



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 23.44 Thursday, November 2, 2017

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE



Van Buren Township Fire Fighters pose with retired chief of the department, Brad Traskos, after presenting Chief Traskos with the 1986 plaque with his name on it that had been removed from the VBT 100-foot ladder truck behind them, that has been decommissioned. The old truck is heading to Schoolcraft College to be used to train fire fighters. A new replacement truck will be ready in January or February. When chief, Traskos asked voters to pass a 1-mill tax for 1 year to buy three fire trucks, including the one he is standing in front of. He spoke before the voters, mostly farmers, who filled the Belleville High School auditorium. He was alone on the stage and answered all their questions. The millage passed and he got the trucks to protect the community. From left, during Friday's event staged at Fire Station #1 to surprise the chief, are fire fighters Corey Bias, Ryan Smith, Dave McNally, Chief Traskos, Ron Folks, Dustin Cox, and David Champagne.



Chief Brad Traskos poses with his family in front of the now-decommissioned 1986 ladder truck. He and his Diana are parents to triplets. From left are Bradley, Katelyn, and Andrea.

Honoring Chief Traskos



Independent photos by
Rosemary K. Otzman

VBT Supervisor bets with Canton Sup. on Friday's football game

Canton Township Supervisor Pat Williams sent a press release to the *Observer* newspaper over the week end about a bet on the upcoming high school football game between Canton and Belleville. So, Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara responded in kind, sending a news release to the *Independent*.

Since Belleville High School beat Salem in last Friday's first play-off game, BHS will be playing Canton at 7 p.m. this Friday at the BHS stadium. Canton had beat Saline on Friday.

McNamara is supporting the Belleville Tigers and Williams the Canton Chiefs. Each appears confident that his home team will advance to win the 2017 Division 1 state tournament district finals and advance to the state regional finals.

VBT Supervisor McNamara challenged Canton Township Supervisor Williams to a friendly wager on the critical game for their respective school districts whose teams have worked so hard to get to this stage in post-season play.

The supervisors have promised to be supportive of the winner of the friendly wager after the game by wearing the winning opponent's team's jersey or colors the Friday following the game and to have his photograph taken with the winner in the opponent's colors in front of the winner's township sign.

As a sign of reconciliation, the winning supervisor will buy lunch for the losing supervisor at his favorite restaurant.

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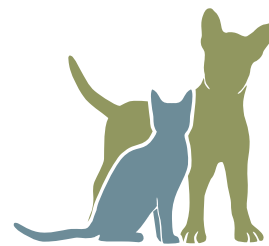
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SECOND FRONT PAGE



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Mendie Russell, at left, president of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts, invited all past and present members of the group up to the stage for a picture at Friday's art show reception at the Belleville Yacht Club. They were celebrating the 25th anniversary of the council for the arts. Not present for the picture were current BACA board members: Wendy Beebe, Elaine Gutierrez, and Jean Morris, who were placing award ribbons on the winning artworks. Morris has been an active BACA supporter for all eight Community Art Shows, as an Art Show Committee member and artwork participant.

Art winners named by Belleville Area Council for the Arts

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts congratulates the winners of the eighth-annual Community Art Show as follows:

Adult 2-Dimension: 1st – Rhonda Dutton, 2nd – Liz Dobbs, 3rd – Sharlene Welton.

Adult 3-Dimension: 1st – Diane Eissinger, 2nd – Loel Gnat, 3rd – Tim Elden

Photography: 1st – Paul Elden, 2nd – Emily Marsh, 3rd – Gwendolyn Roth

Teens (Ages 13-18): 1st – Katie Russell, 2nd – Lexie Stypelkoski, 3rd – Allyson Bowen

Children (Ages 6-12): 1st – Olivia Dobbs, 2nd – Naimi Yarbrough, 3rd – Ellie Russell

People's Choice: Tim Elden ("Life Without Roundup") and Naimi Yarbrough (Crochet)

A special thank you goes to the judges of the artwork: Ryan Petersmark, Jocelyn

Rainey, and Anthony Bacon, also the guest judges: David Parrot, Tom Smith, Mary Jo Suchy, Kevin MacNamara, and Barbara Rogalle Miller.

BACA thanks the Art Show Sponsors: Barbara Rogalle Miller, attorney, David C. Brown Funeral Home, Sumpter Collision, Belleville Bariatrics, Mike & Charleen Renaud, Shelly Brown-Chudzinski and Jim Chudzinski, Jean Morris, and Kerry Morris.

BACA appreciates and thanks the following businesses for their Art Show participation: Belleville Yacht Club, A Design Line Embroidery, Garden Fantasy on Main, Twisted Rooster, Egan's Pub and The Bake Shoppe.

There were more than 100 artworks in the week end show at the Belleville Yacht Club.



Original members of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts are, from left, Barbara Rogalle Miller, Tim Marsh, and Marilyn Locke. They were among those meeting on the front porch of Maggie Hope's house 25 years ago to organize an arts council for the community.

You are invited to Thanksgiving dinner in Sumpter -- at no charge

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Karen Mickens and Lettie Sanders of Sumpter Township said it "came on their hearts" to do something for those who would be alone on Thanksgiving Day.

They decided to cook up a free Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings and serve all those who come. They got some turkeys donated and got permission from the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees to use the community center gym for the meal without a rental charge.

Dinner will be served from noon until 3 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, at the community center, 23501 Sumpter Road.

Mickens said all are welcome and there is no charge. Besides the meal, there will be fellowship, so no one is alone.

Those wishing to help the two women with their costs may drop off monetary donations at the Sumpter Community Center to Mickens or Sanders or at Supervisor John Morgan's office at the township hall by Nov. 15.

At the bottom of the flyer prepared to

announce the free meal, there is a line from Psalm 133:1. "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to come together in unity"

Railroad crossing closed on Savage Road for week of Oct. 30-Nov. 3 - or longer

Norfolk Southern Railroad was to perform crossing repairs on its railroad track across Savage Road in the City of Belleville and the crossing was to be closed for a week.

Work was scheduled to begin on Monday, Oct. 30, and end on Friday, Nov. 3, but

could take longer. Drivers were asked to avoid the area and detour by way of East Huron River Drive.

The public can contact the Wayne County Roads Division at 888-ROADCREW.

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Sumpter only tri-community site that may opt into mj law

Belleville officials long ago said that the city will opt out of the new state medical marijuana law that allows dispensaries and grow operations. Officials are waiting for something from the city attorney, but if a municipality doesn't opt in, it is assumed to have opted out. Belleville needs to cancel its grow zoning and it plans to before the middle of December.

The Charter Township of Van Buren had a committee look into the law and it recommends opting out. The police department apparently determined it would cost more to enforce than it would gather in fees. A resolution is expected to be passed by the board before long. This will be sent to the state as the official opt out statement.

Sumpter Township has another situation. Another committee has been set up and its first meeting was Nov. 1 and another meeting is set for Dec. 6. The deadline to the state is Dec. 15 and it doesn't seem this committee has too much time to discuss the subject.

The recent settlement in Wayne County Circuit Court comes to mind, where the township agrees to let Nelson Po grow at his property on Harris Road and later at his property on Willis Road. Both Sumpter and Po give up things to end their dispute and we hope to get the official settlement wording soon. From what we've seen, Sumpter will have to opt into the new state law to allow dispensaries and growing because that's part of the settlement.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

A reader called us with her concerns about her seven- and eight-year-old grandchildren having to cross busy Tyler Road traffic alone in front of Tyler Elementary School to get home to Haggerty Sub last Friday afternoon.

She said there was no crossing guard and the children had to cross alone. She said it was almost 4 p.m. by the time they got home. They told their grandmother that the crossing guard had a doctor's appointment and couldn't be there.

Actually, when the children didn't come home on time, an adult from Haggerty Sub came to Tyler Road for her child and helped a whole group to get across.

The grandmother called the school on Friday, but by then the staff had stopped answering the phone. She called the school administration building and talked to Pam who told her it's a police problem and "our problem." So, she called VBT dispatch and was told police do fill in when a crossing guard alerts them he or she will be absent. Police checked their calls and emails and said nobody contacted them.

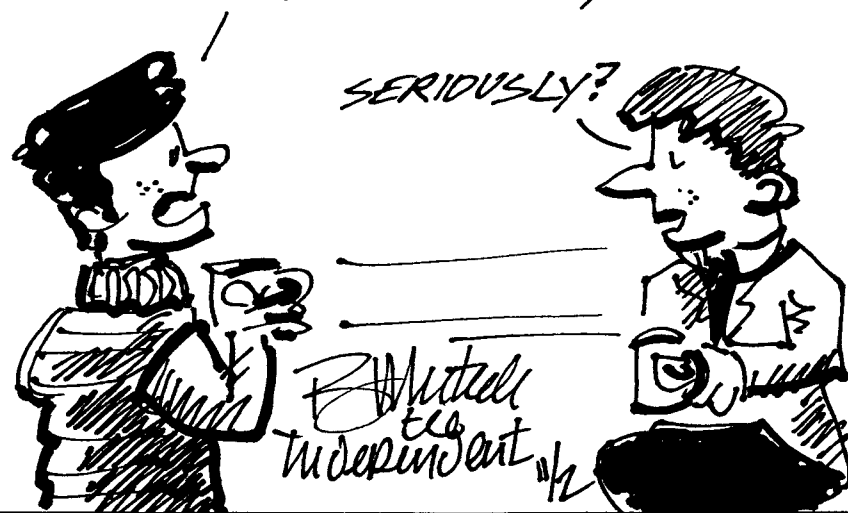
On Monday, she called the school and was told, "We'll look into it."

She said families depend on the crossing guards to keep their children safe. It's so upsetting to think the crossing guards might not actually be there.

She said her grandchildren were quite upset when they got home Friday because they have always been told not to cross into the busy street until the crossing guard stops the traffic. There was nobody to stop the traffic.

A reader who lives on Quirk Road in

IT'S DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME, NOT DAYLIGHT SAVING'S TIME. MANY PEOPLE RENDER THE TERM'S SECOND WORD IN ITS PLURAL FORM, HOWEVER, SINCE THE WORD "SAVINGS" ACTS AS PART OF AN ADJECTIVE RATHER THAN A VERB, THE SINGULAR IS GRAMMATICALLY CORRECT... SERIOUSLY...



Van Buren Township alerted us to another scam phone call in the community. She said on Tuesday she got a call from a young man who seemed to be crying. He said, "Grandma, this is your oldest grandson." The reader said she replied, "I don't have any grandsons and don't you call me again." Then she hung up. She gave me the phone number that showed up on her caller ID.

She said she wanted to let others know about the scam call because she is afraid elderly people might fall for it and send them money. I assured her that others had fallen for the scam and sent money to get their grandsons out of trouble, only to find out their grandsons weren't anywhere near any trouble.

We think the number of obituaries we received for publication this week was an all-time record for the *Independent*. It's an honor to tell the final stories of all these people who were in our community, or started out here. It's amazing that so many are leaving at once.

David Feight was one of my classmates who was taken with a massive heart attack recently and whose obituary was in last week's paper. David was at the recent BHS All-Class Reunion and we sat next to one another and chatted about a lot of things -- old times and present times.

David got up to help Ron Rounsifer, another classmate, who was having trouble


with moving from his wheelchair to another chair. Ron has lived in Sumpter his whole life, I think. I always thought Ron was the most handsome guy in our class, but others told me recently they thought David was the most handsome boy. Both were good-looking young men -- and old men, as a matter of fact.

David was a regular at our reunions. The BHS class of 1954 has get togethers every year at Lois Mida Zilka's house in Canton and David always is there with his upbeat stories and big smiles. It's not going to be the same without him.

Every month I go to many meetings each week, but then there are the special months with five Mondays or Tuesday or Wednesdays and no regular meetings are set on those days. That was October and I was on vacation this week. No regular meetings.

Sumpter Township set a committee meeting on Nov. 1 to discuss whether to opt in or out of the new state marijuana law that would allow dispensaries, growing operations, and other businesses. But, I had already made arrangements to meet with two co-workers from my past and so I skipped Sumpter's meeting. Anyway, they will report to the township board and I'll get it for you then.





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"All that is valuable in human society
 depends upon the opportunity for
 development accorded the individual."

— Albert Einstein

Letters

VBPS board members invited to Teen Court

Dear Van Buren School Board Members:

Good day. As with most good ideas, this one is a bit last-minute. However, this is one I think you will appreciate. We would like to invite all school board members to observe Teen Court, one of our Juvenile Consent programs. We have sessions coming up Nov. 1, Nov. 8, and Dec. 13. Sessions begin at 1 p.m. through 2:30 p.m.

Teen Court is a voluntary diversion program where the respondent must admit responsibility for their behavior. The participants fully understand that they will appear before a jury of their peers, who may impose a disposition upon them. This diversion program is a legal proceeding offered as an alternative to formal court.

Huron High School has been involved in this program for some time. Teen Court is now a part of their curriculum and teaches responsibility and citizenship in a manner that the students find instructive and engaging.

Participation in Teen Court requires commitment to education and a promise to treat teachers and classmates with respect. The program must have full cooperation and commitment from the parent(s) or guardian(s), who are also to be present during all proceedings.

During the Teen Court sessions, the juvenile respondent and/or their parent/guardian are questioned by the teens that make up the Teen Court Jury. Following questioning and deliberations, the "jury" then recommends sanctions for the offender.

You have all been invited to attend a Teen Court session in our attempt to expand this valuable program to other districts within our jurisdiction.

I have attached, herewith, copies of testimonials which you may find interesting. I hope you can attend one of our upcoming sessions.

Very truly yours,
 Honorable Brian A. Oakley
 34th District Court

Don't forget: Saturday, Nov. 11 is Veterans Day

To the editor:

This a reminder to Belleville residents and all my South Biggs Street neighbors.

Saturday, Nov. 11, is Veterans Day. It's an official United States federal holiday that is observed annually on Nov. 11, honoring people who have served in the U.S. Armed

Forces, also known as veterans. Originally called "Armistice Day," Congress amended the bill on June 1, 1954, replacing "Armistice" with "Veterans," and it has been known as Veterans Day since.

U.S. President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed Armistice Day for Nov. 11, 1919. Many Americans mistakenly believe that Veterans Day is the day America sets aside to honor American military personnel who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained from combat. That's not quite true.

Memorial Day is the day set aside to honor America's war dead. Veterans Day, on the other hand, honors ALL American veterans, both living and dead. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for dedicated and loyal service to their country. Many companies offer free or discounted meals for all veterans with proper I.D.

Nov. 11 of each year is the day that we ensure ALL veterans know that we deeply appreciate the sacrifices they have made in their lives to keep our country free.

Show your respect and pride for our veterans who live on your street by displaying a flag in front of your home. Thanks to a generous donation from Manns Lumber, I will have a supply of FREE refurbished flags in front of my home (48 S. Biggs). Take one and join all my neighbors with a display any American city would be proud of.

As an added note, you can further honor our veterans by attending one or both of the following events:

- A special short VFW ceremony will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 11, at the Veterans Memorial in Horizon Park. All are invited -- and bring the whole family.

- Veterans Day Spaghetti Dinner, Saturday, Nov. 11, 6-9 p.m., Belleville Moose Lodge #934, 45476 Harris Road, corner of Sumpter and Harris roads. This is a fund raiser for the Veterans Memorial. Tickets are \$10 per person; \$5 for veterans and children. (Note: Members of VFW Post 4434 and PLAV Post 167 eat FREE.)

Pete Pitzen, Belleville resident
 Life member VFW Post 4434

Birthdays

Oct. 17 -- Neilan Robinson
 Nov. 2 -- Jamica Thomas
 Nov. 3 -- Ruth Bleeker
 Nov. 6 -- Maureen Papin
 Nov. 8 -- Mary Thacker
 Nov. 9 -- Evelyn Larabell
 Nov. 11 -- Nevaeh Robinson
 Nov. 12 -- Lacinda McManus

Do you have a birthday in November? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

"Do or do not. There is no try."

— Yoda

**"Life is 10 percent what happens to you
 and 90 percent how you react to it."**

-- Charles Swindoll



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Obituaries



Florence Elizabeth
Thurston

ELIZABETH (BETTIE) THURSTON

(April 28, 1920 - October 28, 2017)

Florence Elizabeth Thurston, known to Family and Friends as "Bettie", passed away at Seasons Hospice in Wyandotte on Saturday, October 28, 2017 at 97 years of age.

Bettie was born April 28, 1920 in Belleville, Michigan, to Harry and Florence Tomlinson Wilson. She married Donald Thurston on June 24, 1943 and enjoyed 67 wonderful years with him until his death on July 2, 2010.

Bettie worked as a telephone operator at the Willow Run Bomber plant prior to her marriage. She was an excellent homemaker throughout her marriage. In later years she enjoyed reading (she was devoted to the *Belleville Independent*), looking out at Belleville Lake, and enjoying the birds and squirrels from her kitchen window.

She is survived by her son, Roger (Joyce Baldwin) of Belleville and seven nieces and nephews. Sadly, she is preceded in death by her Husband, Parents, Brothers Samuel, Russel and George. Sisters, Mary Ives, Helen Cunningham and Dorothy Yedder.

Mrs. Thurston's life will be honored with a funeral service at 11 AM Thursday, November 2, in the Main chapel of David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111, (734) 697-4500.

Private interment will follow at Hillside Cemetery at a later date.

Visiting hours have been arranged for 2 PM until 8 PM Wednesday, and one hour prior to the funeral service on Thursday.

For those desiring, memorial tributes may be directed to the Salvation Army.

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DONALD CHARLES DAROCI

(August 13, 1941 - October 20, 2017)

Donald Charles Daroci, 76, of Roscommon, MI. He was born and had roots in Belleville and was in the Belleville High School class of 1959. He passed away on October 20, 2017 from an aggressive form of lung cancer. No funeral was held as he had arranged for his body to be used for scientific research. A celebration of his life will take place at a later date.



STANLEY LIGHTFOOT, JR.

(June 1, 1922 - October 31, 2017)

Age 95, resident of Romulus. A simple cremation has been arranged; a memorial service will be held in the near future at Bethany Bible Church 810 E Huron River Dr, Belleville, MI 48111, (734) 697-7456.

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MADELINE ANTOINETTE ARKUSKI

(September 16, 1937 - October 29, 2017)

Madeline Antoinette Arkuski, 80, president of the Romulus Democratic Club and retired from Wayne County. Friends may gather from 2-9 p.m. Nov. 2 at Crane Funeral Home, Romulus. Mass at 11 a.m. Nov. 3 at St. Aloysius Catholic Church. www.cranefuneralhome.net

WILLIAM RICHARD LOVE

(September 29, 1952 - October 30, 2017)

Age 65 of Belleville. In keeping with Mr. Love's wishes, a simple cremation has been arranged. A memorial luncheon will be held in the near future. Memorial tribute to the charity of choice. davidcbrownfh.com

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Obituaries



William George Stone

WILLIAM G. STONE

(September 25, 1921 - August 28, 2017)

William George Stone, long-time Belleville resident, died August 28, 2017, at age 95, after a long illness, surrounded by family and loving caregivers. He was born September 25, 1921 and is survived by loving wife of 67 years Lella "Lee" Stone; sons Kim (Bokhee) Stone of Canton, MI and Scott (Linda) Stone of Birmingham, MI; grandchildren Katie, Eric, Christine, Anthony, Patrick, and Gena; great-grandchildren Dottie, Clara, and Jaylyn, dear sister Betty of Huntsville, Alabama, as well as nieces and nephews in Huntsville and San Diego. Bill was preceded in death by his parents Pauline and Monroe Stone, also dear sister Margaret "Peg" Minton.

A Graveside Memorial Service was held Friday, September 1, at Hillside Cemetery with Chaplain Marianne Danks presiding. Full Military Honors were accorded. Arrangements were by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

Bill's long career in Commercial Aviation spanned over 40 years, beginning with his enlistment in the Army-Air Force in September of 1941. Consequently, he and his squadron were assigned to one of the first convoys of troopships sent to Australia and New Zealand to defend against the anticipated invasion by Japanese forces. Over the next four decades he would be involved in almost every phase of commercial aviation including private and corporate aircraft as well as some of the charter airlines, such as Kalitta, Zantop and Universal, all based at Willow Run Airport at that time.

During his years in the private and corporate sector, he would transport many captains of industry and their executive boards. It would also be his special honor and privilege to have assigned as his passengers a future President, Dwight Eisenhower, and later Astronaut John Glenn. His wife Lee recalls very well on both occasions, his comments and concerns reflecting what every pilot in this situation hopes and prays for: "Lord, please don't let me bounce this landing." Lee was happy to report, he walked in the door with a big smile, gave her a hug and said the magic words "I greased it on the runway."

However, the most important passengers and cargo he would carry were the young men and women he transported in 1968, to a terrible time and place called Vietnam. He considered this to be the most defining and significant achievement in his career.

In 1974, he was hired as director of flight operations by Dave Clark, owner of Interstate Airlines. When the company relocated to Little Rock, Arkansas, Bill and Lee followed and lived there until his retirement in 1986. They returned to their home in Belleville, where he spent many happy hours with family, friends and neighbors, enjoying boating, golf, traveling and growing his favorite tomatoes to share among friends and neighbors. He will be sadly missed by all who loved him and will remain in our hearts forever.

Any memorial contributions in Bill's name may be sent to the Alan N. Dengiz, M.D. Next Generation Fund (to encourage and enable more doctors to enter the field of Gerontology).

Please mail to:

Michigan Medicine Office of Development
1000 Oakbrook Drive
Suite 100
Ann Arbor, MI 48104



Dewey C. Farmer

DEWEY C. FARMER

(March 28, 1938 - October 25, 2017)

Mr. Dewey C. Farmer passed away on October 25, 2017 at his home in Belleville with his loving wife by his side. He was born on March 28, 1938 in Holdenville, Oklahoma, the son of Vestie and Opal (Goad) Farmer.

On December 12, 1960 he was married to Freda L. Peavler while he was on a 3-day leave from the Army. Dewey and Freda loved to travel. They are snowbirds, enjoying winters with several friends and their church in Inverness, Florida. He was a big John Wayne buff. Mr. Farmer proudly served his country in the Army during the Korean conflict. Retiring from Ford Motor Company, Woodhaven Stamping Plant, after 30 years of employment.

Dad is survived by his adoring wife Freda of 56 wonderful years. Loving father of Craig Ethan (Kelly) Farmer, Christopher Scott Farmer, and Cynthia L. (Glenn) Williams. Wonderful grandfather of Justin Michael Reed, Jennifer L. Reed, Julia Hannah Williams, Craig E. Farmer, Collin Farmer, Christopher S. Farmer, and Douglas Gage Farmer. Several great-grandchildren also survive. Mr. Farmer was preceded in death by his first-born son, Carl Douglas Farmer on August 12, 2009.

Visitation for Mr. Farmer was held on Friday, October 27, from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. and Saturday, October 28 from 1 P.M. to 2 P.M. with a time for sharing memories and reflections at 2 P.M. at the Higginson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main St., Belleville, 734-697-9400.

Memorial contributions in Mr. Farmer's name are suggested to VAHS (Veterans Administrative Health Service) (135), 2215 Fuller Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105. In the memo section of a check or money order please write account #GPF4050. www.hnfhhome.com

DOUGLAS KENNETH BEDELL

Douglas Kenneth Bedell, 65, of Ravenel, SC, (formerly of Michigan) passed away with his wife and family by his side on July 9, 2017.

Doug is survived by his wife of 32 years Marieta (Rita) Bedell, his mother Margorie Bedell, his brother Roger Bedell, their fur baby Bear, several beloved nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephew, and a large loving family of in-laws. Preceded in death by his father George Kenneth Bedell, father and mother in-law, Bruce and Louise Stanton. A Memorial Service will be held on November 18, 2017 at 11 a.m. at Faith Assembly Church, 894 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI.

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Obituaries



Kenneth Lorne Palmer



KENNETH LORNE PALMER

(September 15, 1926 - October 4, 2017)

In the early hours of Wednesday, October 4, 2017, Kenneth Lorne Palmer, 91, of Canton, Michigan (long time Belleville resident) passed away peacefully surrounded by his family. Kenneth was born on September 15, 1926, in Mason, MI, the youngest of three children.

A talented athlete and scholar, Kenneth was always an active participant in sports, lettering in football, basketball and baseball during his high school years; he also continued to pursue this passion well throughout his life. Upon graduating, he felt called to support his country and enlisted in the Navy, where he spent the next two years on various deployments in the Pacific. He was also a member of the Navy Choir. He returned home and attended and graduated from Albion College, attending his junior year at the University of Arizona. It was there he met his bride of 64 years, Elizabeth, a nurse at the Veterans Hospital where Kenneth was admitted for minor surgery. He adored Elizabeth, and their love was apparent to everyone throughout their marriage, as they embodied what it meant to be a true "team."

Kenneth and Elizabeth moved to Belleville, MI in 1951, and Kenneth began his long career of teaching, starting out teaching 6th grade at Denton and then math at both Belleville High School and North Junior High School at different points throughout his 35-year career. He received his Master's from University of Michigan in those early years. In addition to teaching, he enjoyed coaching basketball, football and baseball. One of the biggest pleasures in his life was running into and reconnecting with his former students and athletes he had coached over the years.

A Belleville city councilman and mayor pro tem for 13 years and member of the zoning board of appeals for many years, Kenneth took pride in publicly supporting the citizens of Belleville. He and Elizabeth were long-term members of Belleville United Methodist Church, having served in many capacities. He was a long-standing member of the church choir and the Joyful Noise, a musical group that visits various schools and senior centers. Ken was the emcee, sharing his stories and jokes in addition to singing. Always looking for the next opportunity to take the field, Kenneth enjoyed playing on the church softball team, and in many volleyball and tennis tournaments.

Kenneth and Elizabeth raised five children together; they were proud of the close bond that the children have even as adults. The only rival to the pride he felt as a father was that he felt as a grandfather, exhibiting patience at every turn and looking for any opportunity to encourage and uplift his eight grandchildren with kindness, his always-present humor and a song. Kenneth was also blessed with five great-grandchildren, all of whom loved and adored their "Grandpa Palmer."

Kenneth is survived by his daughter Vicki (Terry) Bower of Romeo, MI, Dan (Wilhelmina) Palmer of Baton Rouge, LA, Cynthia (John) Fletcher of

Edmond, OK, Brian (Mary) Palmer of Peck, ID and Kim (Edward) Paris of Belleville, as well as his 8 grandchildren (Allisyn Wheeler, Erica Bower, Jonathan Palmer, Michael Palmer, Alex Palmer, Ben Palmer, Laenie Fletcher and Julia Palmer) and 5 great-grandchildren (Leighton and Finn Wheeler, Greyson Goichai, Jonathan Palmer, Jr., and Luke Palmer).

Kenneth was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth, parents Erma and Victor Palmer, his brother, Leslie and his sister, Patricia. While we are heartbroken at his passing, we are thankful that he is finally at peace and reunited with his true love, Elizabeth, in the presence of God. And as we look to one another for comfort, we are reminded of the words from one of Kenneth's favorite hymns:

*When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

A memorial service with military honors will be held on Saturday, November 11 at 2 PM at the Belleville United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., Belleville, MI. Visitation with family will be from 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m. A luncheon and additional time of visiting will follow the service.

Memorial donations can go to Belleville United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., Belleville, MI 48111 to Memorial Garden Fund in memory of Kenneth Palmer.



William Joseph Himes, Jr.



WILLIAM JOSEPH HIMES, JR.

(December 8, 1947 - October 19, 2017)

William Joseph "Joe" Himes, Jr., a resident of Seguin, TX, passed away on Thursday evening, October 19, 2017 at Main Methodist Hospital in San Antonio at the age of 69.

William, affectionately known as Joe, was born on December 8, 1947 in Ypsilanti, MI to William Joseph Himes, Sr. and Mary Elizabeth Morris Himes. He later served his country proudly in the United States Navy. Upon his honorable discharge from the US Navy, Joe spent many successful years employed as a machinist with General Motors.

He was preceded in death by his father and by his in-laws, Morris and Ethel Adkins and Howard Henegar. Survivors include Joe's loving wife of 53 years Carolyn Himes; mother Mary Elizabeth Himes; children Renae Branham and husband, Anthony and Carolyn-Jo Tiszai and husband, Robert; grandchildren, Shane Branham and wife, Bobbi, Aaron-Anthony Branham, Shelby-Renae Branham and Moriah Tiszai; great-grandchildren, Mason Branham and Kamryn Branham. In addition, Joe is also survived by brothers Warren and Dennis Himes. Services were held in New Braunfels, TX. To leave a message for the family, please visit www.luxfhcares.com and select obituaries.



Nolan Ely

NOLAN ELY

(May 31, 1951 - October 26, 2017)

Age 66, of Belleville. Died unexpectedly in Chicago, Illinois on October 26, 2017.

Nolan is the beloved husband of Jodi Stillin-Ely; loving father of Aaron (Mary) Ely of Texas, Ryan Ely of Belleville and Laina Hunt of Belleville; cherished grandfather of Celeste, Jakob, Avary and Brady. He is also survived by his siblings, Connie (Paul) Gubaci of Dexter, Kevin (Jerry Fox) Ely of Minnesota, Randy (Robin) Ely of New Boston, and many other loving extended family and friends.

Born on May 31, 1951 in Detroit, Michigan to Kenneth and Mable Ely, Nolan was a Belleville High School graduate in 1969. Following his graduation, Nolan began working for the Ford Motor Company. He enjoyed woodworking, fishing and hunting, grilling outside in his outdoor kitchen, and following the Detroit Tigers. He will be deeply missed. Nolan will be carefully transported from Chicago back to Belleville for a private family service. A public memorial service celebration of Nolan's life will be held at 11 AM Saturday, November 4, 2017 in the main chapel of the David C. Brown Funeral Home of Belleville (734) 697-4500. In lieu of customary remembers, please consider the St. Jude's Children's Hospital to honor Nolan's life.

www.davidcbrownfh.com



Helene Leona Wilson

HELENE LEONA WILSON

(May 2, 1947 - October 26, 2017)

Age 70 of Sumpter Township, passed away in her home on Thursday morning, October 26, 2017. Helene Leona Wilson is the loving wife of Bert Wilson Sr., dear mother of Danny Mark (Sandra) Wilson, proud grandmother of Samantha, Zachary, Devin, Dylan, Jodie, and five great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her brothers, Brian (Terrie) Moore of Allen Park and John Moore of Nevada, and by her niece and nephew, James and Meagan Moore. She is also survived by many extended family and friends.

Sadly, she is preceded in death by her mother, Marguerite A. Moore, and three sons: Joey Wilson, Bert Wilson Jr. and Dennis Wilson. Helene enjoyed listening to music, especially Motown, blues and classic rock. She also liked to go to the casino once in a while. She was a wonderful mother and loving caregiver to her family; her family was her entire life.

Visitation was Sunday, October 29, 2017 from 2-8 PM at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111. Funeral services were held Monday, October 30, 2017 at 12:30 PM at David C. Brown Funeral Home in the main chapel. The family greeted guests one hour prior to the service. Interment followed in Alban Cemetery in Ypsilanti Township.



Diane Joslin

DIANE JOSLIN

(April 26, 1956 - October 28, 2017)

Diane Joslin, 61, passed away October 28, 2017. She was born on April 26, 1956 to George and Doreen (Powser) Craven.

Diane was a 1974 graduate of Belleville High School, completed a Bachelor's degree in music at the University Michigan, and attained a Master's degree in music from Eastern Michigan University. She was a proud member and alumna of the Michigan Marching Band. Diane credited her father, George, for inspiring and nurturing her musical gifts.

Diane married Art Joslin on February 14, 1990. Her passion in life was music and she taught music at all levels for 35 years, retiring from Pinckney Community Schools. She brought joy to everyone she met, and through her gift of music, she selflessly blessed others as an organist, pianist, and clarinetist, especially for her church families at the Brighton Nazarene Church, Wesley United Methodist Church, Brighton Wesleyan Church, and People's Church of Pinckney.

Diane was a source of inspiration for hundreds of music students throughout her career with many entering the music field as their profession. Her beautiful smile and personality were contagious and her faith in the Lord was strong and unwavering. Diane loved her family and cherished family gatherings. A few of her favorite pastimes included traveling to Europe, watching English theater programs, playing piano, and spending time with her church family.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Doreen Craven. She is survived by her husband of 27-1/2 years, Art; sons James and Brett; her father George Craven; brothers, David (Brenda) Craven and James (Angie) Craven; sister Patricia Bitson; brother-in-law Steve Joslin; and several nieces and nephews whom she dearly loved.

The family will greet friends on Friday, November 3, 2017 from 2-8 p.m. at Borek Jennings Funeral home in Hamburg, Michigan. Her Community Farewell is planned for Saturday, November 4, 2017 at Brighton Nazarene Church at 11 a.m. Memorial donations may be made to the Diane Craven Joslin Memorial Band Scholarship fund. Please leave a message of comfort for Diane's family at 1-877-231-7900, or sign her guestbook at www.borekjennings.com.

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Obituaries



Casper Louis Sears, Jr.

**CASPER LOUIS SEARS, JR.**

(August 2, 1929 - October 27, 2017)

Casper Louis Sears, Jr., 88, of Prudenville passed away on Friday October 27, 2017 at his home with his loving wife by his side.

Casper was born on August 2, 1929 in Belleville, Michigan to Casper and Margaret (Carnie) Sears. He served as a PFC in the Army during the Korean War. Casper worked as a Foreman for Drawtite Company for many years. On August 23, 1952 in Wyandotte, Casper was married to Betty Agnes Rhodes. The couple moved to the Prudenville area from Belleville over twenty five years ago. Casper was a member of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Prudenville and the Knights of Columbus in Belleville. He enjoyed fishing and loved spending time with family.

Surviving Mr. Sears are his wife of 65 years, Betty Agnes Sears of Prudenville; four daughters, Denise (Mike) Warblow of Beloit, WI, Kristine (David) Baker of Belleville, Ruthie (Timothy) Bedard of Dundee, and Julie (Robert) McCollum of Wayne; nine grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; brother, Bart Sears of Ypsilanti.

Casper was preceded in death by his parents, daughter Nancy Sears, brother Richard Sears, sister Kathleen Cook, and sister Geraldine Blevins.

Mass of Christian Burial for Casper Louis Sears will be conducted 11:00 a.m. Monday November 6, 2017 from St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W Columbia Ave, Belleville, MI. Interment will be in Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery in Flat Rock.

Memorial contributions in memory of Casper are asked to be directed to Shriners Hospitals for Children. Christler Funeral Home, Prudenville Chapel is serving the family. Condolences can be sent to the family online at www.christlerholdship.com.

Robert Harold Welt

**ROBERT (BOB) HAROLD WELT**

(August 6, 1929 - October 28, 2017)

Robert (Bob) Harold Welt passed away peacefully surrounded by family on October 28, 2017. Bob was born on August 6, 1929 to Florence Cooke and Harold Moody Welt in Sumpter Township. He lived the majority of his life in Sumpter.

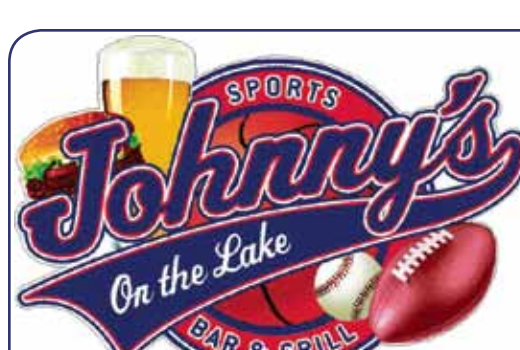
On September 17, 1949 he married Rose Ann Neely. They spent 60 loving years together before her passing on June 15, 2011. Rose and Bob are survived by their three children Denise (Tim) Willoughby, Roberta Welt-Dorwaldt, and Dean (Dawn) Welt; and their five grandchildren Erica (Robert) Dorwaldt Avery, Cordell Willoughby, Jack Dorwaldt, Wesley Welt, and Christopher Welt.

During the Service, Bob was stationed in Germany in the Army from 1952 until 1954. When he returned to Sumpter, he became a mechanic in the family business, Welt Oil Company, where he remained until his retirement.

When Bob was younger, he joined DeMolay in 1944 and his interest in Masonry began. He became a Master Mason on April 2, 1959 at Myrtle Lodge #89 F.&A.M. He served as their Worshipful Master in 1973. He did join Belleville Chapter #73 O.E.S. with Rose and they served as the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron in 1972.

Bob is survived by his sister Virginia Theiss, sister-in-law Ede Welt, brother-in-law Leonard Neely, brother- and sister-in-law Arthur and Sharon Neely, cousins Hubert and Priscilla Schweitzer, several nieces and nephews and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his siblings Everett Welt, Jack Welt, Richard Welt, and in-laws Shirley Welt, LeRoy Theiss, Ocie and Dale Bricker, Betty and James Donall, Darlene and Bill Kawalski, Sonny and Sharon Neely, Pat Neely, and Jimmy Neely. He recently lost his companion Nancy Conley on October 23, 2017. A Masonic Service will be held Sunday, November 5 at 2 p.m. at the Belleville Masonic Temple. A Celebration of His Life will be held Monday, November 6, from 4-7 p.m. at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Saline.



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Obituaries



Larry Jack Preston

LARRY JACK PRESTON

(October 13, 1943 - October 25, 2017)

Mr. Larry Jack Preston, age 74, passed away in Fort Mill, SC on October 25, 2017. He was born on October 13, 1943 and was the son of Milo and Lucile Preston. He is survived by his wife, Marie "Izzie" Preston of Muskegon; daughter, Dawn Preston of Fort Mill, SC; son, Matthew (Tonya) Preston of Bath, MI; very special son, Jonas Olaf (Linda) Akerman of Strangnas, Sweden; sister, Marge (Tom Jones) Preston of Belleville, MI; sister in law, Martha (David) Brown of Belleville; nieces, Amy (Kevin) Hinks of Belleville and Shelly (Jim) Chudzinski of Belleville; several very special in-laws and many nieces and nephews that he dearly loved.

Larry was known for his love of youth and amateur sports throughout the entire state of Michigan. Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, November 2, 2017 at The Lee Chapel, 6291 S. Harvey St., Rock Hill, SC, 231-798-1100. A Celebration of His Life will be held 11 a.m. Friday, November 3, 2017 at The Lee Chapel with a reception immediately following at the Fruitport Golf Club Banquet Hall.

Memorial donations may be made to The Larry Preston Memorial Scholarship Fund or Hospice Care of South Carolina (1639 Ebenezer Rd., Rock Hill, SC 29732).

used to care for the animals at FMAR's no-kill shelter in Sumpter.

• **Saturday, Nov. 4** – Friends of the Library quarterly used book sale, noon-3 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Books will be "Buy One, Get One Free," with Christmas books and specially marked books for holiday gifts. Members-only presale will be 11 a.m.-noon.

• **Saturday, Nov. 4** – Sumpter Senior Annual Craft Show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sumpter Community Center, 23501 Sumpter Road. Jewelry, crochet items, more.

• **Saturday, Nov. 4** – Van Buren Eagles #3996 is holding a Diabetes Fund Raiser from 5 p.m. to midnight, featuring a buffet-style dinner, and live music with "Rocky Fortune." Raffles and auctions. Open to the public. Tickets \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Available at the Eagles or online at www.foe3996.com All proceeds benefit the Diabetes Research Center at the University of Iowa.

• **Sunday, Nov. 5** – "Friends of Music" entertain with live music from 2-5 p.m. at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township. Free. Information: Mike Hoben, (734) 260-1170 or Lynette Jordan, (734) 699-8918

• **Sunday, Nov. 5** – Join Bugles Across America at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial in Belleville for a brief ceremony to honor past and present members of the military. Stand to pledge the flag and hear "Taps" played.

• **Tuesday, Nov. 7** – The Belleville Area Lions Club is expanding its membership and is holding an open house from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library, 167 Fourth Street, Belleville. This is an opportunity to serve the communities of Belleville, Van Buren and Sumpter.

• **Tuesday, Nov. 7** – "Donut Dolly: An American Red Cross Girl's War in Vietnam" is on at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Joann Puffer Kotcher, a former Red Cross worker assigned to combat support duty during the Vietnam War, will speak. These Donut Dollies were the first American women allowed in combat zones. She will share stories about her five duty postings in Vietnam, including her time assigned to a Special Forces team in the jungle. She also will sign copies of her book, available for sale.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Friday, Nov. 3** – "Tasting Wine and Brew" fund raiser for the Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue at Vintner's Canton Winery and Canton Brewworks, 8515 and 8521 N. Lilley Road, 7-9 p.m. Tickets, \$35 each, include wine tasting, Beer Flight (four 5 oz. pours), snacks, souvenir bottle of wine, raffles. All proceeds will be



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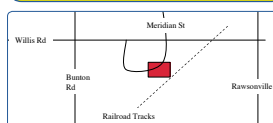


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Military Air Transport Service takes part in history as it unfolds

By Lella Stone

Few people are aware that MATS (Military Air Transport Service) contracts with many charter airline services throughout the USA which at the time (1968) included Kalitta, Zantop, and Dave Clark based at Willow Run Airport with close ties to the Belleville and Van Buren Township communities.

These charter services are awarded contracts by individual corporations including automotive, shipping, medical, and disaster relief services (at this point, would expand to: Puerto Rico, Florida, Houston and California) as well as the military contracts from MATS. Their cargo could include anything from thoroughbred race horses or fire fighters to Muslim pilgrims or Saudi oil workers on leave. They might even include bringing shipment of strawberries or shrimp to your favorite five-star restaurant.

As I struggled to recount my husband Bill's personal participation and experience, I watched a PBS documentary on the Vietnam War, by acclaimed historian, Ken Burns. It explicitly portrayed not only the pain from the loss of so many lives, but also the agony of a country torn apart. It became clear this story needed to be told, and I believe Bill would want their participation and efforts to be shared with all those men and women who served in this effort, and continue to do so. From the Berlin airlift, Korean

Conflict, Vietnam War, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Alaska, and Antarctica. These crews flew in the most brutal weather conditions men and aircrafts can encounter. Even as you read this somewhere a charter plane and crew is taking off filled with needed personnel, food, materials, and medical supplies.

In 1968, in the height of the TET offensive, MATS awarded contracts to charter airlines at Willow Run to furnish aircraft and crews flying necessary supplies and personnel. Crews were made up of volunteers. The aircraft assigned for their missions was a stretch DC8 stripped down to allow for

maximum cargo, passengers, and a crew of six (pilot, co-pilot, flight engineer, navigator and two flight attendants); no champagne, caviar or in-flight movies were offered. It was a long, exhausting, and dangerous flight from here to Saigon and back. After the final refueling in Subic Bay, the remainder of the flight to Saigon and back was flown without military escort or assistance. Once on the ground in Saigon, ground crews swarmed the aircraft to refuel and prepare the plane for the return flight. The crews would receive the flight manifest for their returning flight and prepare for take-off. All materials, supplies

and passengers were loaded before the assigned medical team could bring aboard the wounded for the long flight back to Travis Air Force base, where they would be transferred to the nearest VA Hospital.

The planes and equipment have evolved and for the most part have been modernized and up-graded, but if you watch and listen somewhere rolling down the runway is the beloved work horse WWII DC3 and the widely used C130 cargo. I believe Bill would say "To all you no-skedders (non-scheduled), 'Happy Landings, Guys.' We got the job done."

(see Stone obituary on page 7)

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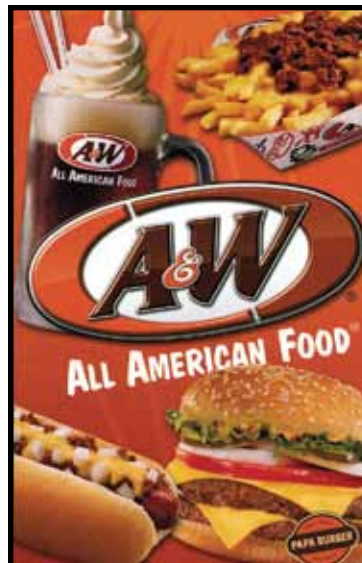


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Five candidates run for two open seats on Belleville City Council

Five candidates are running for two, four-year seats open on the Belleville City Council. Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Candidates are Kelly Bates, Tom Fielder, Gwen Hooks, Jesse Marcotte, and Jeff Vernon.

Kelly Bates, 342 Victorian Lane, is married to Thomas Bates and they have lived in the City of Belleville for three years. She is employed as occupation supervisor at the University of Michigan Health Center. She has taken some college classes.

Last November she was appointed to the Belleville Planning Commission.

Tom Fielder, 206 South Street, has lived in Belleville for all of his 72 years. He is single and a Belleville High School retired teacher. He is an incumbent seeking to retain his seat.

Fielder earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Michigan. He was elected Belleville's mayor in 1999 and to the Belleville City Council in 2013. He also was appointed to the Belleville Downtown Development Authority and served 2009-2013. He also was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission and has served on that commission since 1994.

Fielder also is active in the Belleville Area Historical Society, Belleville Central Business Community, and Wayne County Substance Use Disorder Board. Fielder also serves as a baseball-softball official.

Gwen Hooks, 207 Victorian Lane, has lived in the city for five years with her husband Mark Hooks and daughter Jocelyn Hooks. Hooks, 36, is a Health Research Science Specialist, with a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. This is her first bid for public office.

Jesse Marcotte, 53 Potter Drive, was appointed to a seat on the city council last November and is running to retain his seat. This is his first time on a ballot. He was appointed to and served on the planning commission 2007-2014 and 2015-2016, about eight years total. Marcotte, 34, has lived in the city for

12 years. He resides with his girlfriend Melly. He has worked for the Northville Township Fire Department for 15 years and is Battalion Chief of Training.

Marcotte graduated from Belleville High School in 2001 and earned a BAS in Public Safety Studies from Siena Heights University in 2006 and a master of science in Public Safety and Emergency Management from Eastern Michigan University in 2010.

Jeff Vernon, 48, of 111 South Street, is on a ballot for public office for the first time. He was appointed to the Belleville Parks and Recreation Commission.

He has lived in the city for two years and lists his occupation as "general labor." He lists his education as "high school."

Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Both City of Belleville voting precincts are located at the Father Folta building behind St. Anthony Catholic Church on West Columbia Ave. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Nov. 6 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 7 – Belleville City Council Election.
- Wednesday, Nov. 8 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 9 – Keystone Academy Board of Education, 6 p.m., Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission at 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 13 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education regular meeting, 7 p.m., Belleville High School Commons
- Tuesday, Nov. 14 – Van Buren Township Senior Center Endowment Committee at 11 a.m. Also, VBT Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Appeals, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

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The toll-free telephone number for the
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VBT Planners clear the way for Industrial zoning of farmland

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The 75 acres of the Smith farm in Denton that has been farmed for more than 100 years will be changed to Light Industrial zoning in a plan worked out by the Van Buren Township Planning Commission.

Among the farm buildings on the property is a big old barn and a farmhouse built in 1888.

At its Oct. 25 meeting, applicant Ben Griffin said there are nine parcels in a triangular area bounded on the north by

Michigan Avenue, on the south side by Norfolk Suffolk railroad, and on the east by the Denton Cemetery and a single-family residential area.

He said these parcels are not conducive to residential development and would be better as a Light Industrial site.

Ron Akers, director of planning and economic development said this rezoning is a little different. He said you can't rezone single family residential to M-1 because of the Master Plan. The Master Plan would have to be changed.

He said the township has to justify rezonings with its Master Plan and the area is now R-1C (single family residential).

He said this site is close to the American Center for Mobility and the township needs to look at making more industrial zoning available.

He said the first step is to change the Master Plan, but the township already is embarking on a Master Plan update project that will take about a year. While Griffin said he would go along with what the township wants to do, he already has lost one tenant for the property because it was needed now. That customer will build in Ohio, he said.

Akers said the planners have three options: moving forward with intent to rezone, decline to move forward and include this in the year-long Master Plan update, or leave the property as residential.

Akers said they would have to make sure the industrial plans don't negatively impact the village of Denton, which is just to the east.

Planning consultant Patrick Sloan of McKenna Associates said the township's industrial land sites are getting fewer and they have to look at what land, if any, does the township want to zone industrial. He said this property is near the airport and railroad.

Commission Chairwoman Carol Thompson, who lives in Denton, said it already is very hectic in Denton with the industrial nearby to the east and as the American Center for Mobility builds from the west, she doesn't know the best way to handle this.

After discussion, the planning commission voted unanimously to amend the Future Land Use Plan for the Smith farm, which means moving ahead with changing that part of the Master Plan while getting started on the yearlong work on the total Master Plan.

The timeline for the Smith farm rezoning project begins at once, with the necessary legal steps laid out bringing the final vote before the township board on May 15.

Harold Smith was present to support the rezoning of his farm.



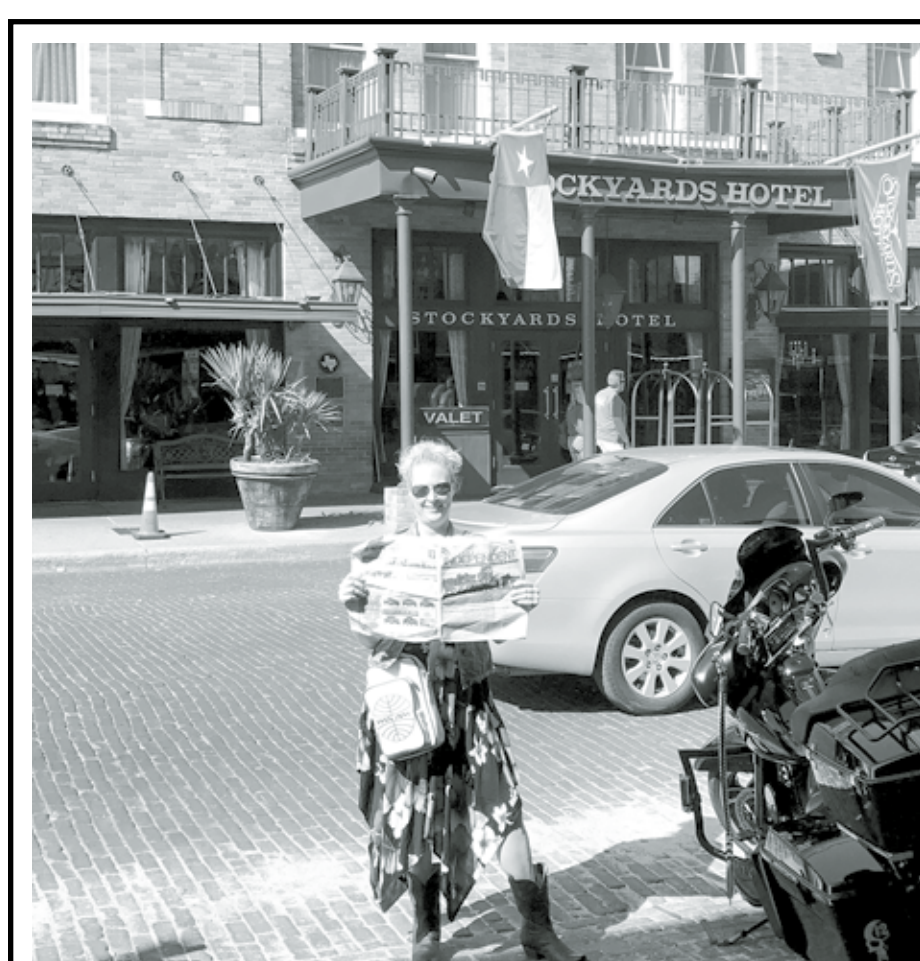
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They're reading the Independent everywhere

While in Fort Worth, Texas, at the "Stockyards," Katie Dallos read the Belleville-Area Independent, while wearing her new cowgirl boots!

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us \$30 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$35 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.

Anniversary

Oct. 29 -- Yianni & Jennifer Genimatas

Notice to Advertisers:

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

More Letters

Satisfied? Then vote for Belleville incumbents

To the voters of the City of Belleville:

On Nov. 7, you will be voting for two council positions. One of the incumbents is Tom Fielder. Think about it: What he has done for the City of Belleville when he was mayor and councilman. He, along with the city manager, closed down the 24-hour police station.

Did you know that the 100-year anniversary came and went in 2005? The only thing that was done was the city seal was changed to indicate 100 years and the so-called celebration was added to the Harvest Festival.

They say they are doing their best, but nothing has gotten better while he was on the board, so it is time for a change.

The phones to the City Hall and Police Department have been down for almost four weeks. You would think that the board members would be upset about this since they represent you and would get tired from hearing the city manager tell them time and time again that they are working on it.

So, if you want the same leadership for the city, then vote for the incumbents. But, if you have hope for the future, try a change for once.

William Hastings
Belleville

Get out and vote on Nov. 7 in Belleville

To the editor:

Hello, my name is Jesse Marcotte and I am a candidate for Belleville City Council. I would like to take a moment to compliment everyone who has organized and attended the many Booville events!

I would also like to remind everyone to get out and vote on Nov. 7, 2017. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve the community as a member of City Council since my appointment last November. I

look forward to continuing my service as a member of the Belleville City Council with your vote.

I would also like to cordially invite everyone to all of our City Council meetings as your voice truly matters. Thank you for allowing me to serve the City of Belleville and thank you for your vote.

Respectfully,
Jesse Marcotte
For Belleville. From Belleville.

VBALL partners with Fleece and Thank You

To the editor:

The Van Buren Area Little League (VBALL) is pleased to announce that it has partnered with an amazing company started by Nicholas Kristock called Fleece and Thank You. This amazing company provides sick children in hospitals with comforting fleece blankets.

The fleece kits come with all the material needed to create a fleece blanket, a video message from you to the sick child, and delivery of the video and blanket to the child. Quite often the hospital rooms in these Children Hospitals are pure white with very little color. These handmade fleece blankets offer these sick children "armor for their battle" and provide a "friendly face of support."

If anyone is interested in purchasing a blanket kit, please contact me at (734) 260-6017. The kits are \$30 and when I get 10 orders I will order the kits so the blankets can be made, get the video message recorded, and get the video and blanket delivered.

If you want to learn more about Fleece and Thank You, please visit fleeceandthankyou.org.

Hopefully, together we can put a smile back on the faces of the children.

Thank you,
Marc Littleton,
President of VBALL

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

Library: Used book sale, travelogue coming

To the editor:

RE: Used Book Sale and Greenland and Wild Labrador

Booklovers of the Greater Belleville Area, there will be a great used book sale at the Belleville Area District Library next Saturday, Nov 4. Paperbacks will be six for a dollar, hardbacks four for a dollar. (You really can't beat those prices.)

The book sale is open to the public from noon to 3 p.m. Members of the Friends of the Belleville Area Public Library get an Early Bird chance to pick out books from 11 to noon; if you're not a member, you can become a member of the Friends by stopping by and signing up at the Library anytime before the sale -- or even the day of the sale. Prices for a year's membership are \$8 for seniors and students, \$15 for individuals, and \$25 for a family. At the library you may pay by cash, check, or credit card.

AND, next Thursday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. at the library, Dee Crowe will be talking about Greenland and Wild Labrador. She always gives a fine program!

In any event, I hope to see you at the library soon.

Marty Wilson, Membership Chair
Friends of the Belleville Area District Library

Why is McNamara spending so much?

To the editor:

In reading the article of "VBT Board passes \$17.4 million budget for 2018" there's a question an accountant and Governor should look into.

Why is McNamara and his board spending \$25,103.16 for a Ford F-150 XL with an 8' bed to be purchased for checking on building permits? Assuming pieces of paper and not boulders are carried in a vehicle, what is wrong with a compact car?

Please let a board member, especially Kevin McNamara spending our tax money on unnecessary lake homes, parks, vehicles, and a lodge behind Aldi's, justify why our taxes are misspent.

Awaiting a reply.

One-third of VBT residents

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Sumpter Township Public Notice

Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes October 10, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm, showing present: Supervisor J. Morgan, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer P. Morgan, Trustees: Oddy, LaPorte, Swinson, Barnes. Also showing present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk Hadyniak and approximately 22 residents.

3. Agenda: Motion by Oddy, supported by LaPorte to approve the Agenda with the following amendments:

Remove-E. Consider holding a public informational meeting regarding the changes in the Michigan Medical Marijuana Laws at the Community Center Gym on November 2, 2017 at 6:30pm. Motion carried.

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by Oddy, supported by P. Morgan to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2017. Correcting item #3 to Table A. Consider recommendation by Auditors to increase rubbish picks up to \$25.50 per quarter. Remove E. Consider approval to purchase BS&A software for the animal license program at cost of \$5,920.00. Motion carried.

6. Warrants: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to approve the Warrants totaling \$293,951.67. Roll call vote: Yes: J. Morgan, E. Hurst, P. Morgan, Oddy, LaPorte, Swinson, Barnes. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Water & Sewer Report-P. Morgan: Motion by Hurst, supported by Oddy to approve the Water & Sewer Report. Motion carried.

8. Police Report-Luke: Motion by Oddy, supported by Swinson to approve the Police Report. Motion carried.

9. Building/Ordinance Report-LaPorte: Motion by Hurst, supported by Oddy to approve the Building/Ordinance Report. Motion carried.

10. Fire Report-Januszyk: Motion by Hurst, supported by Oddy to approve the Fire Report. Motion carried.

11. Treasurer's Report-P. Morgan: Motion by LaPorte, supported by Swinson to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

12. Supervisor Report-J. Morgan: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to approve the Supervisor Report. Motion carried.

13. Attorney's Report-Young: No Report

14. Board Response:

A. Trustee LaPorte let the residents of Sumpter Township know that the new Brush Truck for the Fire Department is outside the Board room to view.

B. Supervisor Morgan advised the residents of Sumpter Township there is only 2 more Sundays left in the month of October for the Turkey Shoot.

C. Supervisor Morgan named the members of this Fact Finding committee for the new medical marijuana laws to be: Trustee Oddy, Trustee Barnes, Chief Januszyk, Chief Luke, K. Bednark, Planner Atkins, and Supervisor Morgan. No date has been set for a public meeting.

D. Trustee LaPorte let the residents of Sumpter Township know that the Police audit has been conducted and no issues had been found. LaPorte did state that the overtime slips needed to be attached to the time card going forward.

E. Clerk, Hurst let the residents of Sumpter Township know about the 26th Annual "Sock It to Us" going from October 1st unit October 31st can drop off donation at the Community Center or Clerk's Office. You can donate NEW socks, any size, color or style.

15. New Business:

A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hurst to award the septic bid for 26781 Sumpter Rd. to Artistic Landcare & Site Utilities for \$19,900.00, contingent upon all proper permits obtained and Township Attorney's review. To be paid with CDBG funds. Motion carried.

B. Motion by Hurst, supported by Oddy to approve the repair on the main firefighting pump for engine 51 at a cost of \$1,902.61. Motion carried.

C. Motion by Barnes, supported by P. Morgan to approve sending Sergeants Toth, B. Egerer and B. Steffani to Police staff and command training starting February 2018 ending October 2018; entailing 1 week a month. Costing \$3,000.00 per student. Motion carried.

D. Motion by Oddy supported by LaPorte to approve a 5 year contract with Axon Enterprises for in-car video system at a cost of \$29,224.77. Motion carried.

16. Announcements

17. Open Floor:

18. Closed Session:

A. Motion by Hurst, supported by P. Morgan to go into Closed session at 7:33 pm. Roll call vote: Yes: J. Morgan, P. Morgan, Hurst, Swinson, Oddy, LaPorte, Barnes. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by Oddy, supported by P. Morgan to go back into Open session at 8:10 pm. Motion carried.

C. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to direct Attorney Young to move on the item discussed in the Closed Session. Motion carried.

19. Adjournment: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to adjourn at 8:12 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Esther Hurst, Clerk
Sumpter Township

Certification

I, Esther Hurst, Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the following is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Township of Sumpter Board of Trustees on October 10, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that the said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Esther Hurst, Clerk
Published: November 2, 2017

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Garden Fantasy Greenhouse on Tyler Road near Morton Taylor is a one-stop shop for holiday decorating, selling hand-made grave blankets, wreaths, roping, cemetery cones, and is just a few short weeks, Christmas trees. Right now, all of their garden statuary is 25% off. They're open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and now Sundays, from 1 to 5 p.m. Call (734) 697-1765.

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue of Sumpter is holding a Wine & Beer Bar fundraiser tomorrow evening, Nov. 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Vintners's Canton Winery & Canton Brewworks. Tickets are \$35 each which includes wine tasting, beer flight, snacks, and a souvenir bottle of wine. Call (734) 461-9458. FMAR and Haab's Restaurant in Ypsilanti have teamed up for a dine-to-donate fundraiser on Sunday, Nov. 19, all day long with 10% of sales going to the no-kill shelter. Call (734) 483-8200.

Belleville Presbyterian Church on Belleville Road will be holding its annual Bazaar & Luncheon on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Activities include a silent auction, featuring one-of-a-kind hand-made quilts, crafts, bake sale, and a lunch with the proceeds going to the church women's association. See their ad in today's paper and call (734) 697-8687.

Belleville A&W on Columbia Ave. is offering its famous Coney hot dogs for just 99 cents through the rest of the year. To place a carryout order, call (734) 699-1800.

Today's newspaper features an insert from Tractor Supply with locations in Saline, Ann Arbor, Whitmore Lake, and Monroe. Visit www.tractorsupply.com for info. To learn how you can have your flyer or advertisement inserted into the newspaper, call me at (734) 699-9020.

It's on to the second round of the football playoffs for the Belleville Tigers (10-0) as they welcome Canton (9-1) tomorrow evening at 7 p.m. at BHS. Go Tigers!

Do you have a news item you would like to see in this column? There is no charge. Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020 with your suggestion.

Belleville / Van Buren Goodfellows Applications for Assistance Begin Mon, Nov 6th

Applications to receive assistance for the 2017 Belleville / Van Buren Goodfellows Christmas Food and Toy Distribution Program will begin 9am Monday, Nov 6th.

Application forms will be available 24/7 at the Van Buren Township Police Department front desk.
(46425 Tyler Rd, Belleville)

Printable forms will also be available online on the Van Buren Township website at www.vanburen-mi.org.

Program is open to Belleville City and Van Buren Township residents only (Sumpter Twp has their own Goodfellows program)

Families may apply immediately, or may pick up forms and apply at a later time between 9am Mon, Nov 6th and 3pm Fri, Dec 1st

YOU MUST APPLY IN PERSON AT THE POLICE DEPT WITH PROOF OF RESIDENCY

(Drivers license, State ID or current utility bill showing name & address).

**CALL-IN, MAIL-IN OR E-MAILED APPLICATIONS
WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Applications for assistance will close Friday, Dec 1st at 3pm.

For more info or questions about the Goodfellows program, contact Pam Fleming at 734-699-8934 weekdays 9am-3pm

Thank-you,
Pam Fleming, Coordinator
Belleville / Van Buren Goodfellows

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 474 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police for the past week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Oct. 22:
0014 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
0157 -- fight, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0212 -- juvenile complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0247 -- suspicious person/vehicle, E. Huron River
1305 -- mental subject, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1306 -- 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1738 -- abandoned auto, Haggerty Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
2023 -- fight, Edison Lake Rd.
2153 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Truman
2223 -- noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2336 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd

Monday, Oct. 23:
0649 -- family trouble, E. Archwood Dr.
1044 -- disorderly, Coolidge St.
1105 -- private property impound, Ecorse Rd.
1102 -- 911 welfare check, Van Born
1234 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1251 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Savage Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
1302 -- private property impound, Ecorse Rd.
1340 -- breaking & entering, Oak Blvd.
1453 -- private property impound, Ecorse Rd.
1508 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1513 -- narcotics crime, Belleville Rd.
1535 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Robson Rd.
1545 -- larceny, Denton Rd.
1547 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Ryznar Dr.
1644 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Birch Dr.
1738 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Van Born Rd.
1741 -- suspicious person/vehicle, E. Huron River
1901 -- juvenile complaint, Park Estates Dr.
2149 -- road hazard, WB Michigan Ave./bypass

Tuesday, Oct. 24:
0558 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Gilmore/Cedar
1018 -- fraud, Van Buren St.
1039 -- property damage accident, Belleville / McDonald's
1256 -- issue gun permit, Tyler Rd.
1322 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.
1457 -- property damage accident, Rawsonville
1513 -- fraud, Belleville Rd.
1520 -- fraud, Robbe Rd.
1604 -- juvenile complaint, Van Buren St./Tyler
1615 -- property damage accident, Belleville/Yost
1955 -- traffic offense, Haggerty Rd./Riggs Rd.
2048 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2050 -- assist other dept., Rawsonville Rd.
2143 -- noise complaint, S. Belldridge Rdd.
2220 -- larceny, Village Green Ln.

Wednesday, Oct. 25:
0322 -- retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0715 -- larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
1003 -- hospice death, Jackson St.
1123 -- fraud, Belleville Rd.
1238 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Jeannette Ave.
1401 -- unauthorized driving away of auto, Lighthouse Dr.
1535 -- assault & battery, Haggerty Rd.
1630 -- juvenile complaint, Richmond Dr.
1658 -- road hazard, Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.
1724 -- private property impound, Industrial
1732 -- private property impound, S. Industrial
1931 -- unauthorized driving away of auto, Dover Ct.

2101 -- abandoned auto, W. Huron River/Hoeft Rd
Thursday, Oct. 26:
0007 -- road hazard, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.
0420 -- family trouble, Birch Dr.
0814 -- property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Independence Ln.
0825 -- abandoned auto, Hoeft Rd./W. Huron River Dr.
0908 -- disorderly, Sonrisa St.
1043 -- property damage accident, Village Center Dr.
1231 -- private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1415 -- suspicious person/vehicle, McKinley St.
1641 -- disorderly, McKinley St.
1712 -- abandoned auto, Tyler School

1717 -- private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1735 -- 911 welfare check, Rolan Meadows Dr.
1821 -- fraud, Meadows Ln.
1958 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Arthur St.
2019 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Western St.
2107 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2131 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Village Green Ln.
2219 -- suspicious person/vehiclee, Rawsonville
2245 -- malicious destruction of property, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2251 -- overdose, N. Ponderosa Trl.

Friday, Oct. 27:
0136 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd.
0218 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Dellor St.
0300 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0316 -- suspicious person/veicle, N. I-94 Service
0447 -- assist other dept., Rawsonville Rd.
0617 -- hospice death, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0849 -- larceny from auto, Haggerty Rd.
1148 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Bayshore Dr. / Denton Rd.
1222 -- trespassing, Tyler Rd./Quirk Rd.
1313 -- mental subject, Ayres Ave.
1433 -- suspicious person/vehicle, McBride/Quirk
1504 -- retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1503 -- breaking & entering, Arborview Ln.
1515 -- breaking & entering, Van Born
1620 -- abandoned auto, Rolan Meadows Dr.
1618 -- property damage accident, Michigan Ave.
1633 -- breaking & entering, Ecorse Rd.
1738 -- disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
1832 -- suspicious person/vehicle, McBride/Quirk
1851 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
2014 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Lighthouse Dr.
2025 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Beck Ball Diamonds

2050 - suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.
2053 -- retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2210 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Lighthouse Dr.
2216 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd.
2224 -- property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
2308 -- assist other dept., Spencer Ave./Roulo St.
2336 -- road hazard, Sheldon Rd
2351 -- trespassing, Belleville Rd.

Saturday, Oct. 28:
0041 -- suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
0056 -- noise complaint, Tavistock Dr.
0109 -- malicious destruction of propert, Denton
0157 -- assist other dept., Carriage Ln.
0221 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
0429 -- noise complaint, Ironwood Dr.
0435 -- shooting, Savage Rd./Sheldon Rd.
1254 -- hold-up alarm, Woodgrove Dr.
1422 -- private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1444 -- property damage accident, Rawsonville
1522 -- fraud, Springwood Blvd.
1649 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Venetian Ave.
1759 -- private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1849 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Robson Rd. / Morton Taylor Rd.
2321 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.

Also on this week's log are 168 traffic stops with 21 of those being on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Oct. 22:
0008 -- warrant arrest, Dearborn Heights Jail
0346 -- 911 welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.
1049 -- warrant arrest, Bemis/Sumpter
1128 -- domestic, Loza Ln.
1421 -- neighbor trouble, Bedell St.
1517 -- Misc. complaints, Tyler Rd.
1533 -- intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
1906 -- weapons violation, Church St./W. Columbia Ave.
Monday, Oct. 23:
0319 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belle Villa Blvd
1426 -- warrant arrest, Main St.
1453 -- malicious destruction of property, Denton Rd. / Main St.
1618 -- larceny from auto, Belle Villa Blvd.
1631 -- juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1647 -- juvenile complaint, Carmell St.
1903 -- intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
2334 -- assist citizen, Belleville Rd./Denton Rd.

Tuesday, Oct. 24:
0047 -- weapons violation, W. Columbia Ave. / Church St.
0729 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter/Belle Plaza
1101 -- assist fire dept., Capistrano Ct.
1234 -- assist fire dept., Capistrano Ct.
1400 -- intrusion alarm, N. Biggs Ave.
1957 -- assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
0221 -- traffic offense, E. Huron River/South St.
2157 -- welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.

Wednesday, Oct. 25:
1000 -- assist fire dept., Fifth St.
1251 -- narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
1511 -- trespassing, Second St.

Thursday, Oct. 26:
1105 -- 911 welfare check, Third St.
1156 -- warrant arrest, Telegraph/I-94
1450 -- harassment call, Menlo Park Dr.
1603 -- disorderly, Sumpter Rd./Spencer St.
2059 -- assist fire dept., S. Liberty St.

Friday, Oct. 27:
0025 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. Aberdeen Ct.
0438 -- assist citizen, Rawsonville
1310 -- property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr. / Main St.

1710 -- assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1924 -- welfare check, Carmell St.
2002 -- intrusion alarm, Madelon St.
2258 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Main St./High

Saturday, Oct. 28:
0218 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Main St./Third
1330 -- assist fire dept., Wexford Ave.
1947 -- animal complaint, Harbour Pointe Dr.
2233 -- traffic offense, Main St./E. Huron River Dr
2302 -- noise complaint, Bedell St.

Also on this week's log are 65 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Oct. 22:
0027 -- suspicious vehicle, 28000 bl. Haggerty
0249 -- reckless driver, Carriage Ln.
0537 -- breaking & entering, 21000 bl. Sumpter
0843 -- citizen assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1024 -- warrant arrest pick up, 40000 bl Harris Rd.
1113 -- asault, 44000 bl. Paris Dr.
1136 -- alarm, 27000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1400 -- alarm, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1722 -- warrant arrest pick up, California
2137 -- citizen assist, 12000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2210 -- reckless driver, Knollwood/Country Club
2231 -- suspicious vehicle, Rustic Ln.

Monday, Oct. 23:
1022 -- threats, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1209 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1220 -- fire dept. assist, Timberlane
1321 -- warrant arrest pick up, out of township
1540 -- fraud complaint, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
1551 -- well-being check, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1727 -- well-being check, Rustic Ln.
2121 -- suspicious vehicle, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
2227 -- alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Tuesday, Oct. 24:
1038 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1207 -- animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1521 -- animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1719 -- suspicious incident, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1743 -- suspicious incident, Rawsonville/Willis

Wednesday, Oct. 25:
0926 -- civil dispute, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1041 -- suspicious incident, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1251 -- animal complaint, 24000 bl. Haggerty
1344 -- harassment complaint, 8300 bl. Rawsonville
1349 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1546 -- fraud complaint, 47000 bl. Harris Rd.
1617 -- juvenile complaint, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1717 -- animal complaint, Carriage Ln.
2036 -- reckless driver, Rawsonville/Willis
2046 -- disorderly person, Wyoming
2320 -- fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Clark Rd.

Thursday, Oct. 26:
0121 -- warrant arrest pick up, out of township
0617 -- warrant arrest pick up, out of township
0655 -- property damage accident, Bemis/Haggerty
0842 -- 911 hang up, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0858 -- fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1212 -- harassment complaint, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1223 -- warrant arrest pick up, out of township

1307 -- malicious destruction of property, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1337 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1450 -- property damage accident, Willow / Martinsville
1508 -- well-being check, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1517 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1649 -- neighbor dispute, Wayside
1705 -- fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1948 -- suspicious incident, 23000 bl. Martinsville

Friday, Oct. 27:
0146 -- well-being check, Rustic Ln.
0210 -- property damage accident, Oakville Waltz / Clark
0848 -- well-being check, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1032 -- fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1247 -- assault, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1250 -- fire dept. assist, Virginia
1437 -- civil dispute, Rustic Ln.
1536 -- fraud complaint, 42000 bl. Willis Ct.
1659 -- fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
1713 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2004 -- family trouble, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
2143 -- alarm, 21000 bl. Meri Dr.

Saturday, Oct. 28:
0052 -- personal injury accident, Rawsonville/Judd
0152 -- suspicious incident, Carriage Ln.
0703 -- alarm, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
0728 -- fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
0753 -- warrant arrest pick up, Sumpter/Bemis
1012 --- larceny, Country Club Blvd.
1130 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1209 -- fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Judd Rd.
1440 -- suspicious incident, Edgewood
1456 -- threats, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1735 -- suspicious person, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1747 -- fraud complaint, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1804 -- suspicious incident, 20000 bl. Haggerty Rd
2105 -- ORV complaint, Wear/Martinsville

Also on this week's log are 11 follow-up investigations, 23 miscellaneous details, 139 patrol checks, and 30 traffic stops.

Court Watching: Charges dismissed against Marquiese Esters, who's in prison

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Marquiese Rashawn Esters, 26, who is already serving time with the Michigan Department of Corrections, had four charges against him dismissed by the Wayne County Prosecutor's office.

Esters was scheduled to be before 34th District Court Judge David Parrott on Oct. 18 on charges of: motor vehicle - buying or receiving a vehicle part knowing the identification number; receiving and concealing stolen property, \$1,000-\$20,000 in value; receiving and concealing stolen vehicle; and concealing or misrepresenting motor vehicle identity with intent to mislead.

These crimes allegedly occurred on Dec. 6 in Van Buren Township.

But on Aug. 31 he was sentenced to 16-30 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of assault with intent to murder, felony firearm including discharge from a vehicle, and other charges. He also was on probation at the time after pleading guilty to an attempt to run a chop shop and related offenses.

The VBT charges were dismissed by the prosecutor, "in the interest of justice."

A note on Esters' case file said the prosecutor needed fingerprints, but Judge Parrott said since he is in prison, he's sure Esters has had his fingerprints taken.

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Superintendent's Corner

By Pete Kudlak
Superintendent,
Van Buren Public Schools



When I was looking at switching districts a couple of summers ago, I looked very carefully at the athletic programs of prospective districts. There is a community pride and a sense of connection with the local school when there is a strong athletic program.

Athletics also teaches many life lessons (discipline, respect, dedication, teamwork, and hard work) through participation, winning and losing games, struggles, successes, and failures. They are an extension of the classroom learning environment and are challenging and rewarding endeavors that help develop outstanding young adults.

Our athletic program by the numbers: 25 fall sports offered (15 BHS, 10 McBride), 17 winter sports offered (10 BHS, 7 McBride), 14 spring sports offered (11 BHS, 3 McBride). We had 744 athletes participate at BHS and another 366 at McBride. Of those numbers, 19 senior student-athletes received scholarships to participate in athletics in college. Our combined GPA for our high school athletes was 3.13. We had 63 students receiving All-Conference awards last year and 84 juniors and seniors were named to the conference All-Academic Team.

We have 62 paid coaching positions (and many, many volunteers), spent \$581,329 to support the athletics program (bringing in \$146,088 in tickets and participation fees), and implemented an Advertising Program at BHS this past year.

Starting next year, we will be joining the KLAA Conference. We will be one of 16 schools in the conference that will have Dearborn, Wayne, Fordson, John Glenn, Churchill, Franklin, and Stevenson in our division (Black Division).

We will also be starting a Unified Sports Program through the Special Olympics. This will bring all students together for athletic competition. We will be starting with Unified Basketball this winter and hope to make it a KLAA-wide program for the following year.

The rich athletic history of the community will be honored by starting an Alumni Club and Hall of Fame for the 2018-2019 school year. We are excited about this endeavor and will be collecting names for our first induction class in the near future.

Joseph Brodie is our Athletic Director and is wonderful with working with our coaches to make sure our program is following all of the state athletic rules. He is also fantastic with the community (jbrodie@vanburenschools.net) and is always looking for way for us to work together with various community groups.

Come on out and support our teams. We would love to see you there!

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26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES \$30,000
24409 SHERWOOD 1.15 ACRES \$30,000
20743 GRIFFIN COURT 1.4 AC \$29,500
25817 SUMPTER 80X529 .97 AC \$20,000

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