



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 23.50 Thursday, December 14, 2017 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

## VBT Clerk Wright gets address change for township residents

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

"If we're going to brand ourselves, we have to start somewhere," said Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright in announcing a change in township addresses from Belleville, MI 48111 to Van Buren Township, MI 48111.

At the end of the Nov. 21 township board meeting, Clerk Wright explained that he went to the Secretary of State and explained the situation.

He said in 1986, the post office moved from downtown Belleville to Van Buren Township and didn't change its address to Van Buren Township.

He said he gave her the street addresses in the township and now they are listed as Van Buren Township 48111 as the preferred address, with Belleville and Sumpter Township as accepted designations.

Clerk Wright said now people can go to the Secretary of State's office to get their drivers' licenses changed to read Van Buren Township without charge, if it's almost time to update their licenses.

He said to give the Secretary of State time to complete the changes, he is estimating Jan. 1 as the time it will be official.

Clerk Wright said when residents order things on line, their addresses will come up Van Buren Township.

He said Sumpter Township can do that, too, if they want to, and he'll be glad to help them.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara said he Googled himself and it was the first time he came up with a Van Buren Township address. He said he and his son will be changing their addresses on their driver's licenses.

"We need our own identity," agreed Trustee Paul White.

Trustee White said recently he was arranging for a prescription to be filled at

(continued on page 8)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

The Tyler Elementary School Drum Corps performed for the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education at Monday's regular meeting. The drummers performed three songs for the board as parents and school staff took lots of pictures.

## School Board gives Supt. Kudlak 'effective' rating

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

At the end of Monday's meeting, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education went into closed-door session again on the subject of the superintendent's evaluation.

Then the board came back into regular session and passed a motion giving School Supt. Pete Kudlak an evaluation of "effective" in his job for the period of July-December 2017.

This was the culmination of the Superintendent Evaluation Process that has been ongoing in steps since July. Moving forward, the superintendent's performance period will be January through December of each year.

After a special 6 p.m. meeting before the regular 7 p.m. meeting Monday, the board went into another closed-door session to

consider student discipline.

Then the board came out of the closed-door session to pass a motion to reinstate Student A with conditions, which were not spelled out publicly.

The parent had requested a closed session to discuss potential reinstatement of the student for the 2017-18 school year. The student was expelled during the 2016-17 school year and came before the Reinstatement Committee for consideration after expiration of the expulsion period. The parent met with that committee on Dec. 4 and the committee's recommendation was before the board on Monday.

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

- Set the annual board organizational meeting for 7 p.m., Jan. 8, as part of the regular meeting;
- Approved hiring Benson Kellum of Ann Arbor as a new counselor at Belleville High School as of Nov. 30 and Nick A. James of Saline as a teacher at BHS as of Dec. 11;
- Approved hiring Bradley Pipok as custodian in the Building and Grounds Department as of Nov. 29;

- Heard Financial Director Shareen Barker give an update on the law suit under way concerning unlawful 3% deductions mistakenly made by Michigan school districts. The law suit is expected to have a decision in the spring and would probably impact next year's budget. The deductions may have to be returned to the employees and \$124,503.35 in FICA paid by the district;

- Heard Human Resources Director Abdul Madyun tell of meetings he has attended concerning getting a group of districts under one insurance umbrella to start controlling costs;

- Heard Supt. Kudlak say the old ECDC building at the Edgemont School campus is almost all the way down. He said those demolishing the building are clearing the debris as they go. Demolition started last Friday; and

- Heard Board President Keith Johnston say the contract for the superintendent will be worked on in January and the board members said they want the whole board to work on it, not just a committee.

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This Space On The Front Page.*



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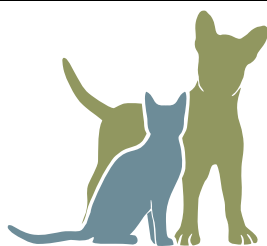
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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## VBT Board to consider fifth amendment to landfill agreement

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

After almost three hours of discussion at its regular meeting Dec. 5, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees agreed to put the fifth amendment to the Waste Management Landfill Agreement on its Dec. 18 work/study session and its regular meeting of Dec. 19.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara wants to vote on the agreement at the Dec. 19 meeting. He invites anyone wanting to know more about the amendment or anyone with questions to meet with him at his office. He also offered to come to residents' homes to discuss the agreement.

But, he does not intend to put off the Dec. 19 vote, he said, although several board members had asked for more time for the public to get the information.

The fifth amendment to the 1990 host agreement with Waste Management for Woodlands Meadows Landfill is to facilitate expansion of the landfill into the present Woodlands golf course owned by Waste Management.

Otherwise, the present landfill will be full in 2025 and will have to close, said Waste Management Operations Director John Myers in twin presentations at the township's work/study session on Dec. 4 and it's regular, televised meeting of Dec. 5. This means tipping fees and all the other grants to the township from WM would cease.

The expansion would allow WM to continue landfill operations until 2056. Myers said talks with the township on the expansion have been under way for four years.

The current size of the landfill is 269 acres, with 206 acres of waste. The expanded landfill would add another 200 acres, with 137 acres of waste.

Myers outlined all the money WM will be giving the township with the new agreement, including a one-time \$8 million grant. It will be \$250 million over the next 40 years, he said.

But WM refuses to continue the free curbside pickup of trash, recyclables, and yard waste as of 2025, although it had been promised for the life of the landfill in the original agreement. This means residents will have to pay for pickup. There currently are 8,315 households getting free pick up.

Matthew Best, deputy director of planning and economic development, put together lots of facts and figures on the proposed agreement. He estimated that residents could pay just \$12.90 per month for pickup, since WM will continue to offer free disposal at the landfill for VBT residents.

Best said if the landfill closes, the residents would have to pay 4.5 mills more

in taxes to keep the same services it has now.

"The wetlands permit takes 2-5 years," said Supervisor McNamara at the Dec. 4 work/study session. "That's why they'd like to get started."

There are wetlands in the golf course area that will take remediation.

Trustee Reggie Miller suggested the \$1.5 million yearly cost of pick up could be covered by the \$8 million grant.

Supervisor McNamara said if it was invested in a 2.35% CD it would make funds available, but that would have to be decided by the township board at a later date.

Trustee Kevin Martin said he works at Ecorse and I-275 and, "We can smell it a half mile away." He said he smells the landfill as he drives to and from work, as well.

Myers said the landfill takes biosolids and will continue to take biosolids.

"I have golfed there since 1995 and I haven't noticed an odor," said Clerk Leon Wright. "You're gonna have some odors. We golf there and we don't notice it."

Trustee Miller said her husband golfs there and he said there is an odor.

Clerk Wright said maybe that could be in the morning.

Trustee Martin asked what WM will do to take care of the odor.

Myers said they will be putting a final cover on the existing landfill so there should be fewer odors.

"I travel past it six to seven days a week and when I smell it, it's pretty ripe," Trustee Martin said.

"We shouldn't have off-site odors," Myers said.

Jack Rowe from WM said first they check the wind to make sure it's their odor.

"We do have odors from time to time," Rowe said. "We have troubles in the summertime, after picking up rotten waste... or drilling into old waste to fix something."

Best said odor is regulated by Wayne County.

"In the past, there were more complaints," Best said. "There's less now."

When Trustees Miller, Sherry Frazier, and Paul White asked for more time for the public to get the information on the landfill amendments, Clerk Wright interjected, "Our residents are not stupid. They know what's going on. We televise live, put the budget on the website. How open can we be?"

"Everyone has garbage to be picked up and you're voting in the busiest time of the year," said Trustee Miller. "One more meeting. What is the hurry?"

"We're going beyond what they usually do," Supervisor McNamara said. "We kick

it down the road... We've been doing this for four years."

At the Dec. 5 regular meeting, the board held a public hearing on the landfill agreement although a public hearing had not been advertised in advance in the newspaper of record.

Ernie Tozer of Hannan Road pointed out that the original host agreement had a provision that no landfill would ever be in the golf course and deed restrictions were put in place for that. "It runs with the land, forever," Tozer said. "It's never supposed to go away."

He said when that original agreement was being put together, "We did get it in writing, and now that doesn't work."

David Brownlee, chairman of the VBT Environmental Commission, said in 1990 he served on the negotiating team. He said Wayne County had an emergency siting regulation and, to avoid the emergency siting by the county, "We negotiated the best agreement we could." He said Supervisor David Jacokes got calls from around the country concerning the good agreement.

"The residents of the township got free pickup for the lifetime of the landfill," Brownlee said. Because of the odors, seagulls, and traffic, this was given to the people of the township for shouldering the burden of the landfill.

Brownlee said there are changes, but it is still the same landfill.

"We told our residents as long as the landfill is open, they will get free pick up," Brownlee said. "It's kind of a betrayal of our citizens. A violation of our original commitment."

John Delaney said VBT is trying to be a premiere community and the expansion of the landfill will affect the Grace Lake complex across Ecorse Road. He said the residents across Hannan Road from the landfill have had odor problems and the party store at the corner of Haggerty Road and Van Born was closed for three days because of the odors.

Myers said they will install an active gas collection system in the new landfill to suck the gas out.

"We do not want to have an impact outside of the landfill," he said. He explained that every morning an individual drives the perimeter of the landfill trying to detect offsite odors.

Pam Ruff asked if the guy with the good nose works on weekends and Myers said he doesn't. Ruff suggested they pay someone to work on weekends because the smell could "gag a maggot."

Trustee Frazier said the township attorney should look into the violation of the deed.

Supervisor McNamara said that was put into the agreement so if they want to

expand they would have to come back to the township.

"If we do the deal, the deed restriction will be crossed off," Supervisor McNamara said.

"This is one of the biggest decisions we have to make as a board," Trustee Miller said. "We have to take this in small steps. They won't storm off if it's a Jan. 9 vote."

"We don't know if we want the clubhouse," said Supervisor McNamara of WM's offer to lease the golf clubhouse to the township for \$1 a year. He said it could be used for a "teen thing, senior thing, or banquet facility. There's a million things you could do."

"I'm strongly against taking money out of the residents' pockets," said Trustee White. "If Waste Management refuses, we should pay for pickup with tipping fees."

"This was going to be voted on tonight," Trustee Miller said. "I don't want to be voting on Dec. 19. We could wait until Jan. 9. What is the hurry on this?"

"I'm done kicking things down the road," Supervisor McNamara said, adding it has been discussed for four years.

Trustee Miller said the new, revised agreement was first discussed the day before this meeting.

Trustee Miller made a motion to postpone a vote on the landfill agreement until Jan. 9 and the motion was seconded by Trustee White. But, Supervisor McNamara ignored the motion.

"Once I slip down this slippery slope, I can't get back up," Supervisor McNamara said.

Myers said the decision was up to the board and Supervisor McNamara said, "I'll take it under consideration."

"You said you would take as many meetings as needed," Trustee Miller said to Supervisor McNamara and he agreed, "I did."

"Give me a day or two to think this over," Supervisor McNamara said. "If they push it to January, they could push it to February. I've seen it 100 times."

Later, he informed board members he will be sticking with the final vote on Dec. 19.

In other business at the three-hour-and-seven-minute meeting, the board:

- Removed from the agenda the first amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement between VBT and the City of Belleville for Emergency Dispatch and Lockup Services and also removed a second, new agreement with Belleville for Fire Protection and Medical Response Services;

- Approved the second reading and final approval of four ordinance amendments on blight prevention, trailers and vehicles,

(continued on page 19)



# OPINIONS

## Editorial

### Library sets April 14 for ground breaking

Groundbreaking for the new, two-story Belleville Area District Library building in downtown Belleville has been set for 11 a.m., Saturday, April 14, during National Library Week.

It will be a great occasion and all the politicians who helped get the project into gear will be invited. You and I (the taxpayers) will be invited and everyone associated with the library and the library planning. They're planning a brunch.

During Tuesday's 90-minute meeting of the library board, many things were discussed, including the new sign on Fourth Street at the parking lot that will become part of the library site.

Library Director Mary Jo Suchy also announced that the library will be paying the library millage as it pays the City of Belleville winter taxes for the building next door on Charles Street that is to be razed to become part of a new parking lot.

That building, owned by Jerry McKelvey at the time, was the first home to the *Belleville-Area Independent* when we started in 1995, before we moved to Main Street. It's kind of sad to see our old homestead being demolished, but that's how life goes. Jerry sold the building and the business and then had to fight for years to get his payment. He finally prevailed in court.

Jerry, who was very active in the Belleville and Van Buren Township communities over the years, moved to Bellaire for a few months. But now he's moved back just in time to see his old office demolished. Welcome home.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

David C. Brown said he has purchased Higginson and Neal Funeral Home on Main Street in Belleville and everything will stay about the same there. Jim Higginson is manager, Bev Neal still comes to do funerals, and Marie Mongo is still there.

"We've even inherited the cat," he said.

He said merging the two funeral homes and sharing staff and vehicles allows them all more flexibility and if one of them wants to go away on a trip there are others to fill in.

Running a funeral home is a 24/7 business, he said.

Dave worked in that same funeral home for seven and a half years, the last three as manager, when he was a young man with a wife and two small children. Jerry Pawlus bought the business and changed the whole staff. Then, Dave started his own funeral home. That was a long time ago and now Dave's back where he started -- and then some. That's got to be a good feeling.

\*\*\*

My email delivery was down for a day and a half at the end of last week. If you sent me something and didn't hear back from me, you might want to send it again to make sure I got it. My address is [rotzman@ameritech.net](mailto:rotzman@ameritech.net).

\*\*\*

We've been informed that Michigan's favorite candies are: Reindeer Corn, Reese's Pieces, and M&M's, in that order. I have no idea what Reindeer Corn is, unless it's regular candy corn.

\*\*\*

Arby's on Belleville Road / S. I-94 Service Drive has an ongoing coat drive and it's been advertised a lot on Facebook. I got a



call pointing out that not everyone goes on Facebook and it would be good to have it in writing in the paper.

People who need a warm coat are invited to come in and take one from their special area -- without any questions. Also, those wishing to donate coats and scarfs and gloves are invited to keep on bringing them in. The folks over at Arby's just want to keep our community warm.

\*\*\*

A reader sent me an email suggesting the City of Belleville put up a "welcome" sign, next to its Welcome to Belleville sign, inviting the people of the Czech Republic into town. She said in the Czech Republic they eat carp on Christmas Eve. She stressed this would not be a sanctuary city notice.

\*\*\*

An 80-year-old reader from Sumpter said he got a call Friday afternoon from someone who said he was the man's grandson. Our reader said he didn't have a grandson and so the young caller hung up.

Our reader called the number that showed up on his caller ID to get to the bottom of the incident. He dialed 1-888-453-1212 and a woman answered. She said she was with Medic Alert and people didn't call them, they called people.

He said he got this phone number from the call from the fake grandson. Then, he said he called his grandson to ask him about it.

The woman said, "You just said you didn't have a grandson." But, our reader said he

didn't say that to the woman. He just said it to the boy caller.

That's when he was sure she was in on it. He then called his son to double-check on the call and his son confirmed that the grandson didn't call our reader.

This is a warning to those who get strange calls from fake grandsons in trouble and wanting money. Be alert.

\*\*\*

My son, Jim, predicted that the news about Van Buren Township and 48111 would cause more uproar than the stories about the landfill or the Belleville Fire Department -- and he's right. Over the week end, there have been more than 300 Facebook comments on the 48111 news. Mostly it's confusion and dismay.

Actually, if you have 48111 on your mail you will get it so it's a lot of fuss over pretty much nothing.

Charles Tackett called to point out that "Being a politician is like riding on a tiger. If you fall off, it will eat you." He suggests that if VBT Clerk Leon Wright runs for office in the next election, he stay off Facebook.

Clerk Wright sought the "branding" of Van Buren Township by putting the township name on addresses instead of the Belleville address we are all used to.



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**BELLEVILLE - AREA  
INDEPENDENT**

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## Letters

### Museum calendars make good Christmas gifts

To the editor:

Have a History Buff on your list? Available in the museum's gift shop for the holiday season is our annual Belleville Area Historical Society calendar featuring "What You May Find at Your Museum."

The 2018 calendar will be available through Dec. 22 for only \$5. Additional vendors include Sumpter Ace Hardware, Belleville City Hall, Van Buren Township Treasurer's Office, Belleville Area Chamber Of Commerce, Garden Fantasy on Main, and the Belleville Area District Library.

You may also find Christmas ornaments, museum and Retro Belleville t-shirts, vintage postcards, tumblers, water bottles and cozies, as well as the third edition of "WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE: A History of Van Buren Township," on sale for \$30, regularly \$45.

This year we also are happy to introduce the sales of Belleville Lake Flip Flop Nation Accessories. Come in and get your shopping done today!

The museum is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 3-7 p.m. and Thursdays and Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. Group tours by appointment.

We will be closed Dec. 23-Jan. 8. For additional information, please call the museum at (734) 697-1944.

Katie Dallos, director  
Belleville Area Museum

### Forty-five years of serving others

To the editor:

Forty-five years in the ministry: Nov. 18, 1972.

I thank God for the many years he gave me to minister in Detroit's inner city.

For the last 15 years in and around Sumpter, Belleville, Ypsilanti. The last four years at Ypsilanti Friends Church, Pastor Douglas C. Burch.

My wife Evelyn and I have a van ministry with a wheelchair lift which we transport clients to dialysis, doctor's appointments, etc. Our mission is a dream come true, heaven-sent transportation.

I thank God for the many blessings he has given me throughout the years in the ministry, throughout health issues, etc. that I can still serve others.

Rev. Charlie Crispell  
Sumpter Township

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### Red Kettle donations down \$5,000 from 2016

To the editor:

The Salvation Army Christmas Fundraising Campaign for the Belleville, Canton, Northville, and Plymouth service area has currently collected \$115,525 of its \$315,000 Christmas goal for this year. The Red Kettle drive has collected \$89,270 of its targeted \$225,000 as of Saturday, Dec. 9, which is about \$5,000 behind from last year.

There are just 10 days left of bell ringing this year. We are hoping to have as many kettles manned as possible to collect funds this week before Christmas. Individuals that would like to donate a monetary gift may drop it in one of the Red Kettles. Donations can also be dropped off or mailed to our office at 9451 S. Main Street in Plymouth, Monday-Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. - 12 noon and 1-4 p.m.

If you would like to become a volunteer bell ringer, you may sign up online at either [www.ringbell.org](http://www.ringbell.org) or contact Roger Harder or Sandy Kollinger by calling (734) 453-5464.

"Thank you for all of the generous donations thus far," said Major Keith Bailey. "We could not do what we do without the help and support of our community."

Overall, The Salvation Army in the Metro Detroit area is looking to raise \$7.85 million during the Christmas season that runs through Jan. 31, 2018.

#### About the Salvation Army:

Founded by William and Catherine Booth in London, England in 1865, The Salvation Army is a faith-based, non-profit organization dedicated to serving people in need without discrimination. This past year, The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit was involved in providing 3,220,937 meals and 677,051 nights of shelter for the homeless. The Salvation Army uses \$.85 of every dollar raised to provide direct services to people in need each and every day of the year. For more information about The Salvation Army, please call 877-SAL-MICH, or visit us at [www.salmich.org](http://www.salmich.org).

Sandy Kollinger, Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator  
The Salvation Army, Plymouth

### Library Lovers: Talk on 3-D printing tonight!

To the editor and Friends of the Library:

Rick Cichewicz will be explaining and demonstrating 3-D printing tonight (Thursday, Dec. 14) at 7 p.m. at the library. 3-D printing is mysterious and amazing to me; I'm greatly looking forward to the talk. Hope to see you there.

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



# Fireside

By Fire Chief  
**Amy Brow,**  
Van Buren Township



With the weather outside turning chilly, we start thinking about decorating for the holidays. It's also time to think about holiday fire safety. Each year fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of more than 400 people, injure 1,650 more and cause more than \$990 million in damage, according to the United States Fire Administration.

The holidays are an exciting time of the year for kids of all ages, and to help ensure they have a safe holiday season, here are some tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

- Christmas trees – When purchasing an artificial tree look for the label “Fire Resistant.” When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from the branches and when bent between your fingers the needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin and when tapped on the ground the tree should not lose many needles. When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and never block a doorway. Cut a few inches off the trunk of your tree to expose the fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help keep your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard. Be sure to keep the stand filled with water because a heated room can dry live trees out rapidly.

- Lights -- Check all tree lights -- even if you've just purchased them -- before hanging them on your tree. Make sure all bulbs work and that there are no frayed wires, broken sockets or loose connections. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person could be electrocuted. Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use. To hold lights in place, string them through hooks or insulated staples, not nails or tacks. Never pull or tug lights to remove them. Plug all outdoor electric decorations into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks. Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.

- Decorations -- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant material to decorate your tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or non-leaded metals. Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use a non-flammable holder and place candles where they will not be knocked over. In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Keep trimmings with small removeable parts out of the reach of children to prevent them from swallowing or inhaling small pieces. Follow the directions on the can

when using artificial snow sprays, as they may be a lung irritant and may be flammable.

- Fireplaces should be inspected and cleaned annually by a licensed professional. Before lighting any fire, remove all paper and any other decorations from the fireplace area. Check to see that the flue is open prior to lighting the fire. Do not burn gift wrap paper in the fireplace as a flash fire may result as wrappings ignite

suddenly and burn intensely.

- Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. And, remember to practice your home escape plan. For any further questions regarding fire and life safety issues contact Fire Marshal Dave McNally at (734) 699-8900 x 9416.

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## Obituaries



Darlene Griffith

### DARLENE GRIFFITH

(February 12, 1932 - December 6, 2017)

Ruby Darlene (Redden) Griffith was born February 12, 1932 and went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday morning, December 6, 2017. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, and sister and was a sixty-year member of Grace Baptist Church in Belleville, Michigan. Fondly known as Granny Griffith to her grandchildren and so many others she nurtured through the years.

She is survived by her children, Don (Rhonda) Griffith, Terry Griffith, Sue (Joe) Dulmage, Greg (Tina) Griffith; ten grandchildren; twenty-one great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; brothers, Estel Redden, Lowell Redden; and many nieces and nephews.

Sadly, Darlene is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Ralph (d.2003); her parents, Ambrose and Exie Redden of Portsmouth, Ohio; sisters, Christine Sparks of Bellefontaine, Ohio, Retta Williams of Minford, Ohio and Jewell Thurston of Beaver Creek, Ohio.

A funeral service was held at 11:00 AM, Saturday, December 9, 2017 at Grace Baptist Church of Belleville, 164 Roys St., Belleville. The Reverend Robert White and Chaplin Joe Dulmage officiated her service.

Visiting hours were Friday from 2 until 8 PM at the David C. Brown Funeral Home of Belleville (734)-697-4500.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Michigan Community VNA Hospice – 30800 Telegraph Road, Suite 1728, Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025 or Grace Baptist Church – 164 Roys St., Belleville, Michigan 48111.



Gust Eghert Tallman

### GUST EGHERT TALLMAN

(November 14, 1940 - December 7, 2017)

Gust E. Tallman, age 77, of Romulus, died December 7, 2017. Beloved husband of the late Christine Tallman. Loving father of Edwin (Tracey) Henson, Jack Tallman, Penny Harrison, and Michael Tallman. Dearest grandfather of Wilbur, Katie, Dlyan, Ryan, and Devin; and great-grandfather of two. He is also survived by his brother Warner Tallman and sister Loretta Gregg. He is preceded in death by his son Douglas, his granddaughter Jessica, two brothers and one sister. He was a former hot roofer, retired from Ballard Roofing.

Visitation was December 11, 2017 and services were December 12, 2017 at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home. Interment was in Michigan Memorial Park.



Virginia E. Cottenham

### VIRGINIA ELIZABETH COTTENHAM

(April 14, 1939 - December 7, 2017)

Virginia E. Cottenham, age 78, of Belleville, December 7, 2017. Beloved wife of the late Melvin A. Cottenham. Loving mother of Cheryl (Roger) LeBlanc, Lori (Kenneth) Hill, Rick Cottenham and Cindy Jahr. Dearest grandmother of 8, great-grandmother of 7 and great-great-grandmother of 1. She is also survived by her sister Vernice Beaman and brother John Church. She is preceded in death by her parents Elmer and Thelma Church, sister Verna LeBlanc and her brother Elmer "Bud" Church Jr.

Service was Monday, 11 a.m. at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home (next to Michigan Memorial Park), 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Visitation was Sunday, 1-8 p.m. Interment in Michigan Memorial Park. [www.mimemorial.com](http://www.mimemorial.com)



Jacolyn "Jackie" Demmy

### JACOLYN 'JACKIE' MAY DEMMY

(August 5, 1941 - December 5, 2017)

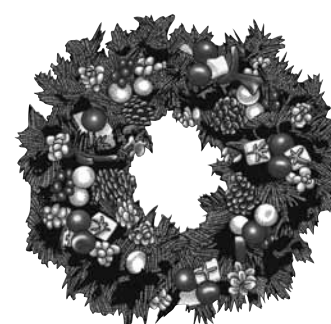
Jacolyn "Jackie" Demmy, age 76, of Sumpter Township, died Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital with her loving family at her side.

She was born August 5, 1941, in Detroit, Michigan, the daughter of Wesley E. and Ellen (Glover) Mawby. On December 6, 1964, she married Jack Demmy Jr. in Taylor, Michigan and he survives.

Jackie will always be remembered for her love of family, bingo and her extensive collection of elephant figurines.

Surviving besides her loving husband Jack are 5 children: Tracy (Randall) Jones, William (Tammy) Jones, Dawn (Mark) Argo, Tammy (Chad) Demmy and Randy (Debbie) Demmy; 15 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters: Thomas (Mary) Mawby, Ricky (Claudia) Mawby, Linda Mawby Banks and Donna (Richard) Dabbs; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, James Mawby.

A service was held December 9 at Janowiak Funeral Home, Sumpter Chapel. Cremation followed.





# More Letters

## Christmas 2017

Tis time to remember the ones we love  
 And days of long ago,  
 Tis time to remember the One Above  
 Whose birth we honor – here below.

It's not too difficult to remember the past  
 With fondness, love and affection,  
 The problem lies in what happened last  
 IS not in OUR memories reflection.

What happened when we were twenty-four  
 Seems just like yesterday,  
 What happened when we were eighty-four  
 "Never happened!" our memories say.

But life and time are kind to us  
 As recent events grow older,  
 These become the memories so clear – no  
 fuss  
 We just put them in another "folder!"  
 MERRY CHRISTMAS  
 Cornell Anton, Jr.  
 Belleville

## Westland American Legion needs a home

To the editor:  
 The American Legion Westland Post 251 is seeking a temporary home for its post. Anyone that has a building or home that has been vacant for months, even years, and would be interested in our post to maintain the building or home, please contact the Post Commander at (734) 776-5491.

The post, in lieu of paying rent, would maintain the building or home, keeping it liveable, doing minor repairs, if needed, painting, if needed, maintain the grounds, and pay the utilities.

Should the owner have someone to buy or rent the property, then the American Legion vacates the premises. Being a non-profit military organization they are covered under 501-c3 which could allow the owner to declare this as a donation off his/her federal income tax. Suggest they consult a tax accountant.

For God and Country,  
 Bill Acton, Post Commander  
 American Legion Westland Post 251

**Editor's Note:** The Westland American Legion Post has been meeting at a VFW Post in Westland, but they cannot call it their home. Also, they would like to know what became of the American Legion Belleville facility.

## St. Jude heard, answered my prayers

Dear St. Jude:  
 Thank you for hearing my prayers. Thank you for answering my prayers.  
 VBT Resident

## Santa asked to sprinkle kindness, love, joy ...

To the editor:  
 This is a very important letter!  
 Dear Santa:  
 What I want for Christmas from you is to sprinkle a little kindness as you go about delivering all the gifts around the world.

I want you to sprinkle a little love on the loveless, put a little joy in the joyless, and happiness where there is no happiness.

As you go over the highest seat in government, please sprinkle a little compassion and empathy to be given to all people who govern this country.

My last wish for Christmas is for a voice so that I can speak and sing about the goodness and goodwill to the entire World. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. A little Elf named Marian

Marian Caldwell  
 Van Buren Township

## VBT amendment details should be kept simple

To the editor:  
 I am sharing with your readers this email I sent to Van Buren Township Treasurer Sharry Budd.

Treasurer Budd,  
 My decision to view the Dec. 5 township board meeting from my living room recliner turned out to be a good choice, indeed! I won't even try to express my disbelief at some of the individual presentations made by several trustees.

However, I would like to compliment yourself, Clerk Wright, and Trustee Martin for remaining calm and adding precise and courteous dialog throughout the meeting. At least you three accurately tried to convey your message to the public in a professional manner. As far as informing the public of the nuances of the proposed "5th Amendment to the Landfill Agreement," that kite crashed and burned with a devastating thud!

I hope the board will take the time to review the meeting replay to consider all of the misinformation and false data that was presented during the "public hearing" regarding the landfill. Allowing long and tedious citizen renditions of past perceived failures of previous administrations, all the while espousing long-winded and meandering personal admonishments of individuals is completely unnecessary.

**"And she brought forth  
 her firstborn Son, and  
 wrapped Him in  
 swaddling cloths, and laid  
 Him in a manger, because  
 there was no room for  
 them in the inn."  
 (Luke 2:7)**

Very often in the attempt to provide transparency, and thereby enabling public consumption of an issue, many inaccuracies and details become so clouded and confused that the whole idea of informing citizens of the guts of a proposal is mostly obscured. That was the situation last night. Perhaps it would be helpful if the board might establish a more simplified summary of the consequences for and against adoption of the proposed agreement. "KISS" is the acronym best suited for nearly every board decision involving public consensus.

Finally, the trustees might consider that we elected our public representatives not to become so-called "missionaries" to look after our poor and illiterate masses, but rather they were entrusted to make the difficult decisions on our behalf and not to solicit innumerable opinions from citizens who may not even live in our community.  
 CeJay Marshall  
 Van Buren Township

**Editor's Note:** KISS generally stands for "Keep it simple, stupid."

## Jingle Bell Run on Dec. 2 drew 460 walkers, runners

This year's Jingle Bell Run to raise money for the Van Buren Education Foundation was the largest ever. On Dec. 2, it drew 460 runners and walkers.

There was more participation than before from all of the school buildings, according to the report given at Monday's school board meeting.

## VBT 48111

(continued from page 1)

Walmart in Belleville and they told him there was no Walmart in Belleville, so he switched it to another pharmacy.

He found out later that Walmart is listed with a Van Buren Township address and that's why his doctor's office couldn't find it in Belleville.

As of Friday afternoon, the U.S. Postal Service was asking those using the mail to use the default city of Belleville, MI for the 48111 zip code "whenever possible."

## Asia N. Holmes graduates from AF basic training

U.S. Air Force Airman Asia N. Holmes graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

She is the sister of Sharnica Holmes of Belleville and a 2017 graduate of Southfield High School for the Arts and Technology.



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Court Watching:

# Conn. man arrested for enticing VBT teen, producing child porn

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

Rondell Lowell Cook, 28, is being held in a federal lockup awaiting trial on charges of producing child pornography, online enticement of a minor, receiving and possessing child pornography, and

interstate travel with the intent to engage in a sex act with a child.

On Dec. 2, at about 3:30 p.m., Van Buren Township Police received a report of a missing 15-year-old female. The family gave police the number to the teen's cell phone and advised police that she had been overheard talking on the phone to an unknown person and asking, "Is the room ready?"

VBT police contacted the teen's cell phone provider who provided the location information of the South Interstate-94 Service Drive and Belleville Road. Police called Super 8 Motel near that intersection and were told a female matching that description was in room 112 with an unidentified male.

Special Agent for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, ICE Homeland

Security Investigations in Detroit, Jay V. Ratermann produced the criminal complaint to present to U.S. Magistrate Judge Mona K. Majzoub. The details of Cook's apprehension were reported to him by VBT police.

Special Agent Raterman is currently assigned to the Michigan Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and, along with other agents, is responsible for enforcing federal criminal statutes involving the sexual exploitation of children pursuant to Title 18, U.S. Code.

VBT police officers said they knocked on the door of room 112 and a male, later identified as Cook, answered the door. Police said he was shirtless, shoeless, belt undone, and the zipper of his pants was completely down. A pair of men's underwear was seen on the floor.

The missing teen was found in the bathroom, fully clothed and wearing a black leather collar. Police also found a black leather whip, black leather paddle, black leather wrist/leg restraints, ball gag, black leather leash, and a black rope.

The bed next to the window was messy, with blankets and sheets tossed about on the bed and partially on the floor.

Also found in the room was a receipt and itinerary from Greyhound Lines, Inc., for one-way travel by bus from Bridgeport, CT to Ypsilanti in the name of Rondell Cook. The itinerary shows a departure from Bridgeport, CT at 7 p.m. Dec. 1, arriving in Ypsilanti at 2:20 p.m., Dec. 2.

Police also found the teen's cell phone

and Cook's cell phone. The teen's parent had given permission to investigate the cell phone and police found a copy of the teen's ninth-grade high school class schedule, which she had forwarded to Cook to coordinate their meeting.

After hearing his Miranda Rights, Cook told police he had nude photos of the teen on his phone. They had met on a social media application and he and the teen have been communicating for the past couple of months on a daily basis. He said he purchased a bus ticket for \$65 and it took him approximately 25 hours to get to Michigan.

Cook told police he didn't know how old the teen was until he got her class schedule when she was already enroute to the hotel. He said he ordered a "Lyft" car to pick her up and transport her to the hotel, where she arrived at about 4 p.m.

He told police his plans were to take her out to eat, come back to the room, watch television, and whatever happens, happens, including sex. He was scheduled to return to Connecticut at about 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3. He said his underwear was off when police arrived because he was going to take a shower.

A Homeland Security forensic analyst has located four videos on Cook's cell phone with pornographic images of the teen. There were about 29,000 messages exchanged between Cook and the teen, many of a sexual nature.

Cook's initial appearance in federal court was Dec. 4 and his detention hearing was Dec. 5. His court-appointed attorney from the Federal Defender Office was Stacey M. Studnicki.

The sentences on these charges, if found guilty, could be up to life in prison.

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# Judge Allen denies motion for emergency restraining order

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge David J. Allen on Dec. 6 denied an emergency motion for a temporary restraining order to keep the City of Belleville from shutting down its fire department and contracting with Van Buren Township for fire and emergency services.

Michael L. Ossy, representing the Belleville Firefighters Association and Matthew Loveland, also filed a complaint against the city, Mayor Kerreen Conley, and City Clerk Sherri Scharf asking for more than \$25,000 in damages.

A status conference on that case is set for 8 a.m. March 1 before Judge Allen.

Both the City of Belleville and Van Buren Township were due to approve the 10-year contract to begin Jan. 1 for fire/emergency services at their meetings last week. But, when Belleville was served with the law suit on Dec. 1 and a large crowd in

support of the fire department turned up at the city's Dec. 4 meeting, Mayor Conley agreed to set up a committee to study the contract first.

VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara pulled the contract and an associated agreement from the township work/study session agenda on Dec. 4, citing the law suit against the city.

On Dec. 5, the two agreements were pulled from the regular meeting's agenda, with Supervisor McNamara saying this was "pending Belleville's decision on what they're going to do."

The firefighters' law suit cites the city charter, Section 15.1 that states: "No Franchise or Grant which is not revocable by the will of the Council shall be granted or become operative, nor any contract for longer period than one year made, until the same shall have been referred to the

people at a regular or special election and has received the approval of three-fifths majority of the electors voting thereon at such elections, as is provided by the Constitution of the State."

The law suit also cites Section 6.4 of the city charter that states: "Through the established departments of the City Government, the Council shall provide for the public peace and health and for the safety or persons and property.

Also, in Section 8.9 of the charter it states, that the City Manager, not the Mayor, is responsible for the administration and direction of all City of Belleville departments.

According to reports, the proposed agreement between the city and the township were negotiated starting in August by Mayor Conley and Supervisor McNamara. The law suit states Mayor

Conley has no express or implied legal authority to negotiate a contract for the city.

The agreements were presented to the city council and fire chief, and the township board members and other officials at the end of November.

The secrecy surrounding the agreements was what seemed to irritate officials and the public the most. And, that the dissolving of the city fire department was not decided at a special election.

The firefighters also will be economically harmed, according to the suit.

## Belleville city voters approved charter change in 2007

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

On Nov. 6, 2007, the voters of the City of Belleville passed a charter amendment that required asking the voters before eliminating the existing police or fire department or contracting for police or fire services.

The vote was 407-229. That was the same election that Richard S. Smith won the seat of mayor with 235 votes, over contenders Frank Brown, 185; Kerreen Conley, 179; and Vera Z. Howell, 36.

Reginald "Rick" Dawson got the most votes of any candidate with 419. He won a four-year term on the council, along with James Shrove with 298. Not far behind was Marian Caldwell, who almost succeeded in her first try for elective office with 269 votes.

Volunteer fireman Brian Blackburn beat out Stephen Jones for the two-year council seat, 319-203.

As to the charter amendment, it is unclear what happened to it, but it could be of interest to those today who want to change the fire department without asking the citizens how they feel.

The city attorney at that time, Tim Cronin, warned that he would have to go to circuit court to nullify it since it was inconsistent with state law. He said the Home Rule Act gives the council the right to make that decision without asking voters first.

Another option was asking the voters to

undo what they had done and it was planned for the November 2008 election after a 4-1 vote in February 2008 to put it back on the ballot. Councilman George Chedraue, an attorney, voted against the action.

The attorney general and governor's office subsequently said the charter amendment was unconstitutional and the governor wouldn't sign it. It wouldn't go into effect unless signed by the governor, so it is just hanging out there.

Cronin said if he went to court he would have to sue the people who carried the petitions in the city in 2007.

Or, they could do nothing and wait until somebody sues the city.

In July, 2008, former Mayor Tom Fielder said nowhere in Michigan had a municipality ever attempted to repeal a proposal that was just passed.

*The Ann Arbor News* wrote in its Nov. 7, 2007 edition: "But it's unclear whether the charter amendment conflicts with state law allowing intergovernmental cooperation. Under the Home Rule Act, Gov. Jennifer Granholm would have to approve the charter amendment."

In February 2008, DPW Director Keith Boc said that Cronin would have had to argue for the people in court against the state attorney.

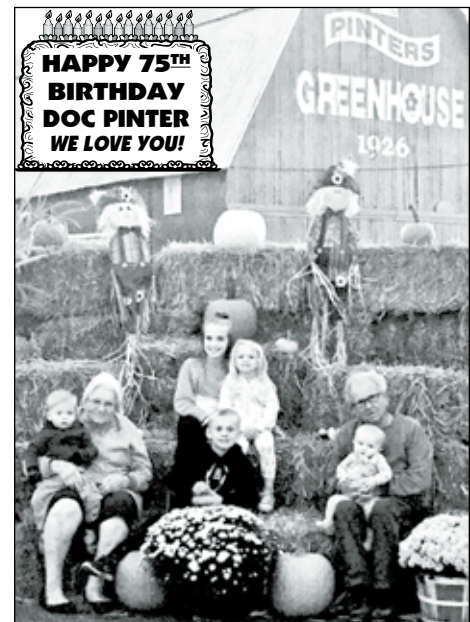
"It's the state's opinion it's a violation. People here think it isn't," Boc said.

Councilman Chedraue commented, "What if the citizens still want it? It's there

in perpetuity."

Ken Voigt, who had presented the petitions to the city to put it on the ballot with some 700 signatures, said before the election that it's a moot point. If the governor doesn't approve it, why would the city have to go to court?

"It doesn't take effect if the governor doesn't approve it," Voigt said. "It shows the council the mind of the people."



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# Guardian tells school board about teacher remarks in class

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

Leona Givens, the aunt and guardian of an 11th grade student at Belleville High School, waited patiently until the end of Monday's school board meeting to tell board members about what's been happening in one of her niece's classes. And, ask them for help.

Givens said the student's mother died early this year and she is responsible for her 16-year-old niece. What is happening to her is not right, she said.

Givens said on Nov. 21, in her niece's history/government class, the teacher was

conducting class and set it up as a lesson in slavery. She said she learned the next day that the teacher asked her niece if she was ready to reproduce, with a comment on a sex organ. Givens said he also said, "White people like to grill. Black people like to barbecue. I like barbecue."

The teacher is white and the student is black and, Givens said, this comment indicated he liked black women. She said his comments raised alarm bells. She said he also has asked about who the teen lives with and how many people are in her home, getting entirely too personal.

It was Thanksgiving break, but she

voiced her concerns as soon as possible to the assistant principal and principal.

She said the teacher didn't come in on Monday or Tuesday and her daughter was transferred to another class, away from her peers. Then the teacher went on with his class without discipline.

She felt the teacher should have been put on leave while the investigation continued, instead of continuing to teach.

Givens said her niece had gotten a B+ in the class and then the teacher changed it to a D-. The student was getting punished instead of the teacher, she said.

"I called the superintendent and there was no call back," she told the board. Supt. Pete Kudlak was pointed out to her at the board table and she continued, "I left at least four messages for you."

Supt. Kudlak said he got none of the messages, but he had heard about the situation.

Board President Keith Johnston said the protocol is to go through the assistant principal and principal with complaints

and then to the superintendent. If the superintendent doesn't do anything, then the issue can be brought to the board.

Givens said that's what she has done.

"Make an appointment with Mr. Kudlak first, before coming to the Board of Education," Johnston said, adding he does not intend to shut her comments down now that she is before the board.

Givens said the teacher has talked to other students unprofessionally as well, telling one boy with droopy pants to "Pull your pants up or I'll slide something in 'em."

"Supt. Kudlak has to hear two sides," Johnston continued.

Givens said 17 students have been interviewed and eight children said he did say those things to her.

Supt. Kudlak asked for her phone number and he said he would call her and talk to her about it.

"I gave the school an ample amount of time," Givens said after the meeting. "Next, I'm going to TV-2 News."

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## Rep. Bellino's air ambulance legislation approved by House

The Michigan House of Representatives on Dec. 6 overwhelmingly approved air ambulance reform legislation authored by State Rep. Joe Bellino, R-Monroe.

Rep. Bellino's measure requires hospitals to transport patients via ground ambulances, rather than air ambulances, unless medically necessary. Patients sometimes are transported to hospitals by air ambulance without it being necessary and are eventually slammed with outrageous medical bills.

"To protect patients from being hit hard with air ambulance bills costing in the tens of thousands of dollars, this bill stresses ground ambulance transportation over air," said Bellino. "Too many patients have gone into debt because of air ambulance medical costs."

Air ambulance companies currently

participate in "balance billing" where the patient's health care provider will pay for a portion of the bill, but not its entirety. This leaves patients with medical bills in the tens of thousands of dollars.

"In a case in which an air ambulance is requested, hospitals should order an air transport vehicle from a participating provider with the nonemergency patient's health benefit plan to help avoid huge billing costs," Bellino said. "I am happy my colleagues in the House voted in favor of protecting patients. I look forward to working with the Senate to further advance my measure."

House Bill 5217 now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Rep. Bellino's district includes Sumpter Township.

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# Sumpter marijuana committee to wrap up study by Jan. 17

By Rosemary K. Oztman

Independent Editor

On Dec. 6, a large crowd attended the second meeting of a Sumpter Township committee appointed to do fact-finding into the new Michigan Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act and prepare a packet of information for the township board.

Township Supervisor John Morgan had appointed the committee which was to meet on the first Wednesday of each month to gather information.

At this second meeting of the group, however, chairman Trustee Matthew Oddy announced that although Supervisor Morgan was not present, he has asked the committee to expedite its work and wrap up preparation of an information packet to the board by Jan. 17.

The committee was not asked to recommend a decision to the board for opting in or opting out of MMFLA, just to gather information.

Oddy set 6:30 p.m. meetings for Jan. 3, 10, and then the wrap-up on Jan. 17. According to its published schedule of meetings, the township board's next meeting after that date would be Feb. 13.

Oddy directed Police Chief Eric Luke to come up with information on the impact to the police department, using his best guess at the number of facilities that might be approved. Chief Luke had said earlier that it's hard to estimate the impact if he didn't know how many facilities there might be in the township.

Oddy directed Fire Chief Joe Januziak to estimate the impact on the fire department, using his best guess.

He directed Ken Bednark and Deb Callison to put together the letters and communications that have come in from the community.

Oddy asked Trustee Sheena Barnes to work with Supervisor Morgan on estimating the administrative cost to the township, "a kind of a guess."

Oddy directed township attorney Rob Young to check with neighboring communities on their decisions.

Young said he has exhausted that kind of information. He said Sumpter has to come up with the type, number, and location

of facilities. He said it makes a lot of difference if the township has one facility or 30.

"It doesn't make sense to me to make a lot of money and spend it all on enforcement," Young said.

Young said they need proposals and an idea of what the facts are.

"We already had somebody propose 70," Oddy said.

Young suggested Trustee Barnes could suggest how many facilities Sumpter could have.

"The state has taken the MMFLA regulations seriously, more than the MMA," Young said. "They created a very serious set of regulations. We have missing pieces."

Oddy asked Barnes to bring a number by Jan. 6.

Oddy turned to planner Christopher Atkins and asked him to look into ordinances.

"There are lots of things to think about," Atkins said. "Do we have the land? There are no ordinances out there yet. We have to figure out what zoning to put it into."

Oddy said those communities who jumped into MMFLA eight months ago will be well on their way. A proposal on the number can estimate the impact.

"We need something to the board by Jan. 17," Oddy said.

Young said he and Atkins could sit down with Trustee Barnes to work out some numbers, "some reality."

Bednark asked where to direct the residents to send their comments and was told they could be mailed to the supervisor at the township hall or sent to Sumpter-supervisor@comcast.net.

Deputy Supervisor Karen Armatis was sitting behind the committee members, taking notes for the absent supervisor.

At the first meeting of the committee in November, 15 minutes of public comment was allowed at the end of the meeting. At the Dec. 6 meeting, Oddy called for public comment at the beginning of the meeting from the large crowd. The meeting closed at 8:10 p.m., 25 minutes longer than had been planned because of all the comment from more than 13 speakers.

The first speakers complained about

the smell of marijuana farms in their neighborhoods and worried if they would be able to sell their homes if the wind is blowing the wrong way when people come to look at the house.

"I don't have a problem with growing," she said. "But, I want it inside."

Adrienne Slaughter said she was speaking for the Murray and Slaughter families in support of medical marijuana which is good for people. She asked the township to opt into MMFLA, but said the families would support whatever the township decides.

She said in the 2.5 acres to the north of her home, the first year she smelled the marijuana growing, but over the next two years she could not longer smell it.

"I like smelling the dirt," she said, noting in a controlled facility, you have filters.

Oddy said the MMFLA does allow outdoor growing.

David Hartford of Chelsea spoke of the value to the township opting in would bring.

Kurt Milhouse of Karr Road asked the committee to make sure it is a level playing field, with nobody being allowed to have all three facilities. He said those opting in now will make more money because the price will continue to plummet.

"Everyone here should be able to make money he said. "It's a niche market. The odor is manageable."

Milhouse said he would continue to attend the meetings and he would like to provide information to the committee.

Mary Ban of Lohr Road said she was

(continued on page 13)



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Kim Hoskins of Belleville read her *Independent*, front to back, on the Grand Bahama Island during a Caribbean islands cruise. "It was so great and relaxing," she reports. Also: "People are reading the *Independent* everywhere."

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## Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 12)

talking with a man who lives near Denver and his community had opted out. She said he told her so many high schoolers go out to lunch and do “vapors” and when they come back to school they can’t function.

“It’s kind of a warning,” she said.

Ban also said FDIC banks will not accept funds from marijuana growers because it’s an illegal substance.

“It concerns me that we are trying to put the cart before the horse ... Federal law supercedes ...” she said.

Young said if there’s room for states to regulate, it’s always a conflict. “It’s a very complicated issue,” he said.

She suggested a Dollar General store, like in New Boston, be invited into Sumpter since they are seeking to go into rural communities.

Andre Watson of Sherwood Road said medical marijuana is not a magic fluid, but it’s a unique opportunity for Sumpter to take advantage of. He said this is a part of America where wealth is really growing and he doesn’t know if union jobs will be here in the future.

“If it starts to terrorize the community, clamp down,” Watson said, adding he is looking at the future of the community and they should take advantage of this opportunity and look closer at it.

Alexander Enriquez of Martinsville Road, a double-amputee veteran who has been using marijuana for 41 years instead

of opiods, said in the last few months he has been looking for land of over 10 acres in size to buy in the township and it’s being bought up quickly.

He said Sumpter Township is making out now, just with the anticipation.

## Homegrown Knowledge series to feature 3D printing demonstration

The Belleville Area District Library is hosting the Homegrown Knowledge series presentation on “3D Printing” at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 14.

Friend of the Library Rick Cichewicz is bringing a 3D printer with him. He’ll give a talk about the history and applications of 3D printing and provide a live demonstration of the process. Gadget-heads won’t want to miss this. Free.

## Birthdays

Dec. 18 -- Paul Smith, Russ Peabody, Rhonda Dutton

Dec. 19 -- Mary Jane Egan, Cheryl Toms

Dec. 20 -- Jenny Hawkins

Dec. 21 -- Craig Moody, Marcie Dorow

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**Court Watching:****Judge Oakley denies motion to dismiss by Rasmussen's attorney**

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

James Murray, retained attorney for John Patrick Rasmussen, 54, on Dec. 6 made a motion before 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley to dismiss the charge against his client because his client did not receive a speedy trial.

Rasmussen is charged with driving while intoxicated - 3rd on April 17, 2015 in Van Buren Township.

The Wayne County assistant prosecutor said there is no right to a speedy arrest or a speedy trial and they have not met the 18 months mark.

Judge Oakley said the main crux is that the clock doesn't start at the time of the alleged crime but at arraignment.

Murray said it was a 2015 arrest and there was no effort to prosecute until July, when an officer came to his client's door. He said he asked several times if his client was going to be prosecuted. Murray said it's been so long that there has been destruction of all the video, audio, and blood and there is no evidence to study. He said the clock begins ticking with the arrest.

The prosecutor said there was no indication there ever were videos.

Murray said the Michigan State Police gave notice that the blood taken would be destroyed after two years and it was.

"I've been advised all is gone," Murray said noting they were never given notice of that.

Judge Oakley denied the motion to dismiss, saying the clock didn't start ticking until the arraignment.

Murray said there was no reason for delay and the delay of the arrest resulted in undue stress for his client.

Rasmussen's preliminary exam on the charge was set for 10 a.m., Dec. 27.

**Clayvon Anthony Choates**

Clayvon Anthony Choates, 26, did not show up for his preliminary exam and so Judge Oakley signed a bench warrant for his arrest.

Choates was free after posting \$10,000/10% bond on charges of larceny in a building and larceny of more than \$1,000 but less than \$20,000 on Jan. 24, 2015 in Van Buren Township. According to court records, there also is a warrant out for his arrest for failure to appear at circuit court for sentencing on a guilty plea of possession of a narcotic.

**Jonathan Lowell Bivens**

The preliminary exam for Jonathan Lowell Bivens, 47, is set for Dec. 13 on charges of receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle and unauthorized driving away of an auto on Nov. 25 in Van Buren Township.

He is lodged in the Wayne County Jail on \$25,000/10% bond. His court-appointed defense attorney David Lankford said he talked to Bivens by video from the jail and they plan to hold the preliminary exam, instead of waiving.

**Anthony Steven Okonski**

The misdemeanor charge of domestic violence in Belleville against Anthony Steven Okonski was scheduled for a bench trial before Judge Oakley. Court appointed attorney Jeff Bowdich told Judge Oakley that the charge had been dismissed so his client left the courthouse.

**Kenneth Joseph Landstrom**

A jury trial will be held on Feb. 9 for Kenneth Joseph Landstrom who is charged with four misdemeanors. He has three charges against him of lying to Van Buren Township police officers and one charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. His pretrial appearance was Dec. 6 when his attorney Robert Coutts asked for the jury trial.

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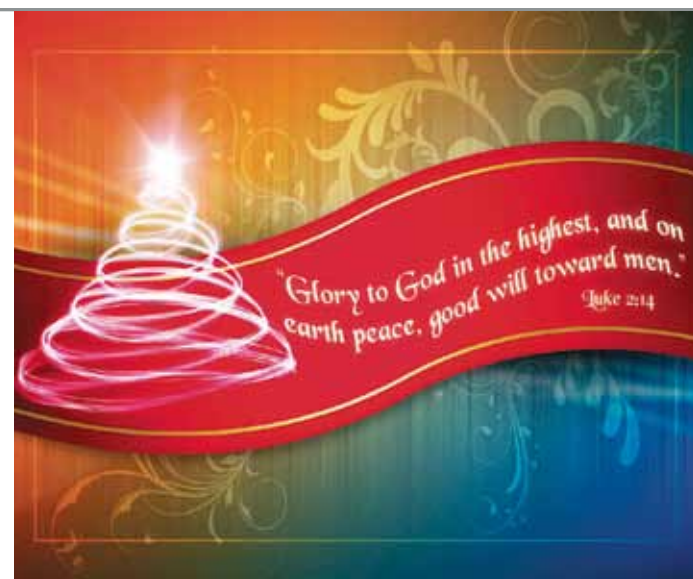


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Belleville, MI 48111

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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM

## PERSPECTIVE EYECARE

Perspective Eyecare would like to remind you to check your Flex Spending Accounts. Many FSAs have a "use it or lose it" policy. Your FSA dollars can be used for nearly any eyewear expense, including second pairs and sunglasses.

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Dr. Robert Kennedy, O.D.

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# ORPHAN OF THE WEEK "STORMY"



Don't let her name fool you; **Stormy** is one of the calmest kitties at the shelter. However, she will help you weather any storm of your own with her calm, loving and sweet nature. She is most certainly a gentle and loving kitty that will always have your best interest at heart. You can almost always find her curled up for a peaceful nap in a basket but she is never too busy to accept affection or interact with you even when it wakes her up. **Stormy** came through our TNR program and has the required ear tip but it certainly doesn't detract from her beauty. Her midnight black coat is extra shiny and soft while saucer sized golden eyes look back at you filled with love. Come meet the purrfect companion to weather all life's storms by calling today to meet **Stormy**. She's spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.



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**Monday – Friday  
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.**

**OPEN**  
**Sunday – Thursday  
11 a.m. – Midnight**  
**Friday & Saturday  
11 a.m. – 2 a.m.**

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start in your own community!*

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**Belleville-Area Independent, 152 Main St., Suite 9, Belleville, MI 48111**  
Or, give us a call at **(734)699-9020** (Credit or Debit cards only)

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

- **Thursday, Dec. 14** – The Homegrown Knowledge Series presents "3D Printing" at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Rick Cichewicz will bring a 3D printer with him, talk about the history and applications of 3D printing, and provide a live demonstration.
- **Saturday, Dec. 16** – Children's workshop to make Christmas ornaments at the museum, noon, 1:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Also, free photos with Santa at the museum.
- **Saturday, Dec. 16** – Belleville Community Band Concert, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St.
- **Sunday, Dec. 17** – "Jay Frandsen & Saxophone" entertains 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. Final concert of the year.
- **Monday, Dec. 18** -- State Rep. Joe Bellino, who represents Sumpter Township in Lansing, will host office hours from 9 to 10 a.m. at Biggby, 26614 Telegraph Rd. in Flat Rock; and from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Tim Horton's, 404 S. Monroe St. in Monroe. Appointments are not necessary.
- **Thursday, Dec. 28** – Free Community Dinner from 6 to 6:30 p.m. at Willow United Methodist Church and God Works Family Soup Kitchen, 36925 E. Willow Rd., New Boston, (734) 654-9020. [www.willowchurch.org](http://www.willowchurch.org)
- **Sunday, Dec. 31** – Celebrate New Year's Eve at the Moose Lodge, 45476 Harris Rd., for \$20 per person (\$25 after Dec. 20). Dinner at 6 p.m., pizza and champagne at midnight. Southern Heat Band, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Public welcome. (734) 325-7799

"Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising."  
*Mark Twain*



**James Chudzinski**  
Owner  
21585 Sumpter Rd.  
Belleville, MI 48111



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

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Independent photo by Bob Mytych

Parade Marshal George Craven plays a Christmas carol on his trumpet after the Dec. 2 parade.

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start in your own community!*



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**SEEKING INFORMATION  
RELATING TO THE DEATH OF**

**EGYPT COVINGTON**  
Van Buren Township | Friday, June 23, 2017

**JUSTICE FOR EGYPT**

**ANY INFO CONTACT;**

**1-800-SPEAK UP**

**OR CONTACT**

**CRIMETIP@VANBUREN-MI.ORG**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> 7pm**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 11am**

*What Kind of Throne*  
Bethany Bible Church Choir

*What Kind  
of Throne*

40 voice Bethany Bible Church Choir presents *What Kind of Throne*. Orchestrated background music with DVD accompanying presentation. Under the direction of John F. Losen Jr. Admission is free. Infant and toddler nursery is available. Refreshments provided following the concert. Don't miss this inspiring, contemporary presentation of the greatest story ever told!

810 E. Huron River Dr, Belleville, MI | 734.697.7456 | bethanybiblechurch.com

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**Photos  
with Santa**

Professional Photos—No Charge

**Saturday, December 16**

**12 Noon to 4 pm**

Presenting Sponsors

**GENISYS**  
CREDIT UNION

**TUCKERAGENCY**  
INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Belleville Area Museum  
405 Main Street



# INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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ROSCO ADJUSTABLE SHOWER  
CHAIR w/back. Brand new. \$50.  
(734) 740-5577 12/21

SNOWBOARD, Homelite leaf  
blower \$40, frame hiking backpack  
\$40, new wall-mount for TV, \$25,  
(734) 578-2824 12/21

HOSPITAL BED, semi-electric with  
compressor. Excellent shape. \$50.  
(734) 325-7310 12/28

3 BABY POTBELLY PIGS. Parents on-  
site. \$100/ea. OBO. (734) 307-6609 12/28

MEYERS 8' YELLOW SNOW BLADE  
with lights & controls. \$1,400 OBO.  
(734) 474-1382 12/28

## VEHICLE FOR SALE

'93 CHEVY VAN, C-20, 79K, auto. Must  
see, \$2,300 and '97 Ranger, 5-speed,  
130K. \$850. (734) 474-1382 12/28

## WANTED

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

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

H & W TOWING. Top \$ cash paid  
for junk vehicles. Free towing.  
(734) 223-5581 12/14

FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED  
appliances, lawn equipment, bicycles  
& any type of scrap & farm metal.  
John (734) 644-4008 02/08

WORK WANTED. I can provide child  
care or elder care. Also dog sitting and  
cleaning. (734) 334-8411 12/21

## FREE

FREE FILL. Delivery available.  
(734) 697-1183. Yost Sand & Gravel,  
Belleville. TFN

HOSPITAL BED. You Pick up.  
(313) 525-5162 12/21

TO GOOD HOME. 2 ducks, 2 chickens &  
6 bunnies. (734) 307-6609 12/28

**One Call Does It All . . .  
. . . At the Independent  
699-9020**

## SERVICES

### A&L SERVICES

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Painting, Drywall, Carpentry,  
Electrical, Plumbing,  
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\$20 House Call

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1-BEDROOM APARTMENT, \$650/mo. +  
security. Corner of 5th & Liberty. Includes  
heat & water. 1 yr. lease. Must have good  
credit. No pets. (734) 516-5654 01/04

## MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR RENT

### Move in for \$299\* Free Rent Until 2/1/18\*

Swan Creek has Brand New  
Homes - Great Floorplans!  
Homes starting at \$899/month.  
3 & 4 bedrooms available.  
Move in by 1/1\*  
Call Dawn at FSI Housing.  
EHO

\*Restrictions Apply. Full Sec Dep with pet(s).  
Breed Restrictions apply. Hurry offer ends 12/31/17



Swan Creek  
**734.456.9073**

**23379 Island Dr.,  
New Boston, MI 48164**

## MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE



**5% DOWN**  
**\$199 rent for the first 24 mos.**  
**NO Security Deposit**  
**for NEW homes**

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**Belleville Manor**  
**734-699-7700**

Belleville Road just 1 mile north of I-94

**Van Buren Estates**  
**734-697-6159**

3 miles south of I-94 at the Rawsonville exit

**Mohawk**  
**734-513-4108**

Joy Road between Middlebelt and Inkster  
\*WAC. Ends 12-31-17.

### PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

This newspaper will not knowingly  
accept any advertising for real estate  
which is in violation of the law. Our  
readers are hereby informed that all  
dwellings advertised in this newspaper  
are available on an equal opportunity  
basis. To complain of discrimination  
call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777.  
The toll-free telephone number for the  
hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



## HELP WANTED

### FT/PT custodians needed.

**Must be reliable, have  
own transportation, pass  
a background check. Call  
313-886-7797 or email  
hr@giantjanitorial.com**

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

ENERGETIC BARTENDER for club  
atmosphere. Apply at Van Buren  
Eagles 9961 Beck after 12pm.  
(734) 699-8836 12/21

THERMAL-PLEX GUTTERS  
needs installation crew members.  
(313) 909-4915 12/21

### Upcoming Meetings

• Thursday, Dec. 14 - Keystone Academy  
Board of Education, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter  
Township Planning Commission at 7  
p.m., quarterly meeting. Also, Belleville  
Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Monday, Dec. 18 - Van Buren Township  
work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville  
City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, Dec. 19 - Van Buren Township  
regular meeting, 7 p.m.

• Wednesday, Dec. 20 - Belleville  
Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m.  
Also, Van Buren Township Environmental  
Commission, 7 p.m.

• Wednesday, Jan. 3 - Sumpter Township  
fact-finding committee on the new Michigan  
Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act meets at  
6:30 p.m. Time for public input.

• Monday, Jan. 8 - Van Buren Township  
work/study session, 4 p.m.

• Tuesday, Jan. 9 - Sumpter Township  
workshop at 6 p.m., regular meeting at 6:30  
p.m. Also, Van Buren Township regular  
meeting, 7 p.m.

### 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  
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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.

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 5, 2017

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, Trustee Miller and Trustee White. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, Developmental Services Deputy Director Best, Executive Assistant Selman, Public Services Director Taylor, Public Safety Deputy Director (Police) Wright and an audience of twenty-five (25).

Supervisor McNamara requested the removal of New Business item #8 [Discussion on the 1st amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement between Van Buren Charter Township and the City of Belleville for Emergency Dispatch and Lockup Services] and #9 [Discussion on the Intergovernmental Agreement between Van Buren Charter Township and the City of Belleville for Fire Protection and Medical Response Services] explaining the items have been delayed for approval by the City of Belleville.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Budd moved, Frazier seconded to approve the amended agenda. Motion Carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** White moved, Miller seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. [Work Study Session minutes of November 20, 2017, Closed Session minutes of November 20, 2017, Board Meeting minutes of November 21, 2017, Prepaid List of November 30, 2017, Voucher List of December 5, 2017, Approval of Resolution 2017-30 the Annual Wayne County Maintenance Permit A-18045, Approval of Resolution 2017-31 the Annual Wayne County Special Events Permit A-18086, Approval of Resolution 2017-32 the Annual Wayne County Pavement Restoration Permit A-18100]. Motion Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Residents commented on unresolved issues relating to Cobblestone Ridge and requested the Board monitor the progress of development to ensure compliance of the agreement between the Township and the developer. Representative of the Local Development Financing Authority thanked the Board for the recent acknowledgment of all committee and commission members during the Special Board, Joint Committee and Commission meeting held November 30, 2017. Supervisor McNamara praised the Public Safety Department on their quick response to an incident involving an alleged predator and a Van Buren Township teen. Presentation by Waste Management on the 5th Amendment to the Van Buren Township-Waste Management Host Community Agreement. Waste Management Operations Director, John Myers, provided a brief history of the landfill and highlighted changes in the 5th amendment. Established in 1990, it is anticipated that the current landfill will reach capacity in 2025 and will close. Waste Management is proposing to expand the landfill into the Woodlands Golf Course, south of the existing facility, extending the capacity out to 2056. Currently the Township receives approximately \$5 million annually from landfill tipping fees and grants. Changes to the current agreement include: expansion to the south, tipping fee increases at 2% annually, tax capture on landfill use of expansion area, \$350K landscape buffer fund, \$8 million one-time payment, \$20K Senior services grant annually, \$5K Service center grant annually, \$1 million liability insurance, closure of golf course with

lease of clubhouse to the Township for \$1.00 a year until 2040, golf escrow account funds estimated at \$315K, housing reimbursement at 150% of market value to 5 property owners, rescind deed restrictions, \$50K public improvement grant annually, elimination of free curbside pick-up five years after approval and competitive rates to continue curbside pick-up service.

Presentation by Planning and Economic Development Deputy Director Best. Deputy Director Best provided a fact-based analysis to the Board that included a summary value under 5th amendment, cost analysis for household waste, recycling, and yard waste pick up without the 5th amendment, projected Township revenue analysis with and without the 5th amendment, projected annual host fees anticipated under the 5th amendment, history of each amendment to the Host Community Agreement since its inception, and an assessment of the positive impact of the Township's Standard and Poors rating under the 5th amendment.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Miller moved, Budd seconded to open the public hearing at 7:46 p.m. to receive public comment on Resolution 2017-33 the 5th Amendment to the Van Buren Township-Waste Management Host Community Agreement. Motion Carried.

Public comments included: Odor concerns, odor monitoring, request to have a dedicated 24/7 non-automated contact person assigned to odor complaints, buffer options to included trees, acceptable liability coverage, request for a better agreement, allocation of funds received from Waste Management to cover and/or off-set the future cost of curb-side pick-up, additional notification to the public before voting, acknowledgement of the maintenance of the landfill, request for Board to review alternate options for disposal, concern over elimination of free curb-side pick-up when current contract states for life, request for Board review of alternate options to the 5th amendment, compensation to property owners vs. compensation to all residents of the Township, property value impact, cost of curbside pick-up to residents and deed restrictions on land usage of current agreement.

Board members discussed resident concerns and vowed to take them into consideration before making a decision. Comments are encouraged. Residents may submit comments via mail, email, telephone or in person by contacting any Board member. The 5th amendment agreement, documents pertaining the agreement, the agreement summary, and the fact based-analysis is available at Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township, MI 48111.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Frazier moved, White seconded to approve the second (final) reading of Ordinance 11-21-17 (1) an amendment to the General Code of Ordinances, Chapter 42 (Environmental) Article II (Nuisances), Division 3 (Blight Prevention) Section 42-79. The amendment provides for civil infraction penalties. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White. Motion Carried.

Frazier moved, White seconded to approve the second (final) reading of Ordinance 11-21-17 (2) an amendment to the General Code of Ordinances, Chapter 42 (Environmental) Article II (Nuisances), Division 2 (Trailers & Vehicles) Section 42-55. The amendment provides for civil infraction penalties. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White. Motion Carried.

Frazier moved, White seconded to approve the second (final) reading of Ordinance 11-21-17 (3) an amendment to the General Code of

Ordinances, Chapter 46 (Fire Prevention and Protection), Article II (Fire Prevention Code) Section 46-32. The amendment provides for civil infraction penalties. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White. Motion Carried.

Frazier moved, White seconded to approve the second (final) reading of Ordinance 11-21-17 (4) an amendment to the General Code of Ordinances, Chapter 58 (Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions), Article IV (Offenses against Property), Division 2 (Trespass) Section 58-106. The amendment would allow a police officer, acting at the request of and on behalf of a property owner, to post and enforce no trespassing on behalf of the property owner. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White. Motion Carried.

Miller moved, Martin seconded to approve the second (final) reading of Ordinance 11-21-17 (5) an amendment to Zoning Ordinance 05-02-17 (2) as amended, by repealing the Zoning Ordinance text governing medical marihuana Cultivation Facilities. As part of the opt- Out process, sections of the zoning ordinance regarding medical marihuana must be amended. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White. Motion Carried. Motion Carried.

Miller moved, Martin seconded to approve the second (final) reading of Ordinance 11-21-17 (6) an amendment to the General Code of Ordinances Chapter 58, Article VI, Division 5, Section 58-299 to provide for repeal regulations governing Medical Marijuana Cultivation Facilities. Van Buren Township is opting-out of PA 281 of 2016. This resolution states the Township's intention of declining the adoption of an ordinance authorizing any of the five types of medical marihuana facilities authorized by PA 281 of 2016. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White. Motion Carried.

White moved, Frazier seconded to approve the second (final) reading of Ordinance 11-21-17 (7) an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance 05-02-17 (2) as amended, to amend the regulations regarding detention pond location and setbacks for off-street parking and loading areas, access drives and paved surfaces accessory to a distribution center. The amendment reflects a change of 80 to 60 feet from a residential district, permits a stormwater basin and related landscaping to be located in any zoning district, and does not required it to be in the same zoning district as the site from which it receives water. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White. Motion Carried.

**REPORTS:** The September 2017 Budgetary Report was received. A copy of the report is

available for review at the Township Clerk's Office, 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township, MI 48111.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The following announcements were made: All addresses within Van Buren Charter Township are in the process of being changed by the U.S. Postal Services, addresses will be identified as being in Van Buren Township as opposed to Belleville. Winter tax bills have been mailed and taxes are due by February 28, 2017, post marks are not acceptable, a drop box is located in front of Township hall and in the Public Safety Department, be aware of the recent scam involving water bills, Van Buren Water & Sewer does not call customers to request payments or credit card information over the phone, do not provide anyone claiming to work for Van Buren Water & Sewer your personal credit card or social security either I person or over the phone, if you feel you have been a victim of scam contact the Water Department at 734-699-8925 and/or Public Safety at 734-699-8930, comments regarding the 5th amendment to the Host Community Agreement are encouraged, residents may submit comments via mail, email, telephone or in person by contacting any Board member, the 5th amendment agreement, documents pertaining the agreement, the agreement summary, and the fact based-analysis is available at Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township, MI 48111.

**NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Resident comments included: desire for Van Buren Township to have its own zip code, concern over un-approved and/or un-regulated facilities in the Township, and the next meeting of the Western Wayne NAACP will be held 11:30 a.m. (luncheon at 1:30 p.m.) Saturday December 9, 2017 at the Wayne County Community College Western Campus, 9555 Haggerty Rd., Van Buren Township 48111, please RSVP to naacp.michigan@gmail.com.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Miller moved, Wright seconded to adjourn at 10:08 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Publish: December 14, 2017



**The Belleville Independent is a drop off location for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. Bring in your new, unwrapped toy to our office at: 152 Main St., Suite 9, Belleville, MI**  
*We are located in the Professional Building (the old movie theater building) across from Mr. Goofy's Car Wash.*



## City of Belleville Public Notice



### POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017 at 11:00 A.M. at Great Lakes Towing, 42350 Van Born Road, Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicle will be held:**

**1999 TOYOTA, VIN: 2T1CF22P7XC253138**

**DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2017 BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
6 MAIN STREET**

**PUBLISH: DECEMBER 14, 2017 BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111**

**BY SHERRI SCHARF, CITY CLERK**



# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ORDINANCE 11-21-17(7) NOTICE OF ADOPTION

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at the regular meeting of the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees, the second reading of the following proposed amendment to the Van Buren Township Zoning Ordinance:

An amendment which clarifies the zoning district location of stormwater ponds (Section 8.107) and amends the setbacks for off-street parking and loading areas, access drives, and paved surfaces accessory to a distribution center (Section 5.112).

A true copy of the proposed Ordinance may be viewed and inspected at the office of the Township Clerk located at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The adopted Zoning Ordinance amendment will be effective seven (7) days after the date of publication.

Posted: December 07, 2017  
Published: December 14, 2017  
Effective: December 22, 2017

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

## Superintendent's Corner

By Pete Kudlak  
Superintendent,  
Van Buren Public Schools



Eighteen years ago, St. Joe's hospital sent my wife (Stacy) and me home with baby Tyler in our SUV without a clue of how much our lives would be changed forever.

My generation of parents really go all out and cater to their kids. I have had many conversations with friends (and friends' parents) about how our kids will grow up "soft" because we never let them struggle, we organize their whole lives, and the kids are the center of all family activity. This is much different than how we parents grew up.

I am not debating the merits or the pitfalls of how we raise this generation, though I often wondered how would my kids survive in the world that I grew up in.

Now, I find myself with a high school senior and in the very near future he will be required to make life decisions without his parents steering the ship. I will not be setting up his playdates or sitting at the kitchen counter making sure all his homework is done correctly. He will no longer be protected from natural consequences.

It probably isn't as bad as I make it out to be. I am just having a difficult time with all the second-guessing that happens as

children grow up. He is a responsible and confident young man who enjoys life and knows that his parents love him.

Since he was a baby, the unknown of what his life would bring has always bothered me. Now that he had his last cross country meet, last homecoming, and is looking for options for next year, I am struggling.

My work has brought me to many graduation ceremonies. All those parents, sitting in the seats, wondering if their child will be happy in life and all of the decisions that those kids are now responsible to make went unnoticed to me over the years.

Raising a child is a huge responsibility and there are so many different ways to do it well (and to totally screw it up). I am sure that I am not alone in wondering how Stacy and I did. Did we let him struggle enough? Did we teach him any life lessons?

I guess I need to let him grow up to find out. What kind of man will he be? How will he treat his friends, family, coworkers ... strangers on the street? Will he wash his dishes or will he die of a terrible malady associated with the nasty stuff that we clean out of his room each weekend?

You never stop being a parent, so I need to figure out what this new role will look like in his life. Many people before me have made this a smooth transition, so I guess there is still hope for me. Wish me luck!

## BHS home games

Here is an upcoming Belleville High School home athletic event:

- Saturday, Dec. 16 -- Belleville Swim will host their annual Alumni Meet at the Belleville High School Pool.

Questions? Contact Coach Aaron Lang at [aalang@vanburenschools.net](mailto:aalang@vanburenschools.net)

Diane Kiessel  
BHS Athletic Secretary

## VBT Landfill

(continued from page 3)

fire prevention, and trespassing (printed in today's *Independent*);

- Approved the second and final readings of an amendment to the zoning ordinance, repealing the zoning ordinance text governing medical marijuana cultivation facilities;

- Approved the second and final reading of an amendment to the General Code of Ordinances to provide for repeal of regulations covering medical marijuana cultivation facilities;

- Approved the second and final reading of an amendment to the zoning ordinance on detention pond location and setbacks for off-street parking and loading areas, access drives and paved surfaces accessory to a distribution center;

- Approved annual Wayne County permits for maintenance, special events, and pavement restoration; and

- Heard complaints from Rachel Gray and others of Cobblestone Ridge, saying the township has some responsibility for the problems there. McNamara said the township will look into this.

## Sumpter Township Public Notice

### INVITATION TO BID SUMPTER TOWNSHIP WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN IMPROVEMENTS TO GRAHAM PARK

The Township of Sumpter is accepting proposals for the  
IMPROVEMENTS TO PARKS & RECREATION BUILDING  
in Sumpter Township, Wayne County, Michigan

The proposed project consists of vinyl siding, soffit, windows, trim and gutters at the Parks & Recreation Building located at 24560 Sumpter Road, Belleville, Michigan 48111.

Sealed bids will be received by:

Esther Hurst, Township Clerk  
Sumpter Township  
23480 Sumpter Road  
Belleville, Michigan 48111

**Until Friday, January 19, 2018 at 1:30pm (local time)**

Bids shall be publicly opened and read on:

**Friday, January 19, 2018 at 2:00pm (local time)**

Sumpter Township Clerk's Office  
23480 Sumpter Road  
Belleville, Michigan 48111

Specification for the building may be obtained at the Sumpter Township Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Township of Sumpter  
Esther Hurst, Township Clerk

Publish: December 7, 14 & 21, 2017

**Minding  
Your Business**  
with Bob Mytych



Bethany Bible Church at 810 East Huron River Drive in Belleville will present its church choir in a program titled "What Kind of Throne" on Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 17 at 11 a.m. The 40-voice choir will present a contemporary presentation of the greatest story ever told. Admission is free. Refreshments will be provided. Call (734) 697-7456.

\*\*\*

Free professional photos with Santa will be taken Dec. 16, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Belleville Area Museum. A make-n-take Children's Christmas Ornament Workshop will also be held the same day at noon, 1:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. No registration is necessary. Call (734) 699-1944.

\*\*\*

Jackson Hewitt Tax Service at 841 Sumpter Road in Belleville is gearing up for the upcoming tax service season and is happy to announce that clients can apply for an Express Refund Advance from Metabank, up to \$3,200 with no fee, 0 percent APR loan and high approval rates. Call for details and an appointment at (734) 732-4554.

\*\*\*

The Belleville Community Band will be presenting its Christmas Concert on Saturday, Dec. 16, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church on Charles Street. Admission is free.

\*\*\*

The Bake Shoppe at 17416 Savage Road at Bemis is taking orders until Wednesday, Dec. 20, for pies, cakes, breads, Christmas cookies, and more. They're closing at 2 p.m. on Dec. 24 and re-opening on Jan. 15. See their ad in today's paper for more details. To place an order, call (734) 699-2236.

\*\*\*

First Missionary Baptist Church at 24092 Bohn Road in Sumpter Township offers Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship Service with Pastor Dwayne J. Logwood. There's also Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. See their ad in today's paper and call (734) 461-2164.

\*\*\*

Tonight is the last night of judging for the City of Belleville's Home Decorating Contest. Simply have your home or business holiday lights on between 6 and 10 p.m. The winners will be given to us on Friday and I will be out that evening and weekend to notify the winners that they can attend the City Council meeting on Monday to receive their plaque with photo. There's five categories: Victoria Commons, Harbour Pointe Sub, both mobile home parks, businesses, and balance of the city.

**One Call Does It All . . .  
. . . At the Independent  
699-9020**

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN County of Wayne, State of Michigan

Ordinance No.: 11-21-17(1)  
**NOTICE OF ADOPTION**

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan, held in the Van Buren Township Hall within the Township, on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Trustees: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White.

ABSENT: Trustee: None.

It was moved by Trustee Frazier and supported by Trustee White the following Ordinance be adopted to amend Sec. 42-79 of Division 3 (Blight Prevention) of Article II (Nuisances) of Chapter 42 (Environment) to read as follows:

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ("Township"), COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

Sec. 42-79. - Enforcement of division; penalties for violation of division.

- (a) This division shall be enforced by such persons who shall be so designated by the township board.
- (b) The owner, if possible, and the occupant of any property upon which any of the causes of blight or blighting factors set forth in section 42-78 is found to exist shall be notified in writing to remove or eliminate such causes of blight or blighting factors from such property within ten days after service of the notice upon him. Such notice may be served by first class mail and posting a notice in a conspicuous location on the property or such notice may be served by personal service. Additional time may be granted by the enforcement officer where bona fide efforts to remove or eliminate such causes of blight or blighting factors are in progress.
- (c) Violation of this division shall be a municipal civil infraction. The fine for violation of this section shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) for a first offense, two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for a second offense, and five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for a third or subsequent offense. Each day that a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

#### Effective Date

This amendment shall become effective upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the Charter Township of Van Buren.

THIS ORDINANCE IS HEREBY DECLARED TO HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN, AT A REGULAR MEETING, CALLED AND HELD ON THE 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017.

YEAS : McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White.

NAYS None.

ABSENT: None.

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin McNamara,  
Supervisor, Charter Township of Van Buren

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon Wright,  
Clerk, Charter Township of Van Buren

Adopted: December 5, 2017  
Published: December 14, 2017  
Effective: December 14, 2017



# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN County of Wayne, State of Michigan

Ordinance No.: 11-21-17(2)

### NOTICE OF ADOPTION

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan, held in the Van Buren Township Hall within the Township, on the 5th day of December, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White.

ABSENT: None.

It was moved by Trustee Frazier and supported by Trustee White the following Ordinance be adopted to amend Sec. 42-55 of Division 2 (Trailers & Vehicles) of Article II (Nuisances) of Chapter 42 (Environment) to read as follows:

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ("Township"), COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

Sec. 42-55. - Penalty for violation of division.

- (a) Any person who violates any of the provisions of this division shall be deemed responsible for a civil infraction. The fine for violation of this section shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) for a first offense, two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for a second offense, and five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for a third or subsequent offense. Each day that a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense.
- (b) In addition to the imposition of the fines and penalties described in subsection (a) of this section and Sec. 1-13, the township building and zoning inspector, any township police officer, or such other officer as the township board may designate may cause any vehicle, trailer, or parts thereof, which violate the provisions of this division, to be removed from the premises, impounded and destroyed or sold for junk, in the discretion of such officer, and the cost thereof assessed against the owner of such vehicle, trailer or parts thereof, or of the premises on which the same are located. Any sums of money realized on the sale over and above the costs incurred by the township shall be reimbursed to the owner of such vehicle, trailer or parts thereof.

### Effective Date

This amendment shall become effective upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the Charter Township of Van Buren.

THIS ORDINANCE IS HEREBY DECLARED TO HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN, AT A REGULAR MEETING, CALLED AND HELD ON THE 5th day of December, 2017.

YEAS: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin McNamara,  
Supervisor, Charter Township of Van Buren

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon Wright,  
Clerk, Charter Township of Van Buren

Adopted: December 5, 2017  
Published: December 14, 2017  
Effective: December 14, 2017

### Court Watching:

## James Chapman found guilty of not providing DNA sample to police

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

After a bench trial before 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley on Dec. 6, James Forrest Chapman, 57, was found guilty of refusing to provide a DNA sample to police after being arrested on a felony charge, as required by law.

But, Judge Oakley stated, "I'm not ordering DNA," and then left the courtroom for lunch. That was about 12:42 p.m.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Phoebe Longnecker told Van Buren Township Police they could try to get a DNA sample from Chapman or they could arrest him on a violation of probation charge, since he has just been found guilty of a misdemeanor.

VBT Det./Lt. Charles Bazzay said he would have to think it over.

The bench trial was almost an hour in length, starting at about 11:52 a.m. Chapman, who regularly shows up late for his court cases, arrived in the courtroom at about 11:45 a.m. for his 11 a.m. trial.

John Day, a Belleville attorney who was representing Chapman, started off with a motion to dismiss the case since it was not a speedy trial, "starting 28 months ago."

He said there have been two or three different prosecutors on the case and the case has been "adjourned, adjourned, adjourned."

Day also said Chapman has suffered tremendously because of the *Independent* newspaper stories written about him that have ruined his reputation.

He said 20 months ago Chapman was charged with a felony, which was shifted down to a misdemeanor. Any sample taken would have been destroyed, he said.

Day said this case was dismissed once and has been pending trial for over a year.

Prosecutor Longnecker said Chapman still has a pending case which has a DNA sample charge attached. She said her records show the case before them was dismissed once and remanded back to Judge Oakley on June 7, 2016, which is not 28 months ago.

She said there have been delays in the case and she highly doubts most were due to the prosecutors trying to catch up. She said a number of motions were filed on behalf of Chapman.

After Judge Oakley dismissed the charge, it was remanded back to him and, he said, "We're starting over."

She said there has been no prejudice to Chapman by the delay and no reason not to proceed.

Judge Oakley said the evidence looks like the first time, when he dismissed the charge. Since that time, it has been plugging along, he said.

Judge Oakley said he doesn't adjourn a case unless both parties agree and Day

(continued on page 22)

# Court watching

(continued from page 21)

shouldn't hold the prosecutor responsible for those delays.

Judge Oakley referred to the delays around the "global settlement" they tried to reach by attaching this DNA refusal to the other DNA refusal attached to Chapman's other felony charge at circuit court.

Judge Oakley said the clock started running once it was remanded back to him by circuit court and that still is not at 18 months.

Judge Oakley said he has to have a legal reason to dismiss it and not just because he thinks it's a "stupid case" to go forward. He said the DNA sample would have to be destroyed if Chapman was found not guilty.

"The law is pretty clear," Longnecker said. "You get arrested, you give DNA."

"I deny the motion to dismiss, as much as I want to," Judge Oakley said.

The prosecution's first witness was VBT Police Officer Patrick Wehrman, who has served on the VBT department for 10.5 years. He testified he picked up Chapman on a warrant at the Clare County Jail on Aug. 16, 2015 and transported him back to VBT.

He said Lt. Ken Floro gave him a copy of the warrant for felony stalking and he booked Chapman, taking fingerprints and entering information into the computer. He said Dispatch gave him a printout from LEIN (Law Enforcement Information Network) saying that he was required to get a DNA sample.

"I told Mr. Chapman the state requires his DNA," Officer Wehrman testified.

Day objected, saying the printout was heresay. He asked whose opinion was it that DNA needs collecting.

Wehrman said in his police training they were told after the new law went into effect, they had to get DNA.

Longnecker said the LEIN printout is part of the business record and doesn't qualify as heresay.

Judge Oakley over-ruled Day's objection.

Officer Wehrman testified after he spoke with Chapman, Chapman said he couldn't give his DNA without a court order.

Under cross-examination, Day asked Wehrman if he read Chapman his DNA rights and Wehrman said he didn't.

The next witness was VBT Detective Donovan McCarthy, who said on Aug. 16, 2015 he was advised that Chapman was in the lock up. Det. McCarthy was the officer in charge of the aggravated stalking charge against Chapman.

Det. McCarthy said at about 2:30 p.m. he went into the booking room and asked Chapman if he would be willing to give a DNA sample.

Det. McCarthy paused before describing Chapman's reply and Prosecutor Longnecker said he could repeat exactly what Chapman said.

Det. McCarthy said Chapman said, "If Lt. Bazy wanted it, he could suck it out

(continued on page 23)

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN County of Wayne, State of Michigan

Ordinance No.: 11-21-17(3)  
NOTICE OF ADOPTION

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan, held in the Van Buren Township Hall within the Township, on the 5th day of December, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White.

ABSENT: None.

It was moved by Trustee Frazier and supported by Trustee White the following Ordinance be adopted to amend Sec. 46-32 of Article II (Fire Prevention Code) of Chapter 46 (Fire Prevention and Protection) to read as follows:

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ("Township"), COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

Sec. 46-32. - Violation and penalty.

Any person, firm, corporation or legal entity that violates disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with any provision of this code or standard hereby adopted or fails to comply therewith; or who shall violate or fail to comply with any order made thereunder; or who shall build in violation of any detailed statement of specifications or plans submitted and approved thereunder; or fails to operate in accordance with any certificate or permit issued thereunder; and from which no appeal has been taken; or who shall fail to comply with such an order as affirmed or modified by a court of competent jurisdiction, within the time fixed by the code, shall jointly and severally for each and every such violation and noncompliance, respectively, be responsible for a municipal civil infraction, punishable by a fine of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) for a first offense, two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for a second offense, and five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for a third or subsequent offense. The imposition of one penalty for any violation shall not excuse the violation or permit it to continue; and all such persons shall be required to correct or remedy such violations or defects within a reasonable time; and when not otherwise specified the application of the above penalty shall not be held to prevent the enforced removal of prohibited conditions. Each day that prohibited conditions are maintained shall constitute a separate offense.

#### Effective Date

This amendment shall become effective upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the Charter Township of Van Buren.

THIS ORDINANCE IS HEREBY DECLARED TO HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN, AT A REGULAR MEETING, CALLED AND HELD ON THE 5th day of December, 2017.

YEAS: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin McNamara,  
Supervisor, Charter Township of Van Buren

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon Wright,  
Clerk, Charter Township of Van Buren

Adopted: December 5, 2017

Published: December 14, 2017

Effective: December 14, 2017



# Court watching

(continued from page 22)

my (expletive).” McCarthy said he laughed and left the room. He said he told Chapman

the refusal would be an additional criminal charge.

McCarthy said the next morning he talked to Lt. Bazzy, who went to the holding cell to talk to Chapman and Chapman told him

to go to hell.

“I submitted the DNA refusal to the prosecutor’s office, which came back signed,” McCarthy said.

Under cross-examination, Day asked

McCarthy if he advised Chapman of his DNA rights and McCarthy said he hadn’t.

Final witness was Det./Lt. Bazzy, who has been with the VBT police department for 27 years and before that six years with Detroit PD.

Lt. Bazzy said on Aug. 17, 2015 he was in the area outside cell #2 and he advised Chapman that the DNA sample was required by law.

“I gave him one final opportunity to give a sample and I advised him he could be charged with a criminal offense,” Bazzy said. “He told me to go to hell. I left the room.”

Day did not wish to cross-examine Bazzy.

Day said there is no legal authority cited that the DNA is “required by law” to be taken. A protracted argument took place, with the law that requires police to retain the DNA cited as MCL 28.176 and to take it in as MCL 750.520m.

Day said the 750.520m wording is part of the rape statute. But Judge Oakley said it doesn’t limit it to rape.

Day said police failed to inform Chapman that if not convicted his DNA would be destroyed. He made a motion to dismiss the charge.

Prosecutor Longnecker said 128.176 reads that at the time the sample is taken the defendant has to be given notice it will be destroyed if not convicted. It was never taken.

Judge Oakley denied Day’s motion.

Judge Oakley then declared he found Chapman guilty, and suspended sentence.

“Go away,” he said to Chapman.

But, Judge Oakley was advised that Chapman had to be arraigned after missing a court date on a misdemeanor charge of driving while license suspended in Sumpter Township on Sept. 29. Judge Oakley put a personal recognizance bond of \$1,000 on Chapman and told him to meet with the Sumpter Township prosecutor on Dec. 26.

## Two Sumpter officials tell of their support for new marijuana law

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

“I would opt in if we had the opportunity,” said Sumpter Township Trustee Sheena Barnes at the Nov. 28 board meeting, referring to the new Michigan Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act that goes into effect in December.

She started off her comments during the Board Response portion of the agenda.

Trustee Barnes said she wanted to comment on the letter to the editor by Mary Ban published in a recent edition of the *Belleville-Area Independent*.

“I am the newest appointed member of the board ... and I’m really trying to do the best I can,” Barnes began, indicating she felt Ban was referring to her in the letter.

Ban tried to encourage her from the audience, but Supervisor John Morgan shushed Ban’s comments.

Barnes referred to Ban’s letter that said

(continued on page 24)

# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN County of Wayne, State of Michigan

Ordinance No.: 11-21-17(4)  
NOTICE OF ADOPTION

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan, held in the Van Buren Township Hall within the Township, on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White.

ABSENT: Trustee: None.

It was moved by Trustee Frazier and supported by Trustee White the following Ordinance be adopted to amend Sec. 58-106 of Division 2 (Trespass) of Article IV (Offenses against Property) of Chapter 58 (Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions) to read as follows:

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ("Township"), COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

Sec. 58-106. - Unlawful entry; refusal to leave.

It shall be unlawful for any person within the township to willfully enter upon the lands or premises of another without lawful authority, after having been forbidden to do so by the owner, occupant, agent or servant of the owner or occupant, a police officer acting at the request of or on behalf of the property owner, or a notice posted by the owner in one or more places as to be plainly visible to persons unfamiliar with such property for the purpose of giving notice that trespassing is prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person, being upon the land or premises of another, upon being notified to depart therefrom by the owner, occupant, agent or servant of either, or a police officer acting at the request of or on behalf of the property owner, to, without lawful authority, neglect or refuse to depart therefrom.

**State Law reference**— Similar provisions, MCL 750.552.

### Effective Date

This amendment shall become effective upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the Charter Township of Van Buren.

THIS ORDINANCE IS HEREBY DECLARED TO HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN, AT A REGULAR MEETING, CALLED AND HELD ON THE 5th day of December, 2017.

YEAS: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin McNamara,  
Supervisor, Charter Township of Van Buren

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon Wright,  
Clerk, Charter Township of Van Buren

Adopted: December 5, 2017  
Published: December 14, 2017  
Effective: December 14, 2017

# Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 23)

people are calling Sumpter, “Skunkster” because of the smell of the marijuana.

“When you say ‘Skunkster,’” Barnes continued, “We have two landfills and I’ve been smelling Skunkster for 40 years... I just want our town to be the best it can be. Just bring in 20 jobs.

“I live across the street from a medical marijuana farm. It is pungent... It’s unfortunate,” Barnes said, noting that while she is new on the township board, she is not a newcomer to the township. “I’ve been out here 58 years.

“I’m here to be your voice,” Barnes said, noting the farm across the street sold for \$175,000 and now it is worth \$495,000.

She said when she passes somebody’s marijuana farm she thinks of the first chapter of Genesis about God creating every herb-bearing seed.

“This is God’s plant,” Barnes said, adding she wished no disrespect to Ban.

“The early bird get the worm and the late bird gets the turd,” Barnes concluded, referring to opting into the MMFLA.

Treasurer Peggy Morgan took up the comments, saying she, too, was “up to here” with it.

She said if it takes 10 minutes to say everything she wanted to say, she would take the time.

“The residents sign my checks to do a job and that’s what I’m doing ... Rumors are flying around the township.”

She said after caring for her family, she’s staying up until 2 or 3 o’clock in the morning studying the marijuana issue.

Treasurer Morgan said she came to Sumpter in March 1985, the night she was married.

She said the board members were forewarned months and months ago to educate themselves because MMFLA asked all townships, villages and cities to opt in, opt out, or do nothing at all.

“Every board member said I wonder what people in the township think,” Morgan continued, adding 63% of the voters in Sumpter voted to legalize medical marijuana.

She said Clerk Esther Hurst put on the board’s agenda a request to have a town hall meeting with experts and it was put off.

“We didn’t do that,” Morgan continued. “Instead we formed a committee.” She said Supervisor Morgan and Trustee Matthew Oddy set it up, but she thinks it was mainly Oddy.

She said they needed fact finding and to hear the people, but the committee meetings are one hour and 45 minutes long and just the last 15 minutes is left for the people to have time to talk.

Morgan said people are walking around spreading rumors that are not the truth.

She said she got an unsigned letter against opting in and read it. She asked the writer to sign it next time.

She said the rumor is that acres and acres of the township will be devoted to marijuana, but that is not the case. The law is for growing inside.

She was hoping to have a town hall meeting so that everything could be discussed.

She said the paper said a judge is going to order the township to opt in, but that’s not true and Mr. Po will have to follow rules

under the caregiver ordinance.

She said the *Independent* always asked the police chief for comments and, “This time he sent three different emails. She asked if she could print them and the chief said, ‘I would appreciate it,’ but she didn’t print them... Wherever she got the information from wasn’t correct.”

Morgan said there is an election in 2018 to elect the three that were appointed to their positions: her, Barnes, and Hurst.

“You voted me into office to make these decisions,” Morgan said, waving around a copy of Ban’s letter in the *Independent*.

Supervisor Morgan chastized Treasurer Morgan for using Ban’s name. He said she shouldn’t be using people’s names.

“I will be on this board as long as people

want me,” Treasurer Morgan continued.

Treasurer Morgan said the landfill revenue in 2004 was \$5 million and it went down to \$1.2 million in 2004. Now in 2017 it’s at \$2.6 million, “Quite a difference from the \$5 million we were getting and this is an opportunity to bring revenue in. This will bring in more revenue. It’s a business proposition for the township.”

Treasurer Morgan said a marijuana trimmer, the lowest position, gets from \$12 to \$18 an hour, but a great trimmer makes up to \$30 an hour. She said you can take college courses in this.

Treasurer Morgan said 29 states already have medical marijuana, plus Washington, D.C., and she believes the federal law will change. She said other states are looking at what Michigan is doing.

She said people break the laws every day and there will be laws that will be enforced. When recreational marijuana passes, there will be rules.

“Let’s benefit with the business coming to Sumpter Township and keep country living at it’s finest,” Morgan concluded to applause.

Trustee Oddy stated that there could be outside growing. And, he took “a little offense” to Morgan calling the marijuana committee “invalid.”

“I didn’t say it’s invalid,” Morgan replied. [The *Independent* didn’t hear her use that term.]

“Yes, you did,” Oddy replied “It’s not any less valid than the Van Buren Township committee that came up with the facts.

Then, Ken Kunka, head of the Water and (continued on page 25)

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN ORDINANCE 11-21-17(5) NOTICE OF ADOPTION

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CHARTER TOWHSHIP OF VAN BUREN ZONING ORDINANCE 05-02-17(2) AS AMENDED, BY REPEALING THE ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT GOVERNING MEDICAL MARIHUANA CULTIVATION FACILITIES.

#### The Charter Township of Van Buren Ordains:

#### SECTION 1. ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The Charter Township of Van Buren Zoning Ordinance shall be amended as follows:

#### Ordinance No. 11-21-17(1)

The following modifications shall be made to the Charter Township of Van Buren Zoning Ordinance:

- Section 3.104 – Deletion of the reference to Medical Marihuana Cultivation Facilities.
- Section 3.117 – Deletion of the reference to Medical Marihuana Cultivation Facilities.
- Section 5.125 – Deletion of the section in its entirety.

#### SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY

In the event any article, section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or word of this ordinance is deemed invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion deemed severable and shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

#### SECTION 3. REPEALER.

Any and all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

#### SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby ordered to take effect seven (7) days after publication of the notice of adoption in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township. This Ordinance shall be immediately recorded by the Township Clerk in the Township Ordinance Book as soon as it is adopted, which record shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Supervisor and Clerk and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township within fifteen (15) days of passage. A copy of this Ordinance may be purchased or inspected at the Clerk’s Office, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 during normal business hours.

This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting, called and held on the 5th day of December, 2017.

YEAS: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon Wright, Clerk

Adopted: December 05, 2017

Published: December 14, 2017

Effective: December 22, 2017



# Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 24)

Sewer Department addressed the meeting with a report on fire hydrants. He said every township hydrant is inspected yearly and all caps removed and oiled, and checked for leaks.

He said this year they used green ribbons to mark those hydrants checked. He said at the last township where he worked they used tags that got wet and deteriorated and made a mess.

He said they flush every third or fourth hydrant.

Kunka said his department has six full-

time employees with over 100 total years of experience.

He said it takes about a month in the fall to get the hydrants done. He said in this rural area, hydrants can become overgrown with vegetation, so they spray 1/3 to 1/2 of the township hydrants to kill the vegetation.

Kunka said they get the spray from Tractor Supply in Monroe. He said he checked with

the state and the spray was safe. He said two hydrants were repaired this year and all the hydrants are operational.

"It's hard to compete with lies and people trying to attack your credibility," Supervisor Morgan said.

"Allen Bates and I were not lying," Treasurer Morgan stated.

Oddy said he read in the paper that they are not doing their jobs and, "I am 100% behind them."

At the end of the meeting, when the public was able to speak, Mary Ban stepped forward to address the comments of Barnes and Morgan.

"I'll address Ms. Barnes, since she took such umbrage to my letter," Ban began. She said Barnes showed her Genesis 1 in her smart phone after the last meeting. Ban read from Genesis and said God made poison ivy, cactus, and other plants and an alternative word for marijuana is "weed."

Ban said to Treasurer Morgan that the cost in crime, police protection, and enforcement is to be considered. She said while medical marijuana may be fine, the state wants recreational marijuana.

"Skunkster is what I mean," Ban said, stating she is entitled to have an opinion.

"Thank God for the First Amendment and that we can write to the paper," she said. "I'm glad you paid attention to what I wrote. That's why I wrote it."

Andre Watson rose to applaud Barnes and Morgan for their ideas, saying poison ivy is good for some animals and he's eaten cactus and it's good.

"This is the fastest growing industry in America and a Republican Governor actually offers it," Watson said.

Then, Mary Herring rose to speak against opting into the new law.

"If we go with medical marijuana, it's the foot in the door," she began. "Recreational marijuana is right behind. I suspect it will be voted in ... People are looking for something to calm themselves."

Herring listed short-term effects of marijuana use, including panic, anxiety, and lowered reaction time. She said the long-term effects include reduced resistance, growth disorders, injuries to the lung and brain, makes men infertile, reduced ability to learn, and inability to think clearly.

"We need to have instant relief," Herring charged. "Grow up, America ... Grow up, World. I'm doing just fine without it."

"It worries me ... I don't want to have it in Sumpter Township ... It's in your hands," she said addressing the board. "You better be thinking about it ... I know we don't have jobs, but is something better than nothing? No. I'm worried about the next generation. Let's grow up," she concluded to a round of applause from the audience.

At the very end of the meeting Sumpter Township Police Chief Eric Luke came to address the board and audience. He said he had a correction concerning statements made about the *Independent*. He said, "I never asked her to print something and she refused. We had a dispute about the information she printed and we emailed back and forth. She didn't turn me down."

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN COUNTY OF WAYNE

### STATE OF MICHIGAN

### ORDINANCE # 2017- 11-21-17 (6) NOTICE OF ADOPTION

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan, held in the Van Buren Township Hall within the Township, on the 5th day of December, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White.

ABSENT: None.

It was moved by Trustee Miller and supported by Trustee Martin the following Ordinance be adopted to amend the Code of Ordinances, Charter Township of Van Buren, Michigan, by Repealing *Section 58-299 – Medical Marijuana*, of Chapter 58, Article VI, Division 5 of said Code:

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ("Township"), COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN, ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. REPEAL *Section 58-299 – Medical Marijuana*, of Chapter 58, Article VI, Division 5 of the Code of Ordinances.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY. If any Section, subsection, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent portion of this ordinance, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. SAVINGS. All proceedings pending and all rights and liabilities existing, acquired or incurred at the time this ordinance takes effect are saved and may be consummated according to the law in force when they are commenced.

SECTION 4. REPEALER. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall be effective upon the passage by the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees and the publication of the Ordinance in accordance with the Charter of Van Buren Township and the statutes of the State of Michigan.

THIS ORDINANCE IS HEREBY DECLARED TO HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN, AT A REGULAR MEETING, CALLED AND HELD ON THE 5th day of December 2017.

YEAS: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin McNamara,  
Supervisor, Charter Township of Van Buren

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon Wright,  
Clerk, Charter Township of Van Buren

Adopted: December 5, 2017  
Published: December 14, 2017  
Effective: December 14, 2017

**One Call Does It All . . .  
. . . At the Independent  
699-9020**

## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*Out of the 407 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police for the past week, the following are selected for this column.*

### Sunday, Dec. 3:

0028 -- noise complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl. / Willow Way  
0120 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Winding Pond  
0416 -- domestic, Lighthouse Dr.  
0732 -- mental subject, Haggerty Rd.  
1033 -- assist other dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1033 -- mental subject, Haggerty Rd.  
1311 -- breaking & entering, Ecorse Rd.  
1414 -- domestic, Harbour Pointe Ct.  
1516 -- domestic, Old Michigan Rd.  
1527 -- suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron River  
1701 -- domestic, Ash Dr.  
1705 -- trespassing, Beckley Rd.  
1754 -- 911 welfare check, Bog Rd.  
1833 -- unauthorized driving away of auto, Hull Rd.  
1859 -- disorderly, Belleville Rd.  
2000 -- family trouble, Coolidge St.  
2025 -- unauthorized driving away of auto, Ecorse  
2251 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.

### Monday, Dec. 4:

0056 -- noise complaint, Maple Dr.  
0709 -- larceny, S. Bellridge Dr.  
0817 -- abandoned auto, Arthur St.  
0940 -- larceny, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1055 -- assist other dept., Industrial Park  
1335 -- malicious destruction of property, Parkwood Dr.  
1409 -- breaking & entering, McBride Ave.  
1524 -- weapons violation, Quirk Rd.  
1547 -- unauthorized driving away of auto, Edwards Rd.

1609 -- malicious destruction of property, Denton Rd.  
1656 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Victoria St.  
2213 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Revere Dr.  
2352 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Victoria St.

### Tuesday, Dec. 5:

0641 -- property damage accident, Haggerty/Bemis  
0656 -- road hazard, Beck/Tyler  
1008 -- suspicious person/vehicle, E. Huron River Dr. / Haggerty Rd.  
1347 -- assist other dept., Belleville Rd.  
1608 -- private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1649 -- property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.  
1731 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Arlene Ln. / Savage Rd.  
1903 -- harassment call, Ventura Dr.  
1925 -- assist other dept., Elwell Rd.  
1935 -- larceny, E. huron River Dr.

### Wednesday, Dec. 6:

0051 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Westlake Cir.  
0828 -- fraud, Kirkridge Park Dr.  
1009 -- fight, Westlake Cir.  
1537 -- retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1549 -- retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1708 -- leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / S. Grove St.  
1815 -- breaking & entering, Dalton Dr.  
2029 -- 911 welfare check, Ecorse Rd.  
2242 -- threat, Liberty Ln.  
2354 -- domestic, Denton Rd.

### Thursday, Dec. 7:

0650 -- suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service  
0745 -- malicious destruction of property, Vernon  
0922 -- 911 welfare check, Village Center Dr.  
1013 -- property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Belleville Rd.  
1215 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Woodbury Dr.  
1348 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1509 -- 911 welfare check, Haggerty Rd.  
1634 -- property damage accident, Belleville  
1641 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd.  
1725 -- threat, W. Huron River Dr.  
2003 -- fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2044 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Hoeft Rd.  
2249 -- operating while intoxicated, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.

### Friday, Dec. 8:

0337 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Daisy Blvd.  
0814 -- leaving the scene of a property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.  
1236 -- found property/child, E. Huron River Dr.

1429 -- property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.  
1433 -- domestic, Village Center Dr.  
1626 -- missing person, Florence Ln.  
1646 -- civil matter, Haggerty Rd.  
1659 -- threat, Haggerty Rd.  
1715 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Marina Dr.  
1737 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Forestdale Dr.  
1856 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Chaney Ave.  
1939 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Rose Blvd.  
2055 -- family trouble, Maple Dr.  
2134 -- assist other dept., W. Columbia Ave./High  
2151 -- fight, Rawsonville Rd.  
2254 -- fight, W. Archwood Dr.  
2330 -- road hazard, S. I-94 Service Dr./Quirk Rd.

### Saturday, Dec. 9:

0250 -- malicious destruction of property, Victoria  
0456 -- unauthorized driving away of auto, Locust  
0652 -- assist fire dept., WB I-94/Belleville Rd.  
0745 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.  
0924 -- property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Haggerty Rd.  
0943 -- leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.  
1037 -- disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1116 -- civil matter, Denton Rd.  
1153 -- animal complaint, Bak Rd.  
1633 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
1730 -- property damage accident, Ecorse/Hannan  
2226 -- noise complaint, Andover Dr./Stratford Dr.  
2256 -- noise complaint, Stratford Dr.

Also on this week's log are 94 traffic stops, 29 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Dec. 3:

0111 -- welfare check, N. Biggs Ave.  
0238 -- intrusion alarm, Belle Villa Blvd.  
0801 -- assist fire dept., S. Liberty St.  
0902 -- welfare check, N. Biggs Ave.  
1052 -- suspicious person/vehicle, E. Columbia  
1134 -- assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.  
1325 -- assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.  
1605 -- assist fire dept., N. Edgemont Ave.  
1631 -- fraud, Robbe  
1851 -- assist fire dept., N. Edgemont Ave.  
2031 -- warrant arrest, Rawsonville/Willis  
2050 -- 911 welfare check, Fourth St.  
2241 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Biggs Ave.  
2358 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Biggs Ave.

### Monday, Dec. 4:

1413 -- disorderly, W. Columbia Ave.  
1415 -- threat, W. Columbia Ave.  
1652 -- vehicle lock out, S. Aberdeen Ct.  
1754 -- found property/child, Main St.  
2101 -- civil matter, Clarence St.  
2248 -- intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.

### Tuesday, Dec. 5:

0247 -- warrant arrest, Michigan Ave.  
0919 -- narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.  
0933 -- narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.  
1116 -- assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
1350 -- animal complaint, N. Liberty St.  
1351 -- miscellaneous complaint, W. Columbia  
1523 -- property damage accident, Sumpter Rd. / Owen St.

1625 -- assist fire dept., Victorian Ln.  
2003 -- suspicious perso/vehicle, Clarence St.

### Wednesday, Dec. 6:

0003 -- assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
0915 -- assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
1425 -- personal injury accident, Carmell St.  
1613 -- larceny, Main St.  
1731 -- domestic, Potter Dr.  
1756 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. Edgemont  
2216 -- welfare check, Biggs Ave.  
2223 -- domestic, Henry St.

### Thursday, Dec. 7:

0307 -- disorderly, Carmell St.  
0450 -- assault & battery, Carmell St.  
1004 -- assist fire dept., Owen St.  
1057 -- assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
1259 -- suicidal person, Victorian Ct.  
1540 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Henry St.  
1625 -- welfare check, Carmell St.  
1731 -- civil matter, Menlo Park Dr.  
2112 -- assist fire dept., Carmell St.  
2133 -- 911 welfare check, Menlo Park Dr.

2153 -- overdose, Carmell St.

### Friday, Dec. 8:

0336 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Carmell St.  
0629 -- welfare check, S. Aberdeen Ct.  
0722 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Biggs Ave.  
0949 -- prisoner transport, S. Wayne Rd.  
1622 -- assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
1701 -- property damage accident, E. Huron River  
1733 -- assist fire dept., Church St.  
2128 -- property damage accident, High St. / Huron River Dr.

2146 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.

### Saturday, Dec. 9:

0638 -- assist fire dept., Carmell St.  
0750 -- property damage accident, High/Church  
0919 -- assist fire dept., E. Columbia Ave.  
1424 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.  
1558 -- property damage accident, Sumpter Rd. / Industrial Park Dr.  
2106 -- motorist assist, W. Columbia/High  
2136 -- assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave.  
2243 -- traffic offense, W. Columbia Ave.

Also on this week's dispatch log are 52 traffic stops.

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Dec. 3:

0517 -- suspicious person, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1234 -- suspicious vehicle, 23000 bl. Martinsville  
1428 -- suspicious incident, Rawsonville/Willis  
1444 -- animal complaint, 19000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1559 -- personal injury accident, Rawsonville / Willis  
1632 -- animal complaint, Walnut  
1651 -- animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

### Monday, Dec. 4:

0613 -- traffic hazard, Clark/Oakville Waltz  
0821 -- suspicious incident, Rustic Ln.  
0850 -- suspicious person, 11000 bl. Rawsonville  
1149 -- alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1155 -- threats complaint, 18000 bl. Martinsville  
1155 -- 911 hang up, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1203 -- fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1325 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1326 -- animal complaint, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.  
1522 -- warrant arrest pick up, Rawsonville / Willis  
1612 -- civil dispute, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1818 -- flee & elude, Oakville Waltz/Haggerty

### Tuesday, Dec. 5:

0544 -- traffic hazard, Willis/Wilmoth  
0623 -- traffic hazard, Willis/Elwell  
0650 -- traffic hazard, Willis/Martinsville  
0826 -- fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.  
0942 -- citizen assist, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1056 -- alarm, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1157 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1445 -- well-being check, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1747 -- alarm, 21000 bl. Meri Dr.  
2221 -- warrant arrest pick up, out of township  
2322 -- death investigation, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.

### Wednesday, Dec. 6:

0103 -- fire dept. assist, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
0218 -- warrant arrest pick up, Sherwood/Willow  
0806 -- runaway juvenile, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.  
1018 -- animal complaint, Oakville Waltz / Rawsonville

1232 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1649 -- 911 hang up, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.

### Thursday, Dec. 7:

0324 -- suspicious person, Judd/Elwell  
0332 -- fire dept. assist, Redwood  
0757 -- property damage accident, 50000 bl. Arkona Rd.

1218 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1337 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1459 -- animal complaint, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.  
1829 -- suspicious incident, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1917 -- citizen assist, Willow/Elwell  
1934 -- 911 hangup, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2208 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2209 -- family trouble, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.

### Friday, Dec. 8:

0910 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1033 -- alarm, 21000 bl. Carleton West Rd.  
1036 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1210 -- animal complaint, 43000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1239 -- fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1246 -- animal complaint, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1256 -- suspicious vehicle, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1450 -- found property, Redwood

1700 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1917 -- fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.  
1921 -- runaway juvenile, Mulberry  
2007 -- juvenile complaint, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.  
2030 -- 911 hang up, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.  
2046 -- loitering complaint, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2052 -- suspicious vehicle, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.  
2202 -- juvenile complaint, Mulberry  
2224 -- property damage accident, 23000 bl. Clark  
2305 -- assist other agency, 23000 bl. Clark Rd.

### Saturday, Dec. 9:

0755 -- suspicious incident, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.  
0945 -- fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1018 -- missing recovered, Mulberry  
1041 -- unauthorized driving away of an auto, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1200 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1250 -- suspicious incident, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1756 -- fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1853 -- warrant arrest pick up, out of township  
2034 -- property damage accident, Bemis/Haggerty  
Also on this week's log are 11 follow-up investigations, 40 miscellaneous details, 159 patrol checks, and 48 traffic stops.

## Belleville Police car damaged by sideswipe in Friday collision

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
*Independent* Editor

On Friday night, Belleville Police Officer Jim Trombley and Reserve Officer Jim Frazier clocked a speeding vehicle and pursued it to West Columbia Avenue.

Belleville Police Chief Hal Berriman said the driver of another vehicle said he thought the moving police car was parked and pulled out, sideswiping the police vehicle.

Chief Berriman said Michigan State Police completed the accident report and cited the driver who hit the police car.

Chief Berriman said he didn't know if police car 215 would be totalled, but he said it was badly damaged. The air bags deployed and no one was injured, he said.

## Deadline for BHS Distinguished Graduate nominations is Jan. 31

Nomination applications for the Belleville High School Distinguished Graduate program must be turned in to the BHS office at 501 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, by Jan. 31, 2018.

Acopy of the application can be downloaded from the Van Buren Public Schools official website at: [www.vanburenschools.net](http://www.vanburenschools.net) . To get to the application, click on "Menu," "Our District," and then "Distinguished Graduate Program."

The induction of Distinguished Graduates and BHS National Honor Society members will be held together on Friday, April 17.

The Distinguished Graduate award is an annual honor that recognizes BHS graduates who have distinguished themselves in business or profession, or have contributed to his/her community's welfare and progress. The graduation year of those recognized must be 10 or more years prior to the current year of graduation.



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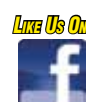
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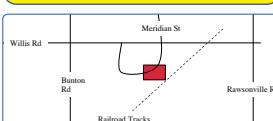
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[willisfeed@att.net](mailto:willisfeed@att.net)

First Grade teachers at Keystone Academy installed a Little Free Library in efforts to show gratitude to the community and share in their love of reading. The Little Free Library is registered online and available to all members of the community. If you are in the area, feel free to show your gratitude by adding a book or taking one to share at home. Keystone Academy is located at 47925 Bemis Road in Sumpter Township.

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



**AT THE BELLEVILLE INDEPENDENT,  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT NOON IS  
THE LAST DAY FOR DONATIONS!**

The Belleville Independent is a drop off location for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. Bring in your new, unwrapped toy to our office by **12 Noon on December 15 at: 152 Main St., Suite 9, Belleville, MI**

*We are located in the Professional Building (the old movie theater building) across from Mr. Goofy's Car Wash.*

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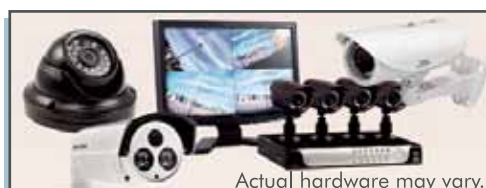
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**668 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI 48111**





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### TOYS FOR TOTS DROP OFF CENTER

## TOP 1% REAL ESTATE SALES

IN THE USA

REAL TRENDS 2015, 2016, 2017

COMMERCIAL SUBSCRIBER TO  
LOOPNET & COSTAR



**DO NOT BE OVERCHARGED - NO DOCUMENT STORAGE FEES - NO COMPLIANCE FEES - NO JUNK FEES**

### VICTORIAN HOME PLUS CARRIAGE HOUSE



41901 AND 41903 S I-94 SERVICE DR, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

**TIMELESS QUALITY** is Found when Craftsmanship was a Fine Art in this Inspiring 7 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom, 3 story Victorian Home with a Massive 720 ft of frontage on Belleville Lake. This home was constructed in 1902 and has 3,083 square feet with full basement, 2 fireplaces, Impressive Study, Hardwood Everywhere complete with Leaded Glass Windows and Enclosed Wrap Around Porch. This also includes an Impressive Carriage House that was also constructed in 1902 and has 1,960 square feet, TWO 2 Bedroom 1 Bathroom areas with Dock PLUS Vacant Lot. All 3 Parcels total 3.06 Acres on Belleville Lake. First Time Offered at \$799,500

### NO ASSOCIATION FEES



634 LIGHT TOWER, BELLEVILLE

**ABEYOND IMMACULATE HOME** Features 3 Bedrooms (First Floor Master Suite with Master Bath), Gas Fireplace, Full Finished Basement, Sprinkler System, 2 1/2 Car Attached Garage, Fenced Yard, Large Rear Deck, Newer Roof and More. Wonderful Neighborhood. NO ASSOCIATION FEES & A Must See. \$225,000

### 40X60 POLE BARN



47550 BEMIS, VAN BUREN

**WHAT EVERYONE WANTS** Extra Clean 3 Bedroom, 1 1/2 Bath Ranch. Extra Large Great Room leads to Doorwall, Rear Deck and One Acre Parcel with 40x60 POLE BARN and Whole House Generator. Paved Street and RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM KEYSTONE ACADEMY. \$249,500

### HURON TOWNSHIP



18277 MERRIMAN, HURON TWP

**Country Living at It's Best!** This Home has been Updated with New Kitchen and Granite Counter Tops, Hardwood Floors, Recessed Lighting, Cathedral Ceiling in Living Room and HUGH Family Room. Newer Windows, Central Air, Brick Paver Patio and Large Yard. In the Preferred Huron School District. \$165,000

### FOR SALE OR LEASE



573 E HURON RIVER DR, BELLEVILLE  
**FRESH, CLEAN AND UPDATED** Former Tanning Salon that would be Perfect for Beauty, Barber, Office Use, Medical or Other. Floor plan can be opened to accommodate larger areas. Huge Secure Parking Lot. This in a better area just a minute from downtown. Lease now at \$1,700 per month or Purchase at \$319,500

### NEW ROOF-FURNACE-CARPET



15178 HARRISON, ROMULUS

**LIKE NEW FOR YOU!** Lots to appreciate in this updated 3 Bedroom, 1 1/2 Bath home. New Roof, New Furnace, New Air Conditioning, New Carpet and Floors, New Bathrooms, Full Partially Finished Basement, Large Yard and 2 1/2 Car Attached Garage. Just Beautiful and Priced to Sell. Live the Good Life. \$140,000

### A FARMER CHARMER!



4401 PARK RD, ANN ARBOR

**RARELY OFFERED SCIO TOWNSHIP** Brick Farm House Featuring Four Bedrooms, Two Baths, Enclosed Front Porch, Living Room, Dining Room, Attached Garage, Huge Basement on Large 1.4 Acre Parcel Complete with Outbuildings and Large Barn. Just Minutes From Downtown Ann Arbor. \$350,000

### UPGRADES EVERYWHERE



13490 CHRISTINA, VAN BUREN

**THIS FORMER MODEL HOME** only gets More Beautiful! Award Winning 3 Bedroom 3 Bath End Unit Condo. Open Floor Concept has Vaulted Ceilings, Beautiful Wood Floors everywhere, High End Kitchen Cabinets, Granite Counters, Large Master Suite, Loft Space, Overlooking Green Space & Pond. \$230,000

### PRIVACY PLUS



5533 WILLIS, AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP

**YOUR BEST COUNTRY CHOICE!** Extra Clean Colonial Offering 5 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Open Kitchen and More. 2 1/2 Car Attached, 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage, Deck PLUS PROFESSIONALLY INSULATED 30X70 POLE BARN on 3 Acres. Paved Street and Immediate Occupancy. \$275,000

**AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP**  
RAWSONVILLE & JUDD 78 AC \$390,000  
TORREY 2.48 ACRES PERC & SURVEY \$48,000  
**SUMPTER TOWNSHIP**  
45885 BEMIS PAVED BUIDABLE LOT \$25,000  
VACANT KARR ROAD 5 ACRES \$35,000

46090 WEAR 1.09 AC BY PARK \$19,500  
42915 WILLIS 4 SPLITS \$30,000 & \$40,000  
26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES \$30,000  
24409 SHERWOOD 1.15 ACRES \$30,000  
VACANT WEAR RD 5.28 ACRES \$60,000  
25817 SUMPTER 80X529 .97 AC \$20,000

49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES \$180,000  
SHERWOOD 37.55 AC BY WEAR \$250,000  
WILLOW ROAD 1.8 ACRES \$25,000  
WILLOW **JUST SOLD** \$15,000  
26455 KARR 5 ACRES 162X1308 \$33,000  
**VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP**

45109 S SE **PENDING** RES \$274,900  
MORTON TAYLOR \$20,000 AND \$20,000  
VACANT LOUISA "DREAM LOT" \$70,000  
VACANT HANNAN 4.4 ACRES \$79,900  
MORTON **PENDING** RES \$40,000  
50435 BOG ROAD .55 ACRES \$50,000

VACANT BOG ROAD 1.36 ACRES \$30,000  
VACANT BOG RD 12.83 ACRES \$129,000  
47441 MARTZ ROAD 17+ ACRES \$176,000  
739 SAVAGE PAVED ST 1.02 ACRES \$30,000  
26129 LEONTINE HURON TWP \$22,000  
GRANT ROMULUS 1.8 ACRES LT IN \$72,000

# YEAR END SALES EVENT

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## Come On In And Check Out These Terrific Year End Deals!



**2017 TAURUS SEL**  
with Leather  
**24 month lease as low as \$147/mo.**  
REBATES UP TO \$6,750. BUY AS LOW AS \$23,626



**2018 ESCAPE SE**  
**24 month lease as low as \$116/mo.**  
REBATES UP TO \$5,000. BUY AS LOW AS \$19,672



**2017 FUSION SE**  
with Leather  
**24 month lease as low as \$139/mo.**  
REBATES UP TO \$5,150. BUY AS LOW AS \$20,769

**0% FINANCING ON MANY 2017 MODELS!**  
**DETAILING MAKES A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT!**  
**GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE!**

**CERTIFIED  
PRE-OWNED  
VEHICLES @ 1.9%  
FINANCING**

### USED CAR SPECIAL



**2018 F-150 SUPERCAB  
XLT 4x4**  
**24 month lease as low as \$196/mo.**  
REBATES UP TO \$4,750. BUY AS LOW AS \$34,860



**2017 EXPLORER  
XLT With Leather.**  
**24 month lease as low as \$222/mo.**  
REBATES UP TO \$5,750. BUY AS LOW AS \$31,315



**2015 EXPLORER  
XLT**  
32,000 Miles.  
**\$21,995**

\*A/Z Plan Pricing. 10,500 miles per year. Includes Factory and Renewal Rebate. Requires \$2000 due at signing plus taxes and plates. With Approved Credit. \*\*A/Z Plan Pricing. All rebates to Dealer. May require Ford Credit Financing. Plus taxes and fees. May require trade-in.



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