



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

VBT planners approve 6-unit retail building

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

One of the tenants in the new six-unit retail building approved on Oct. 23 for 10573 Belleville Rd. by the Van Buren Township Planning Commission will be a Sherwin-Williams store.

A request by Ronald A. Chiesa Architects of Clinton Township was to construct a 10,362-square-foot multi-tenant retail building with parking, landscaping, and affiliated site improvements on 1.74 acres.

Owner of the development is Jason Kishmish of Farmington Hills. Applicant is Grand Management.

The property, which previously had

(continued on page 18)

Small plane crashes into trees in Augusta Woods

A small plane crashed into trees near a Augusta Woods home in Augusta Township on Oct. 21, according to Michigan State Police.

The single-engine plane crashed at 3:44 p.m. into trees in the area of Bemis and Rawsonville roads, according to police.

The pilot, a 75-year-old Ypsilanti man, was trying to land his plane at a nearby privately owned airport, but overshot the runway and crashed into a field near multiple houses, according to police.

The pilot was taken to a nearby hospital where he was treated for minor injuries, according to police.

Police did not report any other injuries in the crash.

The Federal Aviation Administration was investigating the crash, according to police.



Photos courtesy of Van Buren Township
 Van Buren Township staff members pose for a picture at the Candy Loop on Oct. 12. From left are Jennifer Zaenglein, Josiah Yoder, Nicole Gerhart, Jason Locke, Tammy Dohring, Matt Dohring (a volunteer), and Elizabeth Renaud.

City Council holds special meeting to OK paving

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

At 6 p.m. Monday, the Belleville City Council held a brief special meeting to consider four bids on asphalt paving for the alley between W. Wabash and Henry streets so the work can be done before the asphalt plants close for the season.

Bids were from:
 • CB Asphalt Paving, New Boston, \$32,000;
 • S&J Sealer Co., Canton, \$31,610;
 • Titan Pavement, Waterford, \$23,600; and
 • TBD Construction Services, Wayland, \$18,435.20.

City manager Jason Smith said the low bidder, TBD, said it could start work Friday.

He said he would have preferred a more-local contractor.

Smith said the next-highest bidder couldn't start for two weeks.

"I want this done before the asphalt plant closes," said Mayor Ken Voigt.

Councilman Randy Priest said the low bidder is so much lower than the others that he questioned whether it is the best choice.

"My mother always said, 'If something looks too good to be true...'" he said.

Mayor Voigt said he thinks TBD should be given a chance to do the work and if it isn't done right he doesn't get paid.

The council voted unanimously to contract TBD for the work and adjourned the meeting at 6:04 p.m.



Remember to turn your clocks back 1 hour on Sunday morning.



The Denton Road bridge has been closed by Wayne County for 760 days as of today.

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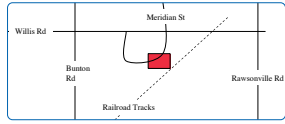
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SECOND FRONT PAGE



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Belleville Mayor Ken Voigt and members of the city council took part in a ribbon-cutting and dedication of the city's new pocket park, Pumphouse Park, at 100 N. Liberty St. Also taking part were those who helped to make the tiny park into what it is today. A plaque, that was to be later installed on the wall of the pumphouse, was revealed honoring: the Rotary Club / Cozzad Foundation, the Belleville Yacht Club, the Belleville Area Garden Club, and the city of Belleville. Mayor Voigt said he was proud to take part in such a community project that made the city a better place.

School Board approves financial audit of budgets for 2023-24

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

During Monday's regular meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, Laura Payne of Taylor & Morgan CPAs and Business Advisors presented the financial audit of the district's budgets for the 2023-24 school year.

Then, the board unanimously approved the report.

In her 20-minute report, she said the district received an "unmodified opinion," the highest level available.

Payne said the fund balance for the general fund at the end of the year was \$13.3 million, which is 18.16% of the full budget. Total revenue was \$91,682,440.

Payne said the athletic budget was more than \$918,000 and just \$160,000 was raised

by the athletic department, but she said the money raised can't support the department.

At the end of the meeting, after Payne had left, School Supt. Pete Kudlak noted how Payne had announced the auditors had been treated very well by the district officials, who happily presented whatever they needed for the audit without complaint.

He said he has learned that sometimes auditors are treated badly by the groups they are auditing and he is happy that she noted that was not the case here in the Van Buren district.

Board vice-chairperson Susan Featheringill, a former school district financial officer, said districts sometimes forget that the auditor is working for them and auditors present them with important information for the functioning of their

districts.

Supt. Kudlak said auditors may find things can be done more efficiently or in a better way and that helps the district improve.

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

- Was introduced to the new assistant principal for Owen Intermediate School Patrick White, who will come to work on Nov. 18. He is from the Ann Arbor schools and has great experience, board members were told. The interim assistant principal will stay in place for a while after White arrives, to help him get acclimated.

- Heard Early Childhood Center principal Becky Ross and her team of Cassidy Taylor and Taylor Pritchett present a report on one of their school-improvement initiatives.

They presented their work with the First Robotics Lego grant they received through RESA, which included Family Engagement and a kit to take home and Project-Based Learning. She said the center is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. to serve the community;

- Heard Savage Elementary School principal Chris Walker and her team discuss the new math program being taught. She said they have 344 students and 15 teachers at Savage, among other substitute teachers and helpers;

- Approved hiring Dana Davison as a Belleville High School English teacher as of Oct. 23; Patrick White as assistant principal at Owen Intermediate School as of Nov. 18; Karen LaFave as counselor at McBride Middle School as of Oct. 21; and

(continued on page 19)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Most agree: It's time to take your ballot to polls

Voters on both sides of the aisle pretty much agree on one thing: It's time to take your ballot to the polls. Don't wait until the last minute. What if there's a blizzard? A big rain storm?

This is a highly competitive vote in some local elections, as well as the national vote.

You don't want to mail ballots, if you can help it, because you know how the post office has been acting. We've had more complaints about checks being late because it's taken nine days for the post office to get them to the next town over.

One of our customers this week said he was taking his absentee ballot over to Van Buren Township to carry it into the township building. Someone suggested he just drop it in the outside box, but he said he doesn't want to take the chance. He wants to carry it inside and place it in the slot himself.

Then, on Tuesday we were informed that someone set two absentee ballot boxes on fire in a Western state. Now, what can you do about that?

Our votes are so important that we have to make sure we do the best we can to get them into the ballot box safely. This is not to criticize any election worker. They are doing the best they can to keep the votes safe, we are sure.

You can vote early and put your vote into the counter. If you must, wait until Nov. 5 and stand in line, but don't be dissuaded by a storm. Be sure to cast that important ballot. God bless the U.S.A.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Trinity Episcopal Church has set public prayer days to pray for our country. The public is invited to come in between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Nov. 5, 6, and 7 to pray quietly individually or in families. Trinity is located at 11575 Belleville Rd. in Van Buren Township, just south of the I-94 South Service Dr.

At Belleville High School's last home football game on Oct. 11 there were fireworks during halftime, which surprised everyone, since no fireworks had been approved.

Then, two cars in the Early Childhood Center parking lot went up in flames. The fire department was nearby and put out the flames.

At Monday's meeting of the school board, School Supt. Pete Kudlak reported on the fire and the damage it did to the ECC's new asphalt parking lot extension that was just put into place last summer.

He recalled that the employees had complained about that parking area, so they asphalted it.

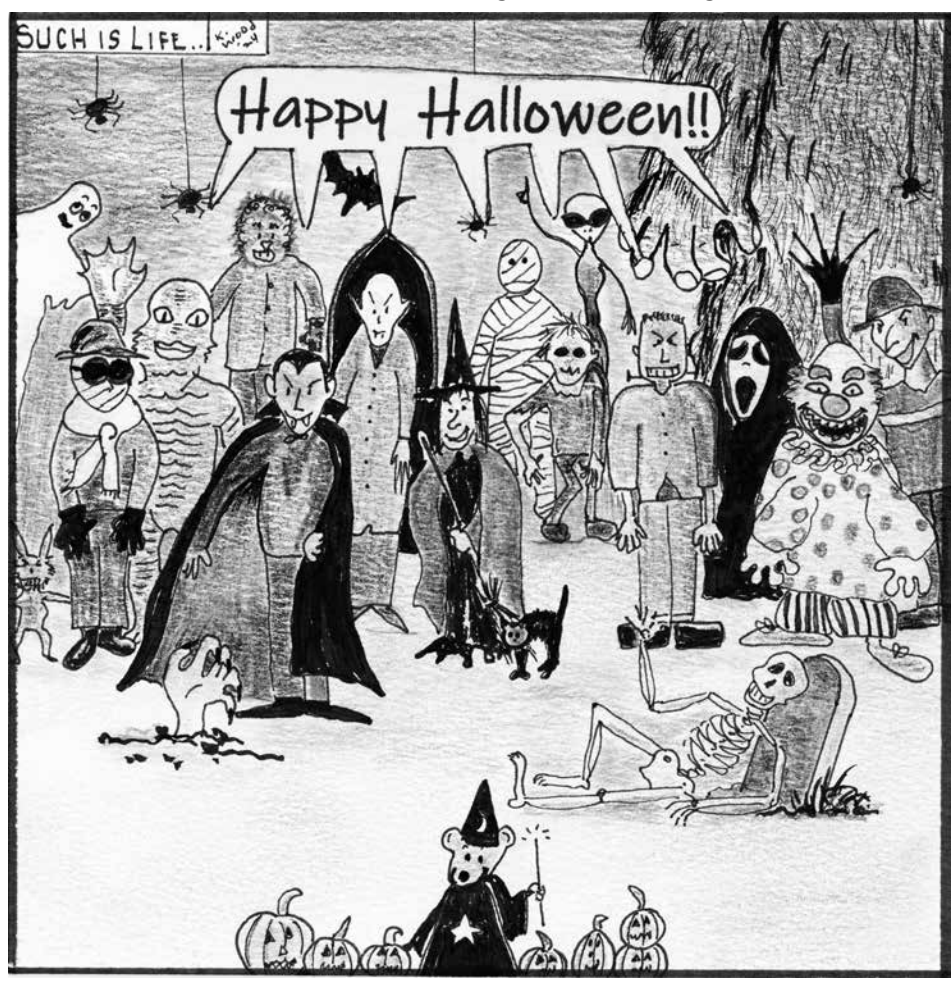
Supt. Kudlak said a person, with no attachment to BHS, put a box of fireworks down on the ground partially under his car and near the one right next to it to cool before putting it in his trunk.

Kudlak said the adjoining car caught on fire first and then his car. He said they know the person's name and police are looking at charges.

He said they have reached a dead end as to how exactly the fire started.

On Tuesday morning, Police Chief Kris Faull said her department has submitted paperwork for review by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for possible charges.

Kudlak said the asphalt was badly damaged and it just crumbled. They have alerted the



school district's insurance company and there may be about \$15,000 worth of damage.

He said the person didn't intentionally set the fire and it wasn't arson, but fireworks were not approved.

A parent in the audience, Angela Mears, said the district's insurance company shouldn't have to pay and the person who did the damage should pay for it.

The sound at the school board meetings sometimes is bad and it's hard to hear. The district came up with a whole case-full of devices that you can stick in your ear to hear what's going on. There are two of us who use them at every meeting.

To those who told me you have stopped coming because you couldn't hear anything, come back. You can borrow an earpiece and adjust it high and low.

Sometimes board members don't speak into their microphones or turn their heads away and keep on talking and you can't hear a darn thing they say. The earpieces help, although not completely. It's a whole lot better, however.

Belleville councilman Randy Priest had cataract surgery done on one eye on Monday morning and on Monday afternoon he attended a special meeting of the city council and then also took part in the ribbon-cutting and dedication of Pumphouse Park at 100 N. Liberty St.

Belleville Mayor Ken Voigt said since the

lawsuit against Wayne Disposal has gone to federal court, now everyone just has to wait for things to continue.

Mayor Voigt, who has traveled around the world, had planned to take a trip to Israel this fall, but he said Monday that he has canceled that trip for now. Things are too active in Israel at the moment, with missiles falling out of the sky, he said.

We have been offered some of the stories from the BHS journalism class for publication and hope to be able to use them as space is available.

We also have been blessed with a journalism student from Wayne County Community College who wants to help us and we've got a good story from her coming up, with more to come.

We are happy to report that Kathryn Wood of Van Buren Township, the artist who does our editorial cartoons every week, has agreed to be our new office manager. She started last week and knows the position is more than a greeter in the office. There's lots of work involved and she's up to her elbows in it. Thank you, Kathryn, for coming on board.

When that job was suddenly vacated, Jean Wilder helped out until we could get someone permanent on board. Thank you, Jeannie.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Letters

Where are you, Governor Whitmer?

To the editor
 Governor Whitmer, where are you? I see you traveling the country for your campaign, speaking about your love for Michigan, your commitment to our people. But here at home, in your own state, a catastrophe looms -- and we hear only silence from you.

Where are you, Whitmer, while Michigan's communities bear the burden of toxic waste, while our state becomes America's dumping ground? More than 367,000 people live within a ten-mile radius of what is now one of the most hazardous waste sites in the nation. Did you know that in Utah, only one person lives within a ten-mile radius of their hazardous landfill? Why is Michigan's population left vulnerable to health threats from waste other states refuse to keep?

You've proposed increasing tipping fees, but do you understand that this isn't about profit? This isn't about making money from waste -- this is about protecting our health, our lives, our future. Radium-226, which is continually dumped at this site, has a half-life of 1,600 years. That means this toxic presence will outlast every generation alive today, affecting the health of children, grandchildren, and countless generations beyond. Where are you, Whitmer?

I know this is a complex issue. I know it requires a fight. But how is it that local politicians are raising alarms while you remain silent? Why does every attempt to address this crisis seem to dissolve the moment state leaders touch it? How has this toxic landfill been allowed to expand repeatedly, despite health risks and community outcry? Other states have made progress in limiting waste—yet here in Michigan, this “progress” only appears to be measured in dollars gained from hosting other states' waste.

Where are you, Whitmer, when I drive through our state and see landfills towering like mountains? Are you aware of the reality your people face each day, with toxic hills looming over our communities? This is arguably one of the most severe threats to our environment and our health

-- and yet, we hear nothing from you.

We know Republic Services has donated thousands to your campaign. But where are you, Whitmer, when profit is prioritized over people's health? Within 500 feet of this hazardous landfill, there is a middle school. Children, every single day, are within breathing distance of radioactive materials, exposed to contamination risks that will follow them long into their lives. Where is the fighter I see in you, Whitmer? Why are you not fighting to protect these children, to speak for their health and their future?

You talk of Michigan's strength. But how can we be strong when our environment grows weaker, when our children are at risk, when our communities suffer the reality of becoming America's dumping ground? We need a strong Michigan to contribute to a strong nation, yet the health of our land and our people is sacrificed, while your campaign goes on in silence.

Where are you, Whitmer? How can you ignore the cancer clusters this waste we receive has caused, the growing health crisis we face, the toxic legacy being left for generations to come? Your silence on this issue, while on the national stage, rings louder with each passing day. This isn't just about policy; this is about the health, dignity, and lives of Michigan families.

Where are you, Whitmer? We need answers. We need action. We need our governor to fight -- for the people of Michigan, for the communities endangered by this hazardous site, for a future where Michigan is known for its resilience, not its contamination.

Michigan needs you HERE, now, more than ever! We cannot afford your silence any longer.

Jessica Peterson, Canton Township
 Michigan Against Atomic Waste

Keep the light, get a new grocery store at Third

To the editor:

Your editorial in the *Independent* today (Thursday, 10/24/2024) brought back the fond memory of when A&P was on Third Street near the U.S. Post Office on Charles Street. From the time I lived on Harmony Lane in 1973, then moved to North Liberty Street in the summer of 1981, A&P and the Post Office were both here in downtown Belleville.

Do you know when A&P left? Was it around 1991? Is Beaumont/now Corewell here forever and a grocery store cannot return to that perfect location?

If so, rather than SEMCOG's suggested “mini traffic circle” to replace the Main Street traffic light, how about keeping the light and welcoming a grocery store at the Third Street empty lots between Main and the alleyways before North Liberty Street?

Mary Ann Bittner
 Belleville

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 – Albert Einstein

Musings

By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director



The BHS Tigers battled Howell in the last game of the season to a 29-30 finish in Howell's favor. This was our only loss of the season, and I'm sure the coaches will figure out what went wrong and will make sure it doesn't happen again! District tournaments start tomorrow and it will be a home game for BHS against Ann Arbor Pioneer. Go, Tigers.

Well, here we are at Halloween. Although it was busy, October seemed to fly by. Saying goodbye to Booville is a mixed blessing. It certainly was a good run with great events and excellent weather, but now we know what is coming - winter! I love Michigan but I could live with a minimum amount of snow and ice.

Don't forget the Library Used Book Sale is this weekend and Saturday is also the Van Buren Township Pumpkin Roll Out at Van Buren Park. Maybe after this weekend we can slow down a bit and take a big breath before Thanksgiving. I know that is my plan.

The Salvation Army in Plymouth is looking for volunteers to help sort and distribute Thanksgiving food boxes for residents in their service area. If you are able to lift 10 pounds, and available to help on Nov. 19 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and/or Nov. 21, please contact Kris Wood at message@volunteer2mail.com

Congratulations to Pleasant Valley AME Church on its 75th anniversary. On Nov. 13-15, 2024 Pleasant Valley invites all to join in celebrating this very noteworthy occasion. The church is located at 45620 Victoria St. in Sumpter Township. There will be music, speakers, and fellowship every evening at 7 p.m.

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

Birthdays

- Oct. 31 - Rebecca Hasen
- Nov. 1 - Ashela Trevino
- Nov. 2 - Debbie Lazaroff
- Nov. 6 - Maureen Papin

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Obituaries



Christopher Kelly Frisch

CHRISTOPHER KELLY FRISCH

(May 17, 1972 – October 21, 2024)

Christopher Kelly Frisch, age 52, long-time resident of Belleville, MI, passed away peacefully at home in his sleep on Monday, October 21, 2024.

He leaves behind his children: Brandon Frisch, Trevor Warner, Nichole (Richard) Gray, siblings: Cathe Frisch, Carey Smith; mother: Jacquie Smith; grandchildren Kirstyn Gray, Alenna Warner, Lorenzo Warner, Makayla Gray, Ebony Gray, Nathaniel Gray, Kaylynn Gray; and several extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his father Gary Fletcher, grandmother Helene Booker, and grandfather Ralph Frisch.

His kids and grandkids meant everything to him. He loved being a part of his community in Belleville, MI. He was a Jack of trades and was always willing to help a friend out in need. He enjoyed spending time with his family, fishing, gardening, cooking, tinkering around in his garage. He was animated and funny, he was strong-willed, and he loved life.

Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2024, at the VFW Post #4434, 44170 Bemis Road, Belleville, MI 48111 from 2 until 6 p.m.

JOSHUA DAVID RUDD

(November 13, 1990 – October 18, 2024)

Age 33, of Van Buren Township. Survived by parents David Rudd and Gwena Rudd, sister Kathryn Wohlgemuth, niece, grandmother, best friends. Cremation rites accorded by David C. Brown Funeral Home.

www.davidcbrownfh.com

CATHY LYNNE WILLIAMS

(November 24, 1965 – October 23, 2024)

Age 58, of Ypsilanti Township. Survived by siblings James, Richard, and Kevin Baringhaus and Patricia Carlson. Memorial gathering was Oct. 28 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, followed by celebration of life at the Eagles.

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DERIS GILBERTO ESCOBAR

(February 26, 2010 – October 25, 2024)

Age 14, passed away suddenly. BHS class of 2028. Survived by parents Osman and Aries Escobar and five siblings, all of Romulus; grandparents in Honduras and Mexico. Visitation Friday 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. service at Brown Funeral Home. www.davidcbrownfh.com

WILLIE BROWN

(April 8, 1951 – September 17, 2024)

Age 73, a resident of Belleville for the past 25 years. Survived by wife Jackie; children, Shanika, Deondre, Nicholas; brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, along with a loving family of brothers and sisters at the Lakeside Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses in Belleville. A memorial was held on Oct. 5.

More Letters

Join us at museum to hear Part 3 of dam story

To the editor and Friends of the Belleville Area Museum:

October at the BAM has been wonderful! We got over 100 people at the museum during Harvest Fest and the kids had a blast playing Game of Graces outside, as well as finding objects in our scavenger hunt inside. Thank you to Charity and Finn at the museum for all your help with the event.

We also had another successful lecture night with Nikki Pickeral from the Belleville Area District Library. Thank you to everyone who attended and to Nikki for her fascinating presentation.

On Nov. 7, the museum will have our final addition to our monthly lecture series in 2024 and the final installment of Dave Booher's presentations on The Creation of Belleville Lake and the French Landing Dam.

We look forward to hearing more about the creation of the lake and the dam as their 100th anniversary approaches in 2025. Free pizza will be provided at 5:30 p.m., followed by the discussion beginning at 6 p.m. Bring any questions you have and RSVP for prioritized seating by emailing bam@vanburen-mi.org.

For the rest of November following the lecture, the museum will be closed to prepare for and install the museum's Festival of Holiday Trees! If your local organization or company is interested in decorating a tree, please email bam@vanburen-mi.org. The new exhibit will open on Dec. 7. If you need to get in touch with the museum in November, we will continue to answer emails and respond to phone calls as we receive them.

We look forward to seeing you at Mr. Booher's presentation on Nov. 7 and at the Festival of Holiday Trees in December!

Mary Utz
Belleville Area Museum Curator

BHS students attend University of Michigan's BioMed Focus program

By Hannah Borders, Editor in Chief
Beneath the Stripes

Belleville High School students participated in a summer research internship at the University of Michigan, Michigan Medicine.

BioMed Focus is a paid, eight-week summer program hosted by the U of M, Michigan Medicine. BioMed Focus is open to rising juniors and seniors (current sophomores and juniors) to apply with a letter of recommendation and an interview with two of the coordinators, Megan Radyk, and Sarah Steiner.

There is no required grade point average, grades, or research experiences, but you must be motivated and curious.

Once selected, BioMed Focus students work full time (roughly 40 hours a week) in the lab at Michigan Medicine researching a topic of their choice.

Students work on their project with a mentor, current PhD students at U of M. During their time at U of M, students are also required to take college

readiness courses to help them with their post-graduation journey. After eight weeks of work, BioMed Focus scholars professionally present their research during a symposium.

BioMed Focus accepted a total of eight scholars for its 2024 program, four of them being BHS students: Mariah Ashby, Liliane Baseka, Laryssa Hernandez-Lopez, and Olivia Scheil.

Scholar Olivia Scheil researched the effects of overexpressed kinesin family binding protein on Kinesin 1A and Kinesin 5C binding to the microtubule lattice in COS-7 cells.

When asked how her experience was helpful for her future, Olivia said, "BioMed Focus helped prepare me for my future by allowing me networking opportunities, learning experiences, and experience working as an actual research scientist as opposed to just reading about it.

"The highlight of my experience was the friends I made and the connections I formed at U of M," she concluded.

If you are a current sophomore or junior interested in biology or medicine, BioMed Focus can help you explore potential career options and gain research experience. The summer 2025 internship interest survey is open from Oct. 15 to Jan. 10 and can be found on the BioMed Focus website. Coordinators Sarah Steiner and Megan Radyk will be visiting BHS for an informational meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 6, during fifth hour in room 242.

Sign up for the informational meeting: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfrpKaQ0xSybw-Mi1thrWLjUbpweHWkqt5wldqyh33U3IAA/viewform>

More information and Interest Survey on the BioMed Focus Website: <https://biomed-focus.medicine.umich.edu/about>

Editor's Note: This is a story from the recently published digital newspaper at BHS: [Beneaththestripes.com](https://www.beneaththestripes.com).

Upcoming Meetings

- 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.

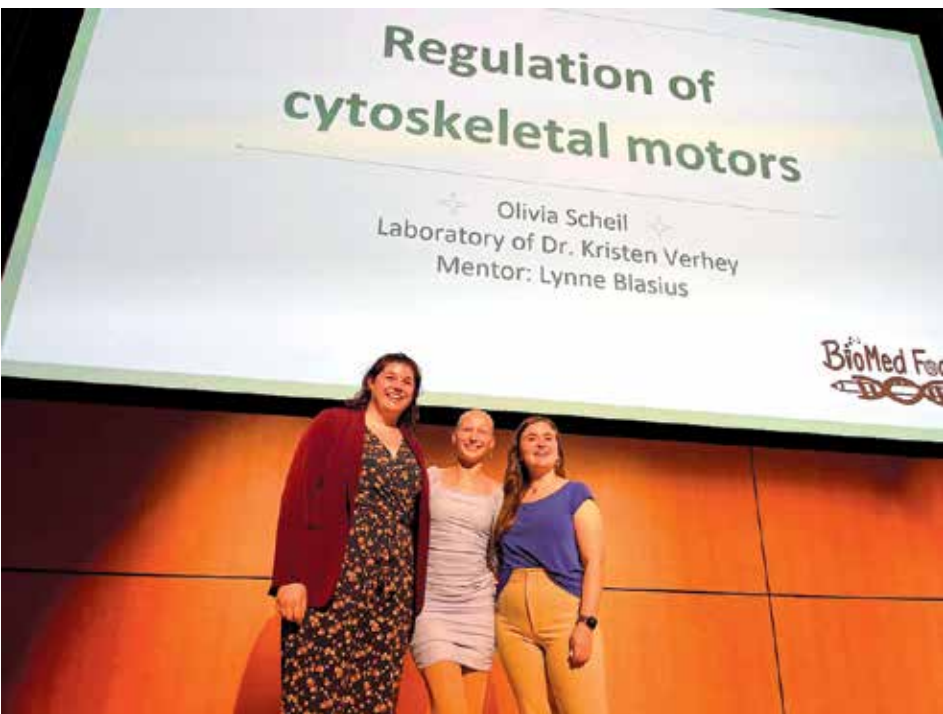


Photo by Sara Scheil

BioMed Focus coordinator Megan Radyk, left, scholar Olivia Scheil, and coordinator Sarah Steiner are ready to begin presenting Olivia's research at the BioMed Focus symposium.

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More Letters

Are you the generation that gives up freedom?

To the editor:

The following article was written prior to the 2020 election. We now have the hindsight that four years of Biden/Harris has offered us -- the open border catastrophe, unnecessary wars, increased crime, governmental robbery of a parent's right to protect their children from physical harm from woke ideology, complete economic failure and a loss of respect for America across the world as well as here at home -- and can compare that to the successful previous four years with Donald Trump. We also now know how the media and the government agencies biased the last election (Russia hoax, etc.). Our country cannot survive four or possibly eight more years of this.

Are you the generation that finally gives up our freedom?

None of us have ever seen in our lifetime the present level of polarization in our political ideals, the level of contempt toward others with different views, the ease with which special-interest groups can manipulate the public through politicians and the media, and the trending "embarrassment to be an American." It seems to have happened overnight with the latest generation, and is easy to blame it on their soft, noncommittal approach to life, a predigested selective education, with socialism being their answer to all the major issues we face -- "social" being the

root word that promises to resolve all issues for all citizens through an all-knowing, all-powerful government. However, this shift didn't happen overnight. There has been a steady pressure from both sides of government to push toward globalization, open borders, and a stronger and more expensive government for several generations, with its gradual shift toward socialism.

The speed bump that finally upset the smooth transition was Donald Trump. He can't be bought, doesn't trust many career politicians on either side for good reason, hates lobbyists and would like to see term limits on all of Congress, sees through the media, and strives to keep his campaign promises -- in spite of the overwhelming backlash stemming from the very fact that he beat Hillary and slowed the transition to socialism many were becoming blind to. He is unpolished, not in bed with the "important" political players, says what he feels like saying without worrying about being politically correct, not trying to be the nicest guy on the block -- JUST WHAT IT TOOK to beat Hillary.

Most democrats were caught off guard when he won his first term, and never came to grips with losing the election -- becoming "Never-Trumpers" and spreading their venom constantly through facebook and twitter for the next four years. The younger generation has been buried in anti-Trump press as well as a socialist-biased education, so that their political choices are reactionary, or emotional. We are currently seeing that effect with the unfortunate fallout from recent black deaths at the hands of a handful of criminal police officers. Many mob actions have been led by BLM and antifa, and followed by

many good-intentioned white supporters, resulting in many more black deaths (and white deaths), police killed, police departments defunded -- all emotional reactions triggered by a few unfortunate deaths, but fostered by Marxist antifa and BLM, and funded by Soros.

This became just another means to break the conservative attempt to preserve and interpret the Constitution as written and intended, to keep God in our lives, to remember our history, good and bad, and to honor our flag and those that died for it. Down came statues, flags, as well as law and order -- just another step.

When you vote this November, please consider where this country is headed (think Venezuela), and know that America doesn't have to be broken to its knees to correct its problems. God help your children if you do feel that way. Make your choice a well-thought-out one, that actually tries to conserve the strength and good traits of our country, especially the Constitution and what it stands for, and not a chance to kill it and start over. It has lasted this long against all odds for a reason.

Vote with a destination in mind, not just emotions. If you want to get somewhere on a bus, do you find it more important to look for the bus that is going where you want to end up, or do you wander through the station looking for the most polished, politically correct, slickest talking driver you can find, no matter where they are going?

Mike Aimone
Sumpter Township
P.S. Please really consider the above last sentence as you vote this time around.

Friends of Library Used Book Sale is Nov. 2, 3

To the editor and friends:

Thank you for your donations of used books for the "Season's Readings" Book Sale, starting Saturday, Nov 2.

A members-only preview sale will take place 11 a.m. - noon for the Friends of the Belleville Library. Memberships will be available at the door.

The used book sale will be open to the public:

Saturday, Nov. 2, 12-3 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 3, 1-4 p.m.

Used books will be discounted as follows: Adult and teen hardcovers two for \$1, paperbacks four for \$1; children's books four for \$1; audio books, Blu Rays, CDs, and DVDs, all four for \$1.

Sunday only, there will be a bag sale. Fill a bag for \$4 each.

Credit cards will be accepted.

New to this sale will be a table of puzzles and board games for family game night, also years of back issues of the National Geographic for sale. For holiday gifting there will be a table of collectible, special-priced books including boxed sets, coffee table books, and complete series.

Proceeds from the sale are used to maintain the rooftop beehives, summer reading programs, participation in Lake Fest, Harvest Fest and Winter Fest, and other library programs, including the Classic Movie Series.

"Cogan's Bluff," starring Clint Eastwood, will be shown Thursday, Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

The date has been changed for the last of the classic movies for the fall.

For more information and membership applications, www.belleville.lib.mi.us

Donna Gilkey-Levin
Friends of Belleville Area District Library

I'm voting for Coutts for District Court Judge

To the editor:

Mr. Coutts has been my lawyer for over 20 years. He has handled many legal matters for me. I have no doubt as to his legal knowledge and his commitment to our community.

I have also known Mr. Coutts to be a straight-forward person. Mr. Coutts is a man that says what he means and means what he says. Mr. Coutts is a man of integrity.

I am voting for Mr. Coutts for 34th District Court Judge.

Nancy Summers
Sumpter resident



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Sumpter Township honors veterans in Martinsville Cemetery

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Sumpter Township honored veterans in Martinsville Cemetery when Finance Director Scott Holtz and Deputy Clerk Karen Armatis read the veterans' names and basic information at the Oct. 22 township board meeting.

The meeting room lights were dimmed and pictures of the tombstones and official documents were shown on the screen at the front of the room as Holtz and Armatis called out the names.

"This is what we have found so far," Armatis said, adding, "We thank all men or women who have served."

Board members and members of the audience praised Armatis and Holtz for all the work they have done so far to upgrade the cemetery and for sharing the names of veterans who are there.

In other business at the 52-minute meeting on Oct. 22, the board:

- Approved advertising for bids on a 40-niche columbarium for Martinsville Cemetery. Armatis said 68% of funerals today are cremains. She said they got an expert to come out, visit the cemetery,

and draw up specifications, with plans for expanding it if necessary in the future. Treasurer Bart Patterson said this columbarium will take up the space of about 29 burial plots, but it will have 20 on each side, with space for two in each, totaling 80 spaces;

- Approved advertising for bids on a columbarium foundation and a 10'x20' concrete courtyard at Martinsville Cemetery;

- Approved using \$56,995 in federal America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to reimburse the fire department account to pay for the 2024 Expedition it had purchased;

- Approved withdrawing the police department window bid from EMU Global Services due to their inability to fulfill the project;

- Approved closing the township hall from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 12 for the annual holiday luncheon. Township manager Anthony Burdick said he is buying the meats and they are open to donations from board members and others;

- Approved accepting the \$38,400 bid from Pristine Roofing for the removal and replacement of the township hall roof to be paid with ARPA funds;

- Approved the proposal of Bill Kenyon for the continuing education of Sumpter Township's Leadership Team, without explanation;

- Approved retaining attorney Randy Pentiuk for legal services to work with the township on the Republic Services landfill contract, as recommended by township attorney Rob Young. No figure was mentioned;

- Heard Clerk Esther Hurst announce that early voting for the Nov. 5 election starts on Saturday, Oct. 26. She said early voting hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sundays and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays;

- Heard resident Mary Ban commend both Armatis and Holtz for the veterans' presentation and their work on the long-neglected Martinsville Cemetery. She noted that she was told that one person buried there was born in 1775, but was not a veteran. She also noted brush is growing out of control everywhere along the roads and the roads are bumpy. She asked Clerk Hurst if the township's election integrity is up to par, and Hurst said it is, noting they just held their public testing of the accuracy of the voting machines;

- Heard Holtz report the township just got the landfill check for August and it was \$162,722.56, a reduction of just 3.73% from last year at this time. He said the landfill checks had been coming in at around 5% less than last year, so this is a step up;

- Heard township manager Burdick report that the cemetery committee had pulled together a siteplan and activities for Martinsville Cemetery. Armatis said they have a drawing of the cemetery and its roadway and gate and they will abandon the last row of sites where there are no bodies. Holtz said they have the results of ground-penetrating radar and he wanted to know how the board wanted this information to be shared with it, through a workshop or having board members attend committee meetings;

- Heard Burdick also report on spending

Sumpter Twp. precincts include questions from four school districts

When Sumpter Township voters cast their ballots for the Nov. 5 General Election, it will depend on which precinct they live in as to what school district questions they will have.

In Precinct 1, which encompasses the Airport and Huron school districts, voters will have the Airport \$32.8-million bond proposal and renewal of the RESA enhancement millage for schools in the Wayne County RESA Intermediate School District.

Precinct 1 voters also will vote on two incumbent candidates running for two, six-year terms on the Huron School Board: Joshua Monte and Dana Town. Monte is Assistant Police Chief in Van Buren Township.

Precinct 2 voters will have a question from the Lincoln Consolidated Schools for a sinking fund millage of less than 2 mills and a renewal of Washtenaw Intermediate School District Special Education Millage for 12 years at about 2.3826 mills.

Precinct 3 and 4 voters, who are in the Van Buren Public Schools, will have the RESA Intermediate School District Enhancement Renewal millage question.

of ARPA funds. He said they purchased a three-well stainless-steel sink for \$620. The asphalt millings will be put on the parks' roads by the end of the next week. He said the cemetery columbarium will not be paid with ARPA funds. He said the handicapped access for the front and back doors of the community center will be in place no later than Nov. 7. He said approximately 4,000 service lines have been described in the five-year plan required by EGLE, the third coat of paint has been put on the recycling bin behind township hall, and the DPW road salt that wasn't ordered on time last summer has been ordered;

- Heard Trustee Matt Oddy report that the review of number of animals allowed per acre and slaughterhouses will be on the agenda of the next planning commission meeting on Nov. 14; and

- Heard Oddy report the fire house open house the previous Sunday was a success, with many children lining up for rides on the Gator. He also noted the recent vendor market in the community center gym was packed and another will be coming up.

Township Trustee Peggy Morgan was absent from the meeting.

More Letters

Sumpter: You finally put him out of business

To the editor:

I agree with the letter that was published in your Oct. 17 issue and so I am resending it with my name attached:

Well, Bully for you, Sumpter Township. You finally pushed Mr. Chapman out of business. You exhausted him to the point of finally just giving up the fight to stay in business.

I probably would have done a little cursing myself after what you've put him through for so many years. It's obvious that you are aware of the ongoing situation from day one.

Sumpter Auto Repair has been the convenient, dependable, and affordable go-to for many of us. Now with Welt's Service Station gone also, you have left us with what? Good job, Team!

Kenneth Balagna
Sumpter Township resident

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Photos courtesy of Van Buren Township
Van Buren Township board members pass out candy at the 2024 Candy Loop on Oct. 12. Pictured are Supervisor Kevin McNamara, Trustee Don Boynton, Jr., Treasurer Sharry Budd and Clerk Leon Wright.

More Letters

Record crowd of 1,791 attends Candy Loop

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Van Buren Recreation Department, I would like to thank the following local businesses, organizations and individuals for coming out to help us present our annual Candy Loop event. They not only gave their time (and candy) to make a great event, but they also spent a gorgeous Saturday passing out candy to a record crowd of 1,791 attendees!

Special thanks go out to:

AAA Willis Insurance Agency, AUTOKINITON, Dr. Angie's Tutoring, Blooming Buddies Childcare, Boy Scout Troop 231, Char-She Beauty Supply, Dana Murray – POUND Instructor (new fitness class coming soon to the VBC), Dionne Falconer, Farmer Underwood Trucking, Hungry Howie's, Janine Houle, Inspirations Hair Salon, Jitterbugs Elite Dance, Kiwanis, KSpinger Media Management, Desiree Brooks with Mary Kay, Milton's Pharmacy, National Heritage Academies – Keystone Academy, Patty the Piano Teacher, VFW Post # 4434, PLAV Post #167, State Representative Reggie Miller, Soccer Stars of Central Wayne County, Social House Group, Verizon of Belleville, V-BALL – Van Buren Area Little League, Van Buren Police Department, Van Buren Fire Department, Van Buren Treasurer Sharry Budd, Van Buren Clerk Leon Wright, Van Buren Trustee Don Boynton, Jr., and Supervisor Kevin McNamara.

Thank you to all of you for generously donating your time, decorating talents and especially the CANDY to our Candy Loop!

Our parks and rec staff would like to send an extra special thank you to our volunteers! What would we do without your help? If you see Ryann Zaenglein, Belle Stanton, Matt Dohring, or Danielle Cochenour around town, please thank them for volunteering! They truly made our day!

With much appreciation,
Jennifer Zaenglein
Recreation Programmer at the VBC

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Belleville Mayor Ken Voigt presented a \$2,000 check to the First United Methodist Church Food Pantry from the proceeds of the Goat T-shirt sales. From left are Rich Pietrogallo, Simone Mack, Marilyn Wood, and Mayor Voigt.

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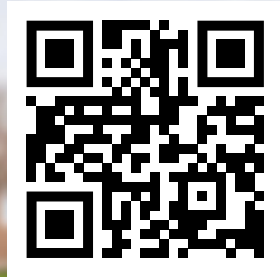
590 E. Huron River Drive - Belleville 734-391-7292



Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara, with the help of township board members, State Rep. Reggie Miller, and State Senator Darrin Camilleri, and employees cuts the ribbon for another completed lap of the Iron Belle Trail through the township. This event was in the rain at Riggs Park on Sept. 24.

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Photos courtesy of Elena Manalp, Van Buren Township Communications Residents turned out for pancakes Oct. 12 at the Van Buren Township Fire Department's annual pancake breakfast.

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Photo courtesy of Elena Manalp, Van Buren Township Communications Keith and Ginger Bruder dance to the music of the Crosstown Horn Band at the Sept. 27 Oktoberfest celebration at the Van Buren Township Eagles. The event was sponsored by the Bruders and Eagle friends.

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Re-Elect Kelly Owen for VBPS School Board

How To Cast A Write-In Vote

1. On your ballot, find the office for which the candidate is running.

SCHOOL BOARD

JOHN DOE

JANE SMITH

WRITE-IN
2. **Print or write** the candidate's name on the **Write-In line** for that office

Kelly Owen

Write-In
3. **Fill in the oval next to the candidate's name**

Kelly Owen

Write-In

Mrs. Owen is a **write-in** candidate this year for the School Board of Van Buren Public Schools. She has served on the VBPS School Board since 2012. Please help Kelly to continue serving our students & community!

ORPHAN OF THE WEEK
MOLLY



MEET MOLLY, THE SWEETHEART READY TO STEAL YOUR HEART!

Hey there! I'm Molly, a 5-star snuggle buddy and playful companion waiting to find my perfect forever home! Just look at my cuteness—don't you just want to hug me?

I came to Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue as an owner surrender, and while I can be a little shy at first, my sweet personality shines through once I feel comfortable. Give me a little time, and I'll be your most loyal, affectionate friend! I'm happiest when I'm around people and love getting outside for walks and yard time. Just so you know, I'm a bit too curious about cats to live with them, but I could be open to a doggy sibling if we have a calm, gradual introduction.

About Me: Spayed and up-to-date on vaccines, heartworm negative and microchipped, and I'm on monthly flea, tick, and heartworm prevention. If you think we're a perfect match, please fill out an application on our website: friendsofmichigan.org/adoptable-dogs. I can't wait to meet you!

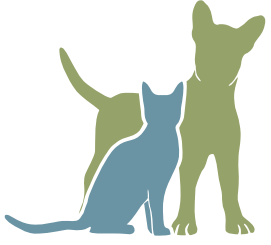
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www.friendsofmichigan.org



Photo courtesy of Elena Manalp, Van Buren Township Communications
 Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright cut the ribbon with State Rep. Reggie Miller and other members of the VBT Board of Trustees and township employees and friends at the upgraded French Landing Park on Sept. 30.

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BHS at-home games

- Friday, Nov. 1 – Varsity football vs. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 7 p.m.

Jamie Cichowski
 BHS Athletic Secretary

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The Belleville-Area Independent Website is Online! Visit us @ bellevilleareaindependent.com



Elect Teresa PATTON
 34th District Court Judge

VOTE FOR TERESA BY NOV 5



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Robert McCraight Romulus City Mayor	Paris McCarthy Romulus School Board
Virginia Williams Romulus Councilwoman	Porsche Laster Romulus School Board President
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Judicial Endorsements:

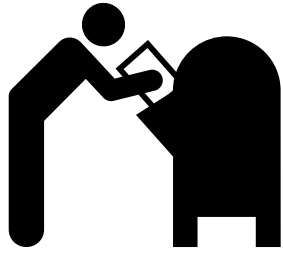
- Judge Kathleen McCann, 16th District Court
- Judge Richard Hammer, 21st District Court
- Judge Victoria Shackelford, 23rd District Court
- Judge Raegen Evans, 36th District Court

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Teresa Patton
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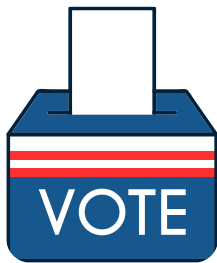
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
CLERK'S OFFICE

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

www.vanburen-mi.org

VOTE EARLY OR ABSENTEE FOR ANY REASON CONTACT YOUR CITY/TWP CLERK

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

Endorsed Candidates

President & Vice President

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- 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"

VBT Plan

(continued from page 1)

contained two homes, is located on the east side of Belleville Road between the N. I-94 Service Drive and Westlake Circle.

Planning consultant Vidya Krishnan of McKenna Associates reminded planners that in December 2016 the commission gave conditional approval to a preliminary site plan for a three-unit commercial building at the site. Then the township board granted special land use approval that month for a proposed drive-through.

The project expanded, with an additional parcel, additional tenant spaces, and a relocated drive-through and was subject to further review in 2018, again receiving preliminary site plan approval and special land use approval, however a final site plan was never approved, she said.

The applicant restarted the site plan review process in 2023, this time without a drive-through, but with additional tenant spaces. The previously approved special land use runs with the land, but as newly proposed the project does not include the special land use.

If the applicant wishes to establish a drive-through in the future, full site plan approval from the planning commission would be required and the current site layout may not be feasible for a drive-through, Krishnan said.

The current project was granted preliminary site plan approval by the commission on Jan. 24, 2024.

When asked by commissioner Medina Atchinson if Sherwin-Williams paint store was still coming, as previously announced, Kishmish said it was, along with a national chain and other first-class tenants.

It was noted the drive-through was removed because the Sherwin-Williams trucks would not have room enough to navigate the site with a drive-through in place.

Paul Kammer, consulting engineer from Fishbeck, said the hook-up to the sanitary sewer on the east side of Belleville Road is near the road, so they may have to close a lane of Belleville Road to work on it.

Chiesa had brought samples of the materials that will be used in construction and commissioners wanted to make sure they had the exact identifications of each sample and the colors to make sure it was not changed before construction.

Chiesa said sometimes a particular material is no longer available, so there has to be a replacement made.

Commissioner Jeff Jahr made the motion to grant final site plan approval, conditionally, stipulating that prior to granting any building permits the specific material numbers must be listed. If they need to be changed, after review the township staff would be able to approve the changes. Also the different varieties of plants proposed to be planted to shield the transformer were acceptable.

Commissioners explained that they have had problems in the past with materials being changed between approval and construction.

Chiesa said, "It's not going to be blue siding..." referring to the commission's problems with the Hampton Manor development at the corner of Tyler and Morton Taylor roads.

In other business at the one-hour-52-minute meeting, the commission:

- Heard a presentation from Krishnan on a draft of an ordinance that would create a Commercial/Office/Industrial Planned Unit Development zoning and then discussed it at length. The township once had PUD zoning, but no longer does and commissioners agreed this would help them deal creatively with new developments with a minimum of

50 acres. A sub-committee was formed of commissioners Bernie Grant, Jeff Jahr, and Peter Creal to meet with Krishnan and go over details of the draft before bringing it back to the commission for action;

- Noted that another sub-committee that worked on the EV fuel charger issue never brought its results back to the commission. Krishnan said it wasn't that they didn't do a draft, but there was a decision to back off for a while when they saw the state might get involved in EV fueling. Krishnan said they have an EV ordinance draft and it will come before the commission soon;

- Discussed several zoning code changes that they might like to work on. Ron Akers,

municipal services director, presented a list of what is basically a punch list of items that need attention, including maximum lighting standards, emergency vehicle access for cul-de-sacs, limiting the number of gas stations at road intersections, and drive-through stacking spaces. He also suggested reconsidering building heights for hotels. Commissioners added reconsideration of red brick requirements along Belleville Road, with Krishnan saying, "We don't want a red brick corridor, with every building the same red brick." Other suggestions were made and

(continued on page 19)



Festival of Holiday Trees

2024 REGISTRATION



**ENTRY FORMS
DUE FRIDAY,
NOV. 8**



WWW.VANBUREN-MI.ORG/MUSEUM

VBPS

(continued from page 3)

Megan Bowman as second-grade teacher at Savage Elementary, as of Nov. 18;

- Approved the non-instructional staff retirement of Jackie Floro from Owen Intermediate School as of Nov. 1, after 24 years of service; and the resignations of Leigh Ann Sanders from the Early Childhood Center on Nov. 1 after one year of service; Anita Fahey from Buildings and Grounds on Oct. 17 after less than a year of service; Sarah Tompkins from Special Services as of Oct. 15, after a

year of service; and Brenda Chance from Transportation as of Oct. 18 after less than a year of service;

- Approved hiring non-instructional employees Zaria Caver as a paraprofessional at McBride Middle School as of Oct. 11; Heather Gering as a school bus driver as of Oct. 17; Stephen Adams as a bus driver trainee, as of Oct. 21; Stacy Sage and Satinder Kaur as bus aides as of Oct. 25; and Kristin Price as a parttime secretary at Savage Elementary School as of Oct. 28;

- Heard student Emma Garcia, a representative of the BHS Student Council, report there is a canned-food drive Nov. 4-15 at the school;

- Heard Human Resources director John Leroy say the 9.6 - 9.7% rise in insurance payments for district employees is far less than other insurance programs are announcing. He said the key is that the district is self-funded;

- Heard Curriculum director Jeff Moore said a new math program is under way at McBride Middle School. He discussed a math grant they are working on from RESA, stressing literacy, and setting up an internship at Holiday Inn. He said the hotel general manager gave them a tour and they found a service dog there. Moore said the general manager said she started at the bottom and worked her way into this position, even though she had dropped out of college;

- Heard Kudlak announce that for the first time since 2006, the district's population has gone up by a handful of students; and

- Heard board member Kelly Owen thank Jackie Floro, who is retiring after 24 years in service to the district. "I'm going to miss her," Owen said.

VBT Plan

(continued from page 18)

Director Akers said they will work on all of these things, starting with lighting and the Belleville Road Overlay District;

- Heard commission chairman Brian Cullin say that the Sumpter Township Planning Commission has asked for a copy of Van Buren Township's new Agritourism Ordinance. He said Sumpter has a lot of farmland. Cullin said the next joint meeting of the planning commissions of Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township, and the city of Belleville will be Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025, and he hopes it will be at the library; and

- Heard Steven Dark, a resident who usually participates in the planning commission meetings via zoom, comment in person on the proposed PUD ordinance and on the proposed change to maximum lighting allowed. He said he likes warmer temperatures for lights and the LED lights are blinding when they are turned outward toward traffic instead of downward.

Court Watching:

VBT shooting suspect's preliminary exam set for Dec. 19 at 34th District

Alexander Ryan Johnson, 28, from the City of Wayne, was video-arraigned Aug. 5 by 34th District Court Chief Judge Brian A. Oakley while in custody of Van Buren Township police, for the shooting that occurred near the 7200 block of Sheldon Road, north of Ecorse, at about 11:26 p.m. on July 20.

Van Buren Township Police Chief Jason Wright said the suspect had fired multiple shots into the bedroom window striking a male victim and missing a female victim and her children. The male victim was shot several times and was conveyed to an area hospital and survived his injuries.

Johnson was charged with two felony counts of assault with intent to murder, two felony counts of using computers to commit a crime, five felony counts of weapons-felony firearm, one felony count of weapons-firearms-discharge in or at a building, one misdemeanor count of stalking, one misdemeanor count of using a computer to commit a crime, one misdemeanor count of using a motor vehicle tracking device, and one misdemeanor count of domestic violence.

He also was charged with three felony counts of aggravated possession of child sexually abusive material, three felony counts of using computers to commit a crime (maximum imprisonment of 10 years or more, but less than 20 years), two felony counts of possession of child sexually abusive material, three felony counts of using computers to commit a crime (maximum imprisonment of four years or more, but less than 10 years). Judge Oakley ordered a \$250,000/10% bond on each case (shooting and sex crimes) with the stipulation that if released, he will be on a GPS tether and have no contact with the victims.

His probable cause conference was scheduled for Aug. 14 and then Sept. 11 and then Sept. 25, at 34th District Court.

A bail bondsman has posted \$62,500 surety bond. Preliminary exam was set for Oct. 17. That was adjourned to Dec. 19

because they are waiting for discovery.

Armeka Devonta-Marquis Thomas

Armeka Devonta-Marquis Thomas, 30, of Ypsilanti is facing 16 counts involving weapons. He is charged with possession of narcotics or cocaine (25 to 49 grams), three counts of possession of weapon by a felon, three counts of possession of ammunition by a felon, carrying a concealed weapon, seven felony firearm charges, and assaulting / resisting / obstructing a police officer on July 19, 2023 in Van Buren Township.

Surety bond of \$50,000 was posted.

On Oct. 25, 2023 he waived his exam and Judge Martin bound him over to circuit court for a Nov. 1 arraignment on the information, which was continued until Nov. 22. Final conference was Jan. 5 and jury trial was set for Jan. 31. The jury trial was adjourned by the defense. A pretrial was set for Feb. 7 and a jury trial for March 25.

On Feb. 7 guilty pleas for carrying a concealed weapon and felony firearm were accepted and the rest of the charges dismissed. On March 22 he was sentenced to 6 months to 2 years in prison, with credit for 248 days of jail time served, and fined \$1,566.

James Robert Lawson

James Robert Lawson, 24, of Van Buren Township, was video-arraigned while in custody with Huron Township Police on Nov. 3, 2023 by Judge Green on charges of carrying a concealed weapon and driving while license suspended, revoked or denied on Nov. 1 in Sumpter Township.

Personal bond was set at \$10,000 and a probable cause conference scheduled for Nov. 15, 2023. His preliminary exam was set for Jan. 3. The exam was held and he was bound over to circuit court for a Jan. 17 arraignment on the information. A disposition conference was set for Jan. 29 and at that time a plea of guilty was accepted on the carrying concealed weapon charge and the other charged was dismissed. On March 11 he was sentenced to probation.

He also was scheduled for a show-cause hearing on Nov. 9, 2023 for a charge of driving while license suspended, revoked or denied on Aug. 27 in Sumpter Township.

(continued on page 25)



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Hidden Treasures Gift Shop reopens next to new Community Center

Photos and story by Ania Felder
Special Writer

The Hidden Treasures Gift Shop, run by Van Buren Township seniors, reopened at the Senior Center on June 24 following construction of the Community Center down the hall.

The gift shop originally opened in 1996 in the senior center in the township hall at 46425 Tyler Rd. and in late 2022 moved to Haggerty School while construction was under way at the community center. This summer the gift shop moved back home.

The eight volunteers running Hidden Treasures are Renee, Bulah, Diane, Clare, Denise, CJ, Melinda, and Eileen. They have restocked the shop with new items and brought some returning items.

All-new items include Bath Bombs, fresh honey, honey candle wax, milk and honey soap (made by Lora), cards, crochet toys (made by Jimilyn), Cozies, jar openers, towel boas (made by Renee), purse Kleenex holders (made by Sue), paintings, antique dinner items, watches, blankets, hot pads, scrubbies (made by Clare), holiday decorations, and more.

These gifts are priced from \$1-\$10, using



passed down to her by her mother. This passion inspired her to dedicate her free time working at the gift shop.

Customers, who are inspired by some of the paintings or greeting cards sold at Hidden Treasures, can take a "Painting with Denise" or greeting card workshop. In these two classes Denise teaches how to make creative paintings and gift cards to take home. These classes are available to people of all artistic levels. Beginners who may not be experienced in art may participate.

People who enjoys sewing, painting, or creating jewelry are invited to bring their handmade goods to the shop.

Hidden Treasures Gift Shop is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Special holiday hours include:

- Wednesday, Nov. 13, 5-7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 6, 5-7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 7, 12-3 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 8, 12-3 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 15, 1-3 p.m.

The Painting with Denise class is held from 10 a.m. to noon, once a month, with the next class on Wednesday, Nov. 13. Cost is \$15.

The greeting card workshop is from 10 a.m. to noon on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Cost is \$5.

There is no phone line in the gift shop, but information is available at (734) 699-8918.



cash only.

Most of these items are handmade by the Hidden Treasures volunteers. All eight of these volunteers are multifaceted and come up with multiple new handmade creative goodies to place on the store's shelves.

Renee Hughes is a local resident volunteer

who has worked at Hidden Treasures for the past six years, along with her mother Bulah who had been a volunteer for more than 20 years.

Renee said when she retired as a teacher she wanted to focus on sewing, a passion she has always had that was taught and

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 328 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, Oct. 20:

0025 – suspicious, Parkwood Dr.
0111 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0125 – warrant arrest, I-275/Ford Rd.
0745 – 911 welfare check, Western St.
xxxx – repossession, Arborview Ln.
0814 – abandoned auto, Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.
0922 – runaway, Quirk Rd.
1259 – assault & battery, Lighthouse Dr.
1338 – welfare check, Old Rawsonville Rd.
1554 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1349 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1548 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1605 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1623 – suicidal person, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1654 – domestic, Belleville Rd.
1854 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Hannan
1850 – parking complaint, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1832 – animal complaint, Parkwood Dr.
1831 – civil matter, Sunrise Ln.
1923 – juvenile complaint, Parkwood Dr.
2036 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Hull
2041 – domestic, N. Bellridge Dr.
2044 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service
2220 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
2313 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,

Hayes

xxxx – repossession, S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – missing person, Parkwood Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Fay Dr.

Monday, Oct. 21:

0707 – vehicle lockout, Haggerty Rd.
0654 – intrusion alarm, Amenda Dr.
0824 – larceny, Savage Rd.
0910 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
0926 – property damage accident, Quirk/Tyler
0940 – domestic, Savage Rd.
1039 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1103 – intrusion alarm, Amanda Dr.
1103 – welfare check, Michigan Ave./Denton
xxxx – 911 welfare check, Arthur St.
1149 – welfare check, E. Archwood Dr.
1238 – domestic, Walden Ct.
1254 – welfare check, Bemis Rd.
1327 – harassment call, Sylvia Dr.
1346 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,
Thornwood Dr.
1408 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,
Edwards Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1435 – welfare check, Savage Rd./Martinsville Rd.
1500 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1710 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belleville
Rd.
1832 – welfare check, Winding Pond Rd.
1723 – property damage accident, Tyler/Belleville
1729 – road hazard, N. I-94 Service Dr./Beck Rd.
xxxx – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – abandoned auto, Beverly Rd./Sheldon Rd.
1747 – 911 welfare check, Andover Dr.
1755 – personal injury accident, Michigan Ave.
1851 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1929 – runaway, Elwell Rd.

Tuesday, Oct. 22:

0106 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0651 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S.
I-94 Service Dr.
0856 – assist other dept., E. I-94/Belleville Rd.
0903 – property damage accident, Van Born Rd. /
Sheldon Rd.
1042 – fraud, Sumpter Rd.
xxxx – fraud, Sumpter Rd.
1006 – malicious destruction of property, Parkwood
Dr.
1035 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1114 – harassment call, Sylvia Dr.
1042 – misc. complaint, Sumpter Rd.
1117 – missing person, Bristol
1139 – property check, Village Center Dr.
1204 – misc. complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1253 – domestic, Belleville Rd.
1611 – threat, Old Michigan Rd.
xxxx – misc. complaint, Parkwood Dr.
1847 – civil matter, Maple Dr.
1922 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1938 – neighbor trouble, Chatsworth Dr.
2008 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,

Bemis Rd./Lohr Rd.

2049 – family trouble, Maple Dr.
2149 – personal injury accident, Quirk/Belleville
xxxx – repossession, Denton Rd.
2349 – intrusion alarm, Van Born Rd.

Wednesday, Oct. 23:

0816 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0832 – vehicle lockout, Wildbrook Dr.
0941 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,
Belleville Rd.
1001 – juvenile complaint, Crowley Ave.
1128 – parking complaint, Revere Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Ecorse Rd.
1114 – mental subject, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1300 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1304 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94
Service Dr.
1403 – animal complaint, Old Michigan Rd.
1426 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1543 – animal complaint, Country Ln.
1637 – neighbor trouble, Parkwood Dr.
1619 – welfare check, Pebblebrook Dr.
1837 – trespassing, Willow Way/S. Ponderosa Trl.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1838 – trespassing, Ecorse Rd.
1857 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,
Parkwood Dr.
1909 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1946 – welfare check, Daisy Blvd.
2236 – road hazard, Hannan Rd. / N. I-94 Service
2304 – threat, Fay Dr.

Thursday, Oct. 24:

0343 – intrusion alarm, Van Born Rd.
0405 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0457 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Martz Rd.
0738 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
0810 – civil matter, Rawsonville Rd.
0839 – assault & battery, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0911 – breaking & entering, Michigan Ave.
1258 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1022 – malicious destruction of property, Coolidge
1044 – suicidal person, Sondra Dr.
1048 – road hazard, Rawsonville Rd./Textile Rd.
1123 – juvenile complaint, Grove Rd.
1152 – welfare check, Hannan Rd.
1205 – animal complaint, Martinsville Rd.
1222 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,
Sunrise Ln.
1255 – neighbor trouble, America
1328 – intrusion alarm, Samuel Barton Dr.
1506 – intrusion alarm, Country Walk Blvd.
1507 – juvenile complaint, Grove Rd.
1508 – juvenile complaint, Grove Rd.
1616 – welfare check, Oak Ln.
1651 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1750 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.
1804 – domestic, Village Green Ln.
1830 – noise complaint, Hickory Woods
1832 – animal complaint, Martz/Rawsonville
1839 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S.
I-94 Service Dr.

1843 – motorist assist, Tyler Rd./Morton Taylor
1911 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. /
Charter Club Dr.
2029 – civil matter, Rawsonville Rd.
2038 – animal complaint, Alden Ave.
2041 – fraud, Quirk Rd.
2033 – missing person, Southport Apts.
2040 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
2257 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton
2347 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.

Friday, Oct. 25:

0057 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0100 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Oak
Ln.
0336 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Oak
Ln.
0622 – assist fire dept., Parkwood Dr.
0810 – welfare check, Van Born
0945 – misc. complaint, Locust Dr.
xxxx – repossession, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1026 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,
Martinsville Rd.
1120 – fraud, Parkwood Dr.
1141 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1205 – suicidal person, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – private property impound, Village Green
(The Parks)
1357 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1415 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,
Haggerty Rd.
1434 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1502 – property damage accident, Martz Rd. /

Rawsonville Rd.

1549 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
1515 – trespassing, Lohr Rd.
1538 – animal complaint, Turtle Cove
1620 – suicidal person, Parkwood Dr.
xxxx – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S.
I-94 Service Dr.
1823 – missing person, Ecorse Rd.
1908 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1958 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2040 – civil matter, Rawsonville Rd.
2201 – family trouble, Marina Dr.
2053 – intrusion alarm, Van Born Rd.

Saturday, Oct. 26:

0011 – noise complaint, Westlake Cir.
0147 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,
Bristol/Morton Taylor
0206 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. /
Huron River Dr.
0238 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0618 – intrusion alarm, Winding Pond Dr.
1111 – civil matter, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1110 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.
1212 – fraud, Spencer Ave.
1156 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
1209 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
1344 – property damage accident, Bemis Rd. /
Rawsonville Rd.
1512 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,
Belleville Rd.
1631 – juvenile complaint, Belleville Rd.
1637 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1639 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,
Denton Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1646 – 911 welfare check, Rawsonville Rd.
1731 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1858 – property damage accident, Belleville/Quirk
1900 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. /
Greenbriar Dr.
1949 – property damage accident, E. I-94/N.
Belleville I-94 ramp E.
2009 – property damage accident, E. I-94 / Belleville
Rd.
2019 – traffic offense, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2127 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,
Belleville Rd.
2249 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.

Also, on this week's log are 84 traffic stops, 12 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways. There also are 51 ordinance violations -- all 7300 MICR codes.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Oct. 20:

0022 – domestic, Loza Ln.
0216 – civil matter, Robbe St.
0541 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,
Sumpter Rd.
1142 – mental subject, Owen St.
1354 – domestic, N. Liberty St.
1554 – property damage accident, Carmell St.
1627 – assist fire dept., Robbe St.
1633 – traffic offense, Main St.
1929 – parking complaint, E. Waterbury Ct.
1939 – noise complaint, S. Liberty St.
2045 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Hull
2208 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W.
Columbia Ave.

Monday, Oct. 21:

1022 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1305 – juvenile complaint, W. Davis St.
1308 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes,
Sumpter Rd.
1341 – assist fire dept., Main St.
1738 – intrusion alarm, Main St.

Tuesday, Oct. 22:

0113 – road hazard, Main St./Fifth St.
1027 – property damage accident, South St. / E.
Wabash Ave.
1615 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.

Wednesday, Oct. 23:

0013 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.
0845 – fraud, N. Liberty St.
1306 – misc. complaint, E. Huron River Dr.
1606 – mic. Complaint, Robbe St.
1642 – follow up by officer, Church St.

Thursday, Oct. 24

0255 – repossession, Belle Villa Blvd.
0946 – property damage accident, South St.
1142 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.

1847 – assist other dept., E. Columbia Ave.

Friday, Oct. 25:

0138 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W.
Columbia Ave.
0931 – welfare check, Capistrano Ct.
1011 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes
1322 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1449 – juvenile complaint, Owen St.
1458 – misc. complaint, Menlo Park Dr.
1606 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes,
Sumpter Rd.
2137 – missing person, Menlo Park Dr.
2326 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,
Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, Oct. 26:

0950 – misc. complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.
1435 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N.
Biggs Ave.
1952 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.
2016 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,
Owen St.
2120 – assist citizen, Main St.
There are 108 reports on this week's log and 66 of those are traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Oct. 20:

0125 – civil matter, 49000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0225 – operating while intoxicated arrest,
Rawsonville Rd./Judd Rd.
0841 – 911 hangup, 12000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0921 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0934 – welfare check, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
1016 – misc., 47000 bl. Willis Rd.
1142 – neighbor dispute, Magnolia Dr.
1233 – alarm, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1430 – assault, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1830 – mental health call, Wyoming St.
1841 – welfare check, 39000 bl. Judd Rd.
1932 – traffic complaint/hazard, 40000 bl. Willis
1942 – welfare check, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
2044 – family trouble, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
2055 – welfare check, Carriage Ln.
2146 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Haggerty

Monday, Oct. 21:

0715 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. /
Bemis Rd.
0816 – damage to property, Mulberry Dr.
1350 – 911 hangup, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
1416 – property damage accident, 43000 bl. Willis
1428 – neighbor dispute, 5400 bl. Oakville Waltz
1703 – fire dept. assist, Walnut St.
1726 – assist other agency, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1743 – assist other agency, Bemis/Rawsonville
1826 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2143 – suspicious circumstances, Rustic Ln.

Tuesday, Oct. 22:

0542 – assault, Rustic Ln.
0819 – suspicious circumstances, 46000 bl. Willis
0940 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1123 – civil matter, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
1129 – animal complaint, 41000 bl. Willow Rd.
1257 – malicious destruction of property, 44000 bl.
Clay Rd.

1345 – follow-up investigation
1351 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. /
Bemis Rd.

1406 – animal complaint, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
1435 – 911 hang up, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1527 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz
Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
1718 – disorderly person, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1719 – suspicious circumstances, Lohr Rd. / Timber
Creek Dr.,

1902 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1948 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Clark Rd.
2039 – death investigation, Carriage Ln.
2204 – animal complaint, 5800 bl. Oakville Waltz
2213 – suspicious person, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
2311 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.

Wednesday, Oct. 23:

0216 – welfare check, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0228 – noise complaint, Dakota Ct.
0712 – family trouble, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1106 – welfare check, 21000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1148 – mental health call, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
1200 – suspicious circumstances, Edgewood Dr.

(Continued on page 23)

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 22)

- 1330 – suspicious circumstances, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1339 – suspicious circumstances, 50000 bl. Willis 1651 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.
- 1846 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.
- 2025 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.
- 2041 – civil matter, Colorado St.
- 2308 – animal complaint, Fenster

Thursday, Oct. 24:

- 0114 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.
- 0351 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Lohr Rd.
- 0523 – citizen assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 0916 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Crandell Ave.
- 1623 – citizen assist, Rustic Ln.
- 1657 – citizen assist, Wyoming St.
- 2236 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

Friday, Oct. 25:

- 0651 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.
- 0914 – assist other agency, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1003 – 911 hangup, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1138 – alarm, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.
- 1626 – citizen assist, 46000 bl. Victoria Ave.
- 1648 – animal complaint, Karr Rd./Judd Rd.
- 1759 – welfare check, Willis Rd./Martinsville Rd.
- 1814 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.
- 1848 – welfare check, Rawsonville Rd./Willis Rd.
- 1941 – flee & elude police, Delaware St./Ohio St.

Saturday, Oct. 26:

- 0906 – welfare check, Creekside Dr.
- 1249 – alarm, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
- 1333 – suspicious circumstances, Delaware St.
- 1612 – neighbor dispute, 28000 bl. Martinsville
- 1638 – suspicious circumstances, Judd Rd./Fenster
- 1756 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1818 – assault, Timberlane Dr.

- 1839 – civil matter, 8800 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
 - 2122 – 911 hangup, California St.
 - 2209 – suspicious circumstances, 44000 bl. Harris
 - 2237 – suspicious circumstances, Judd Rd. / Martinsville Rd.
 - 2305 – suspicious circumstances, 48000 bl. Bemis
 - 2343 – welfare check, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- Also on this week's log are 172 patrol checks, 54 traffic stops, and 10 misc. details.

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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.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Thursday, Oct. 31** – Trick or Treat in downtown Belleville, 5-7 p.m. Businesses and organizations hand out candy to kids. The Belleville Central Business Community will hold a costume contest at 6 p.m. in Fourth St. Square with prizes. Food Trucks at Fourth Street Place.
- **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

• **Thursday, Nov. 7** – Belleville Area Museum opens its doors and offers free pizza at 5:30 p.m. and discussion begins at 6 p.m. on part three of the French Landing Dam series leading up to the dam failure in April 1925. RSVP by emailing bam@vanburen-mi.org.

• **Friday, Nov. 8** – St. Aloysius Church Ushers Club Feather Party Bingo. Doors open at 5 p.m., bingo begins at 7 p.m. Party held at 37200 Neville St., Romulus, Parish Activity Center (school building). Three paper quickies, \$1/pack. Twelve paper games, \$12 per packet. Bingo prizes are gift certificates for chickens and turkeys. Raffle for turkey and \$20 gift card, and/or one of ten \$10 gift certificates. Info: 734-697-2061.

• **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.

• **Monday, Nov. 11** – Belleville Polish Legion of American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars invite the public to a Veterans Day event at 11:11 a.m. at the Veterans Monument at Horizon Park on High Street.

• **Monday, Nov. 11** – Canton Township invites area residents to pay tribute to past and present service men and women during its annual Salute to Service event. This free event will feature a 6 p.m. reception, followed by a 7 p.m. main stage program at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Donations accepted for the VA Health System in Ann Arbor. For more information call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org.

• **Wednesday, Nov. 13** – Drive-Thru Chicken Supper, 4:30 p.m. until sold out at Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Rd., New Boston. Call (734) 654-9020 and order your food before 4 p.m. and it will be ready when you arrive. For \$15 you get four pieces of chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, coleslaw, dinner roll, dinner-style biscuits, and your choice of pie.

• **Wednesday, Nov. 13** – David C. Brown Pet Loss Support Group meets from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the Brown Family Center. Share difficult emotions that are present when our companion has died or is in the later stages of life and death is near. Meets again Dec. 11. Information: Jacqueline Dalzell, (734) 697-4500.

• **Wednesday, Nov. 13, through Friday, Nov. 15** – Join Pleasant Valley AME church in celebrating its 75th anniversary. Pleasant Valley is located at 45620 Victoria St. in Sumpter Township. Join in for music, speakers, and fellowship every evening at 7.

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



Photo courtesy of Dina Sobocinski

Carol Pesta of Van Buren Township posed for a picture with former Detroit Tiger Lance Parrish during his book signing event in Belleville on Oct. 12. He and writer Tim Gage signed their "Enchanted Season" book. Parrish said that the best fans are the Belleville fans. "Big wheel," Pesta said to Parrish. "Having you in Belleville is a big deal."

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More Letters

Letter with St. Jude Thaddeus Novena

To the editor:

Thank you, St. Thaddeus, for answering my prayers. C.P.

St. Jude Thaddeus Novena

May the sacred heart of Jesus be adored, glorified loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of

Jesus, hear our prayer. St. Jude Thaddeus, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude Thaddeus, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.

Say this prayer nine times a day, for nine days. On the ninth day your prayer will be answered.

Publication must be promised.

Thank you, Jesus and St. Jude Thaddeus, for prayers answered.

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Court Watching

(continued from page 19)

The DWLS was dismissed by the party and he pled to a new charge of double parking and was fined \$350. Default judgments were generated for failing to appear in court for two other charges on Aug. 27 – an equipment violation (\$200) and a registration/plate citation (\$200).

Bobby Mason Coleman

Bobby Mason Coleman, 27, of Detroit, was video-arraigned Nov. 6, 2023 by Judge Oakley while in custody with the Van Buren Township police department on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon Nov. 6 in Van Buren Township. His probable cause conference was set for Nov. 15 and personal bond was set at \$5,000. On Nov. 15 his probable cause conference was adjourned to Nov. 29. Then, his preliminary exam was set for Jan. 10 and then was changed to Feb. 28 because the defense attorney was in a trial.

On Feb. 28, 2024 the police officers failed to appear to testify in the exam and the prosecutor said he could not continue. The defense attorney Sarah Khan moved to dismiss.

The prosecutor said the Van Buren officers may not have received their subpoenas because the department had some system glitches and they may have had technical difficulties.

Judge Martin said if the Van Buren police department did not confirm its officers' appearance they can address that internally.

The case was refiled on March 26 and a bench warrant issued. The defendant was video-arraigned while in police custody on April 10. A preliminary exam was set for June 5.

On June 5, Judge Oakley dismissed the charge without prejudice because the prosecution did not have the police witnesses needed a half hour after the exam was scheduled to begin.

Latisha Cherrine Martindale

Latisha Cherrine Martindale, 35, of Sumpter Township was video-arraigned while in custody of Sumpter police in the Huron Township lockup on Oct. 30, 2023 on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon on Oct. 27 in Sumpter Township.

Judge Green scheduled an in-person probable cause conference for Nov. 8 and set personal bond at \$10,000. On Nov. 8, Judge Oakley adjourned the probable cause conference for discovery for the attorney and set it for Nov. 29.

On Nov. 29, the exam was set for Jan. 10 and on that date the exam was held and she was bound over to circuit court for a Jan. 24 arraignment on the information. A motion hearing was signed for March 18 and then adjourned to April 19 when an evidentiary hearing was to be held, along with a motion hearing. On April 19, the evidentiary hearing was set for May 10. On May 10, 2024 the case was dismissed.

Jason Richard Bush

Jason Richard Bush of Belleville was set for a Nov. 8 arraignment/pretrial on a charge of assault or assault and battery on

July 3, 2023 in the city of Belleville. He failed to appear and a bench warrant was issued. On Aug. 21, 2024 he paid the 10% required for his \$5,000/10% bond and a show cause, arraignment, pretrial was set for Sept. 18. The post office sent a notice that his court paperwork could not be delivered. On Oct. 10 a bench warrant was issued for his arrest.

Ronald Dean Rowe

Ronald Dean Rowe, 33, of Van Buren Township was video-arraigned on July 3 on charges of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and domestic violence on July 1 in Van Buren Township. Judge Oakley set personal bond at \$2,000 and a probable cause conference for July 12. There is to be no contact with the victim unless for child exchange.

A live preliminary exam was set for Aug. 23 and then adjourned to Oct. 10 and then adjourned until Nov. 15 so the defendant could receive discovery. At that time the exam was held and charge one was dismissed and a remote pretrial set for Nov. 28 on the domestic violence charge. Then a final pretrial was set for Dec. 12 and the victim must appear. A remote pretrial was then set for Feb. 21, 2024 and adjourned to March 6 after the defense rejected a plea deal and said discovery just arrived and needed to be reviewed. Bond was amended to allow contact for texting only for their five-year-old child custody/care.

On March 6, the remote pretrial was adjourned until March 27. At that time a jury trial was set for June 20 on the

domestic violence charge. On June 18, the charge was dismissed by the victim.

Harmony Coshea-Ltina Redding

Harmony Coshea-Ltina Redding, 27, of Ypsilanti is charged with operating while intoxicated-third, driving while license suspended-second, and blood alcohol content of .17 or more in the city of Belleville on April 14, 2023. Her arraignment/probable cause conference was held Nov. 22, her personal bond set at \$10,000, and her felony warrant canceled. The probable cause conference was adjourned to Dec. 6 and then to Dec. 27 because the attorney said they are trying to get deviation. A probable cause conference was then reset to Jan. 17.

On Jan. 17, the case was adjourned to Feb. 28 to give time for her attorney to apply for sobriety court. She was accepted to sobriety court in Ypsilanti and her case was adjourned to March 13.

On March 13 she was present by zoom because she was suffering from COVID. She waived her preliminary exam and the case was bound over to circuit court for a March 27 arraignment on the information. A calendar conference was then set for April 16 and final conference on May 22. Pretrial is June 21. Another pretrial is June 28 with a jury trial set for July 31.

At district court, Judge Oakley reminded her she has a 34th District Court date on March 14 on driving while license suspended and plate/registration charges out of Sumpter Township. She also owes

(continued on page 27)

ROBERT COUTTS
for
34TH DISTRICT JUDGE

Endorsed By:

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Sincerely,
Godfroy, Wetzel, & Jeffers, PLC
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Keystone attorney advises board on Title IX policy, procedures

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At the Oct. 17 meeting of the Keystone Academy board of directors, board attorney Candace Sorenson of CS3 Law, explained revised federal Title IX Grievance Procedures and the Pregnancy and Related Conditions Policy.

She also presented a 127-page Revised Board Policy that she had prepared.

After a long discussion, the board took no action on the Revised Grievance Procedures and tabled the Revised Board Policies.

The Pregnancy and Related Conditions Policy was approved as amended. The line added was, "to the extent school staff is employed by educational service provider the educational provider will comply."

She explained that since National Heritage Academies is the provider, it will comply with the law.

Sorenson said the changes in Title IX standards of sexual harassment has changed and mainly depends on how school officials handle such cases. But Keystone has to be in compliance.

It's about protection for students and staff members who are pregnant and it's based on gender, she said.

"It depends on what happens in the election," she said of interpretation of the law, noting that might change.

Keystone board president Steve Harsant asked if boys can play in girls sports.

Sorenson said is not finalized. And when asked what would happen if Keystone was found to be noncompliant, Sorenson said federal funding could be lost.

She said nothing in the policies address this boys on girls question. She said Title IX is the law and how that is interpreted is not set. She said four months ago the interpretation was fundamentally different than it is today because it became political.

She said there is case of Moms in the court to present this.

NHA representative Andrew Roth said generally disputes don't happen in K-8 schools, but in the high schools.

Sorenson reminded the board that Keystone doesn't have any employees because they are hired by NHA.

She said the board doesn't take action on practices and procedures and if board members prefer they can take no action now and bring it back to the next meeting.

If they change with the election, NHA can change the practices and procedures without bringing it back to the board.

She said under law the local public bodies must set their own policies.

President Harsant said Keystone has different rules in its parent/student handbook than the Revised Board Policies Sorenson had prepared. He said there are no electronic devices on school property or school functions, unless authorized by the principal for specific reasons.

Sorenson said she could take out what she had put in, based on what other schools do, and insert the Keystone language banning the devices.

Principal Jorvonna Drain said this 127-page Revised Board Policy needs to be reviewed because she enforces the rules set in the handbook, which was approved a few months earlier. She especially likes the new attendance policy which works for Keystone.

"I've just noticed those two and there may be others," Principal Drain said.

Sorenson said nobody wants to go through 127 pages of legal jargon, but it's import to have school policies. She said in the past the attorneys

had gotten the new handbooks for review and they have no way of knowing if anything has been changed. She was told she could check out the current handbook on the website.

It was decided for Sorenson to review the handbook and Drain to review the new board policies. Sorenson said she will revise the policy to mirror the handbook.

Sorenson said NHA will approve this policy anyway, since they already have a policy in place and this is not inconsistent with the law.

Roth said he is not asking the board to approve the policy.

In other business at the one-hour-21-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved the 2024-25 Board Funds Budget, including the items usually done one at a time throughout the year: \$2,000 for perfect attendance awards; \$1,500 for the School Store; \$13,000 for coaches and athletic director; \$5,000 for teacher recognition and leadership; and \$750 for electronic tuners for the band. Harsant had asked Drain to submit these requests all at once;

- Approved \$4,500 for staff Christmas marketing;

- Heard Roth announce that his wife gave birth to their first child on Oct. 1. Ramona Dorothy Roth was 7 pounds, 6 ounces;

- Heard Roth explain that the Wayne County RESA Enhanced Millage request on the ballots

in Wayne County for the Nov. 5 election do not list Keystone as one of the schools that will get the funds for students. He said they don't put the charter schools on the list, but by the time they make the final list Keystone will be on it; and

- Heard Principal Drain announce that the school raised \$425 for the Susan B. Komen Foundation and through its partnership with Bank of America, the donation was tripled to \$1,275. She also announced they have a new social worker who will start Nov. 13. There are no employee vacancies. She said Keystone has 21 more students this year than last.

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VAN BUREN
PARKS & RECREATION

Court Watching

(continued from page 25)

the court \$480 on other cases and needs to start paying.

On March 14, Sumpter prosecutor Rob Young dropped the DWLS and the plate/registration charges and she pled guilty to double parking. She was fined \$450.

Brandon Mitchell Kolc

Brandon Mitchell Kolc, 29, of Gibraltar was arraigned on Nov. 30 by Judge Oakley on charges of aggravated domestic violence for allegedly attacking his 27-year-old girlfriend from Inkster at an I-94 rest stop in Van Buren Township on Nov. 28. Michigan State Police were called to the site where they found the woman with multiple wounds to her face and neck. She was taken to a hospital for treatment. Kolc had fled the scene, but MSP apprehended him the same day.

Kolc has cash bond of \$100,000 with a GPS tether and no contact with the victim. His pretrial was set for Dec. 13 and a final pretrial was set for Dec. 20. Judge Oakley reduced bond to \$5,000/10% and removed the tether requirement.

On Dec. 20, Judge Oakley set the pretrial for Jan. 3 since the complainant was unable to appear. Kolc was in the Wayne County Jail and his attorney said he couldn't make

the \$500 bond required for his release, so Judge Oakley reduced bond to \$5,000 personal bond with a GPS tether and he is to stay at his mother's address.

It was learned he has a cash bond of \$25,000 at the Wayne County Jail for another case in another jurisdiction.

On Jan. 3, the defendant did not appear but was in the custody of the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, so his final pretrial was reset for Jan. 17.

At that time his attorney said he was in jail because he had a couple of felony cases pending at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice and a global resolution is being considered that includes this case, too. This case was adjourned until Jan. 24 and his remote pretrial was set for Feb. 7.

At that time, the remote pretrial was set for March 6 and then adjourned to March 20 for resolution of the circuit court case. On March 20, the victim dismissed the charges and the case was closed.

Anthony Joseph Koenig, Jr.

Anthony Joseph Koenig, Jr., of Van Buren Township was present for his remote pretrial on Nov. 29 on a charge of domestic violence on Nov. 17 in Van Buren Township. Final pretrial was set for Dec. 6 and then adjourned to Dec. 20. Personal bond is \$20,000.

On Dec. 20, he pled guilty to a reduced

new charge of disorderly person and the other charge was dismissed. Sentencing will be delayed for 12 months and if there are no further problems will be dropped. Judge Oakley asked that evaluation be done for substance abuse and anger management treatment. Fine is \$500. Judge Oakley gave Koenig a talk about the defendant's life and how he can turn it around. Koenig, 28, said he is a graduate of Belleville High School and works in Van Buren Township.

John Victor Grillo, Jr.

John Victor Grillo, Jr., 38, of St. Clair Shores was video-arraigned on Nov. 17 by Magistrate Hindman while in custody at Van Buren Township police lockup. He is charged with receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle in Van Buren Township on Nov. 17. His bond was set at \$2,500/10% and his probable cause conference set for Nov. 29. On Nov. 29, his probable cause conference was adjourned until Dec. 13.

The post office returned the court notice as undeliverable and his probable cause conference was adjourned until Jan. 3. His attorney said his client was in the Macomb County Jail. His probable cause conference then was set for Feb. 7, but on Feb. 5, the court got a notice that his court notice was undeliverable. He failed to appear and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Anthony Bentley Parrinello

Anthony Bentley Parrinello of Sumpter Township, was arraigned Dec. 6 by Magistrate Al Hindman on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon on Dec. 4 in Van Buren Township. His probable cause conference was set for Dec. 20.

Bond is \$2,500/10% and it was posted. A preliminary exam was set for Jan. 24.

On Jan. 10, the defendant came to court with his attorney with a plea deal worked out with the prosecutor. The original felony charge was dismissed and he pled guilty to the new misdemeanor charge of obtaining a pistol without a license. Fees totaling \$645 were levied by Judge Martin, along with six months of non-reporting probation and the order not to possess a firearm during probation. He must forfeit the gun at issue and not obtain a gun without a license. He will be advised how to substitute community service for some of the fees.

Steven Anthony Miller

Steven Anthony Miller, 47, of Van Buren Township had a trial scheduled for Dec. 7 on a charge of disturbing the peace at 9:16 p.m. in Van Buren Township on July 17. Personal bond is \$1,000.

On Dec. 7, a remote pretrial was set for April 1, 2024 and at that time the charge was dismissed by the party.

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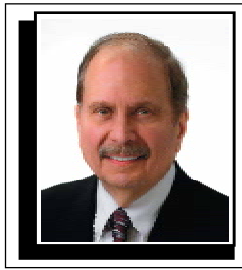
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