridge Dr.
1033 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1137 – domestic, Van Buren St.
1151 – intrusion alarm, Parkwood Dr.
1249 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

1613 – larceny from auto, Beckley Rd.
xxxx – repossession, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1721 – domestic, Denton Rd.
xxxx – civil matter, Edison Lake Rd./E. Huron River Dr.
1813 – breaking & entering, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1822 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service
1942 – welfare check, Rogers Ave.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Old Michigan Rd.
2002 – missing person, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2031 – intrusion alarm, W. Huron River Dr.
2145 – holdup alarm, Harmony Ln.
2250 – assist other dept., N. Ponderosa Trl.
2255 – domestic, Van Buren St.
2338 – shooting, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.

Wednesday, Oct. 16:

0021 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0142 – 911 welfare check, W. I-94/rest area
0212 – assist fire dept., Village Green Ln.
0313 – assist other dept., Rose Blvd.
0311 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd.
0754 – animal complaint, Tyler Rd./Lancaster Dr.
0755 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0954 – domestic, Lighthouse Dr.
xxxx – misc. complaint, S. Timberview Dr.
1024 – animal complaint, Thornwood Dr. / Greenwood Dr.
1122 – welfare check, Sunrise Ln.
1204 – traffic offense, Rawsonville Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
1242 – property damage accident, Samuel Barton
1336 – civil matter, Robbe Rd.
1438 – welfare check, Rose Blvd.
1434 – property damage accident, Ecorse Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1523 – property check, S. I-94 Service Dr./Ryznar
1545 – traffic offense, E. Main St.
1625 – family trouble, Rose Blvd.
1633 – domestic, Ash Dr.
1846 – welfare check, Quirk Rd.
1951 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Florence Ln.
2225 – intrusion alarm, Van Born
2317 – welfare check, Parkwood Dr.

Thursday, Oct. 17:

0041 – welfare check, N. Bellridge Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Pond Bluff Dr.
xxxx – repossession, N. Adams
0347 – family trouble, Dewitt Rd.
0521 – road hazard, Haggerty Rd./N. I-94 Service
0612 – intrusion alarm, Hanover Dr.
0730 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
0745 – vehicle lockout, E. Archwood Dr.
0841 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1004 – fraud, Leon Dr.
1052 – unattended death, Lacy Dr.
1112 – property check, Van Buren St.
1116 – assault & battery, Country Walk Blvd.
1112 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Birch Dr.
1254 – family trouble, Belle Pointe Dr.
1316 – private property/property damage accident, Sumpter Rd.
1334 – assault & battery, N. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Fret Rd.
1428 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1528 – vehicle lockout, Martz Rd.
1756 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
1758 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1812 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
1845 – welfare check, Edwards Rd.
1833 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – private property impound, Westlake
1841 – harassment call, Woodbury Green
1851 – civil matter, Chatsworth Dr.
2002 – misc. complaint, Belleville Rd.
2118 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Bog Rd.
2226 – intrusion alarm, Van Born

Friday, Oct. 18:

0006 – welfare check, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0110 – welfare check, Belle Pointe Dr.
0142 – breaking & entering, Van Buren St.
0324 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Juniper Dr.
0722 – property damage accident, Denton Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
0853 – shooting, S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – welfare check, Denton Rd.
1208 – trespassing, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0953 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.

1139 – larceny from auto, Westlake Cir.
1109 – civil matter, Ash Dr.
1054 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave.
1138 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
1156 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Riggs Rd.
1217 – assist fire dept., Savage Rd.
1324 – welfare check, Milton Dr.
1345 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1400 – welfare check, Fret Rd.
1421 – animal complaint, Denton Rd./Jewell Ave.
1416 – assist fire dept., Denton Rd.
1446 – harassment call, Westlake Cir.
1520 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1530 – lost property/child, Ash Dr.
1542 – fraud, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1614 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Martinsville Rd.
1629 – motorist assist, Rawsonville Rd.
1648 – larceny, W. Adams
1706 – civil matter, Ash Dr.
1702 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1706 – property damage accident, Montague Ave.
1748 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./E. I-94
1746 – fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
1826 – unattended death, Locust Dr.
1908 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1923 – property damage accident, Sumpter Rd. / Orchard
1949 – fraud, N. Woodbury Dr.
1934 – welfare check, Savage Rd./Haggerty Rd.
1949 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.
2010 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
2122 – civil matter, Rose Blvd.
2058 – fight, W. Columbia
2123 – disorderly, Haggerty Rd.
2158 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
2217 – intrusion alarm, Van Born

Saturday, Oct. 19:

0330 – animal complaint, Quirk Rd.
0413 – property damage accident, Tyler/Haggerty
0809 – larceny from auto, Sunrise Ln.
0829 – larceny from auto, Van Buren St.
0801 – mental subject, E. Sadie Ln.
0941 – family trouble, Holly Ln.
1022 – trespassing, Southport Apts.
1051 – misc. complaint, Quirk Rd.
1053 – welfare check, Fret Rd.
1148 – welfare check, Oak Ln.
1101 – assist fire dept., Madison Dr.
1142 – personal injury accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Oak Dr.
1248 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. Woodbury Dr.
1252 – private property/property damage accident, Martz Rd.
1305 – family trouble, Timberview Ct.
1312 – welfare check, Martinsville Rd.
1326 – fraud, Village Green Ln.
1414 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Old Denton Rd.
1454 – fraud, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1551 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Hannan
1620 – juvenile complaint, Parkwood Dr.
1822 – neighbor trouble, Jackson St.
1713 – larceny from auto, Quirk Rd./Ayres Ave.
1717 – larceny from auto, Lilac Ln.
1732 – intrusion alarm, Michigan Ave.
1804 – animal complaint, Old Michigan Rd.
1940 – mental subject, E. Sadie Ln.
2032 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sadie Ln.
2059 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.

Also, on this week's log are 61 traffic stops, nine of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways. There also are 16 ordinance violations -- all 7300 MICR codes.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Oct. 13:

0027 – family trouble, Carmell St.
0115 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd.
0429 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
0529 – welfare check, N. Liberty St.
0608 – animal complaint, South St.
1543 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, N. Biggs Ave.

1617 – traffic offense, High St./Edison St.

Monday, Oct. 14:

1224 – missing person, W. Columbia Ave.
1241 – welfare check, Carmell St.
1500 – disorderly, Main St.
1605 – parking complaint, W. Thornhill Ct.
1929 – road hazard, Main St./Third St.

Tuesday, Oct. 15:

2024 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Victorian Ln.
0950 – disorderly, Carmell St.
1358 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, E. Huron River Dr.

Wednesday, Oct. 16:

1538 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Bedell St.
xxxx – traffic offense, Main St.
1626 – fraud, Sumpter Rd.
1931 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Savage Rd.

Thursday, Oct. 17:

1111 – ordinance violation – all U300 MICR codes, E. Huron River Dr.
1344 – misc. complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1416 – traffic offense, Belle Villa Blvd./Carmell
1620 – parking complaint, E. Thornhill Ct./S. Victorian Ln.
1958 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd.

Friday, Oct. 18:

0540 – unattended death, Menlo Park Dr.
1012 – weapons violation, W. Columbia Ave.
1028 – traffic offense, Main St./High St.
1100 – misc. complaint, Main St.
1100 – mental subject, Estrada Dr.
1435 – assault & battery, Main St./Denton St.
2018 – fireworks, W. Columbia Ave.
2048 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2305 – fight, W. Columbia Ave.

Saturday, Oct. 19:

0224 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Menlo Park Dr.
0701 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Thornhill Ct.
0741 – larceny, W. Thornhill Ct.
1148 – traffic offense, Main/Third

There are 84 reports on this week's log and 48 of those are traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Oct. 13:

1049 – follow-up investigation, Alaska St.
1124 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
1756 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
1853 – fire dept. assist, Washington St.
2045 – assist other agency, Mulberry Dr.
2135 – family trouble, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
2241 – 911 hangup, Mulberry Dr.
2319 – fire dept. assist, Wayside Dr.

Monday, Oct. 14:

0745 – property damage accident, 47000 bl. Bemis
0833 – traffic complaint/hazard, 28000 bl. Sumpter
0926 – harassment complaint, Rustic Ln.
0955 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1019 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1147 – welfare check, Kansas St.
1241 – disorderly person, 41200 Harris Rd.
1314 – suspicious person, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
1438 – 911 hangup, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1500 – property damage accident, 49000 bl. Bemis
1732 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1944 – 911 hangup, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
2143 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.
2330 – assault, Rustic Ln.

Tuesday, Oct. 15:

0403 – suspicious person, 39000 bl. Willow Rd.
0758 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.
0835 – animal complaint, Arkona Rd./Haggerty
0849 – fire dept. assist, Walnut St.
1148 – suspicious circumstance, 27000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1410 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1441 – animal complaint, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1522 – alarm, 17000 bl. Lohr Rd.
1611 – welfare check, Timberlane Dr.
1704 – welfare check, Timberlane Dr.
1747 – 911 hangup, Wayside Dr.
1757 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

(Continued on page 21)

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City of Belleville voters to consider four changes to charter on Nov. 5

Voters in the Nov. 5 General Election in the city of Belleville will consider four changes to the City Charter, which was written in 1982.

At the end of the ballot is the Proposal Section and the following is on the city ballots.

Proposal 1: A proposed amendment to Section 5.3 (Regular Meetings) of the City of Belleville City Charter

Currently, Section 5.3 of the City Charter requires that meetings of the City Council are held two times each month at 7:30 p.m. The proposed amendment requires City Council to set an annual schedule for its regular meetings by no later than the first meeting in December of the prior calendar year and allows the Mayor to cancel a meeting in the event a meeting has no scheduled agenda items.

Should this proposed amendment be adopted?

Proposal 2: A proposed amendment to Section 5.7 (Rules) of the City of Belleville City Charter

Currently, Section 5.7 of the City Charter requires a roll call vote for all matters acted on by the Council. The proposed amendment to Section 5.7 provides that a voice or roll call vote may be taken and recorded in the meeting minutes, except that votes related to the expenditure of City funds must be taken and recorded by roll call vote.

Should this proposed amendment be adopted?

Proposal 3: A proposed amendment to Section 15.8 (Purchase Procedure) of the City of Belleville City Charter

Currently, Section 15.8 of the City Charter requires that city purchases of more than \$500 require Council approval and that purchases of \$5,000 or more require a formal bidding process. The proposed amendment would: 1) delete the section's requirements for Council approval of purchases of more than \$500 and a formal bidding process for purchases of \$5,000 or more, 2) require the Council to approve a policy by resolution that details purchasing and contracting procedures, price thresholds, and sources, and 3) change this section's title from Purchase Procedure to Procurement Procedure.

Should this proposed amendment be adopted?

Proposal 4: A proposed amendment to delete Chapter 16 (Civil Service) of the City of Belleville City Charter

Currently, Chapter 16 of the City Charter provides for a Civil Service structure and creation of a Civil Service Commission responsible for personnel administration. The proposed amendment deletes the Chapter in its entirety so that the City Manager is responsible for personnel administration.

Should this proposed amendment be adopted?

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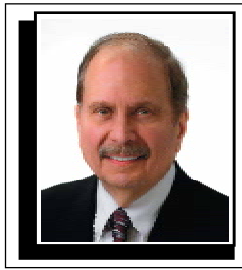
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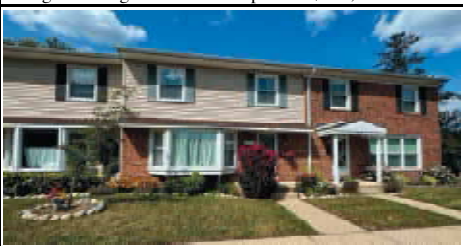
13378 LAKE POINT, VAN BUREN TWP
LAKE POINT CONDO. 2 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Baths, Large Living Room, Open Kitchen, Full Basement, Doorwall to Deck. New Listing and Priced to sell at \$149,900



13300 EDGEDALE, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
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45716 VICTORIA, SUMPTER TWP
BEAUTIFUL VINYL SIDED COUNTRY RANCH Featuring 3 bedrooms, 1 large bath, open kitchen, new furnace, roof is 3 years old, built 1996. It's a real clean dream. \$175,000



13350 LAKEPOINT, VAN BUREN TWP
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3 ACRES - COMMERCIAL CORNER AT SUMPTER AND WILLOW NOW \$150,000

GRANT & WAHRMAN 4 ACRES LT IND BY METRO AIRPORT \$250,000
20728 GRANT, SUMPTER TWP 1 Acre, New at Street and City Water and Sewer \$45,000
SOLD
HAGGERTY 1.5 AC VAN BUREN \$70,000

WILLIS RD 1 AC SEWER & WATER \$60,000
WILLIS & MARTINSVILLE 1.64AC \$65,000
JUDD ROAD SUMPTER TWP 2 AC \$39,500
HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$29,900
GRANT ROMULUS 1.8 AC LT IND \$59,500
50540 BOG RD ONE HALF ACRE \$55,000

4 PARCELS ON THE CORNER OF BEMIS AND MARTINSVILLE. PRICED \$40,000 and \$50,000 BUILDER SPECIAL for 3 LOTS
VACANT LOUISA DREAM LOT \$55,000
BROWNSTOWN 27102 DEBIASI \$85,000
VACANT MARIO ANN ROMULUS \$33,000
CORNER OF SHERWOOD & JUDD ROAD SUMPTER TWP 1394X670 21 ACRES TO FARM OR BUILD NOW \$200,000
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