



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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VBT planners not enthused about plan for fuel station/restaurant

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Members of the Van Buren Township Planning Commission were not enthusiastic about a developer's plan to build a fuel station and restaurant at the northwest corner of Haggerty Road and the South I-94 Service Drive.

At its regular meeting on Dec. 8 via zoom, the commission was asked to make comments and suggestions on a plan to build a fuel station with "in and out" groceries along with a restaurant like Applebee's or Culver's on the 2.5-acre site that has four parcels.

Sam Beydoun said he has owned most of the property for 20 years and has paid taxes on it.

"I also have purchased the property next to it which has an abandoned motel that has been an eyesore and a center of controversy for the community," Beydoun wrote in a letter to the township. "I plan to demolish the motel and use the property for our development."

He said their plans not only include a service station, but also EV charging stations.

"I know our petition is requesting a change in zoning that changes the property from residential to commercial," Beydoun wrote. "I realize the proposed rezoning of the property is critical because it represents the gateway and image to Van Buren Township. To that end, I want to make sure that the proposed elevated signage and landscaping is of the quality that would make the gateway attractive for both residents and visitors."

"I know this proposed use may be difficult for some, but realistically the property abutting a major intersection such as I-94 and Haggerty would be unattractive to build housing because of the traffic, noise and close proximity to the intersection..."

The letter was signed by Beydoun and

Robert A. Ficano. It was on the letterhead for Ficano's and Bruce F. Rosenthal's law office in West Bloomfield. Ficano is the former Wayne County Executive.

In the first paragraph of the letter, Beydoun and Ficano thanked VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara for reviewing their plans. Supervisor McNamara was not at the meeting and had not sent any comments for the board to consider.

The applicant listed on the agenda was Abbas Hamid, who explained the project to the commissioners.

In introducing the subject, Dan Power, director of planning and economic development, said the applicant has not made a formal application and wanted to hear feedback from the commissioners first.

Director Power said the site has three parcels that are single family residential, R-1C, and one general business district, C-1. The 2020 Future Land Use map has the whole site zoned Low Density Single Family Residential B - 15,000 square foot lots.

A person in the zoom audience commented that the site would better serve the community as a commercial development, but not a gas station. He said the architecture presented was "quite tacky."

Commissioner Jahr asked if the neighbors had been alerted to this discussion and Power said they had not been alerted for this, but a public hearing would be part of a rezoning request.

Jahr said he is familiar with the property and it is due for redevelopment, but it's in a residential area. He said the township has been keeping the area south of I-94 more rural and, "Public comment would be interesting."

Jahr said there are two gas station on the corner of I-94 and Haggerty Road and

(continued on page 13)



Councilwoman Amy Henry, left, presented an award in the Holiday Light Contest to Beth and Bill Hutter of 391 Light Tower Ct. in Harbour Pointe subdivision.



Belleville Mayor Pro-Tem Ken Voigt, left, presented an award in the Holiday Light Contest to Ronald Adkins, center, of 461 Waterbury Ct. in Victoria Commons.



At the Dec. 20 council meeting, Belleville City Councilman Steve Jones, left, presented an award in the Holiday Light Contest to Brian Ashton of 75 Menlo Park. He said his wife Paula did all the decorating, but she was unable to attend the meeting.

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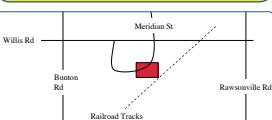
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT commits \$10M, if county gives it \$5M more for center

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At a 13-minute, zoom meeting on Dec. 22, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve a resolution designating more than \$10 million in funds for construction of the planned \$17,137,000 community center/senior center, if Wayne County gives it another \$5 million.

Trustee Sherry Frazier was absent and excused.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara said the county will make a move only if the township commits to \$10 million to build. He said the county needs a commitment and he wanted to get it as soon as possible.

Elizabeth Renaud, director of community services, said she and her team have been looking for funds to help with the project and the American Rescue Act funding is available.

Supervisor McNamara said the township is far ahead of everyone in the county in seeking the funds. He said since last August VBT knew the stimulus money was coming. He said VBT is one of the first to seek a grant through the Wayne County Commission.

He said once the resolution is approved,

it will be sent to the county commission the next day. He joked that it might even be in the process of being faxed to them that very minute.

He said he talked to the head of the county commission and he said the procedure for giving out the grants is still being worked out. Supervisor McNamara said since VBT is one of the first, they are basing their procedures on what VBT does.

Supervisor McNamara said they will find out in February or March if they get the grant.

In the resolution it passed, the township board said the total cost of the \$17,137,000 project will be paid with:

- \$10,000,000 from VBT;
- \$5,000,000 from the Wayne County Commission
- \$1,137,000 from the VBT Downtown Development Authority; and
- \$1,000,000 from the Van Buren Civic Fund.

The resolution also states that the community/senior center will serve not only the community's cultural and recreational needs, but also allow for multipurpose spaces that can be programmed for the benefit of public health such as an

emergency relief center (cooling/warming shelter, disaster relief, food distribution).

In other business at the Dec. 21 meeting, the board:

- Approved the attorney recommendation provided in an attorney / client communication, without any details announced. The board had just come out of a 51-minute closed-door session to consider that attorney / client communication and also to discuss the strategy and negotiations of the Michigan Association of Fire Fighters (MAFF) collective bargaining agreement;

• Was informed by Supervisor McNamara that the state has passed a law that governing bodies can no longer meet virtually after the first of the year, so, "We're back in January." The VBT board, committees, and commissions have been meeting via zoom since the state allowed it last April;

• Learned Judy Fields, the township's building/plumbing/mechanical inspector, was retiring from VBT and a going-away gathering was planned from noon to 3 p.m. on Dec. 22, with the township offices closed during that time so everyone could attend to say goodbye. Treasurer Sharry Budd said, "She's been here a long time and she will be sorely missed";

- Was reminded that the treasurer's office will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 30, so residents could pay their taxes;

• Heard Clerk Leon Wright announce that the township offices will be closed for the holidays on Dec. 24 and reopen on Jan. 4;

• Heard Supervisor McNamara say that before longtime Assessing Office Director Linda Stevenson retired, the Department of Treasury assessed the assessing office and announced the department got a 100% AMAR score and so won't have to be reviewed for another five years. He said that others were a big part of this, as well; and

• Heard McNamara announce that the VBT police department passed everything in its recent audit for Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation, with one or two details to attend to. He said they expect to get the state accreditation the second week of February. This is the highest police accreditation in the state, he said, and it was five years in the making. "It puts them right up there with a dozen other departments in the state...I'm very proud of them. We're not done yet, but I think we've got it," he said.

Belleville City Council approves refinancing of DDA Streetscape bonds

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Refinancing the Belleville Downtown Development Authority Streetscape bonds will save about \$200,000 in bond payments, so the Belleville City Council at its Dec. 6 in-person meeting unanimously approved the refinancing.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said since the \$4 million in bonds were issued with the full faith and credit of the city, the city council must handle the refinancing.

Tim McLean, deputy city manager and DDA director, said the DDA has been paying on the 2010 bonds since 2011 and currently 50% of the DDA expenses are for bond repayment.

The city's accountant, Kelly Howey of Plante Moran and Kari Blanchett of PFM Financial Advisors determined by refinancing the existing debt of \$363,960 at a lower interest rate it would save the DDA \$203,757.71. This would offer a savings each year from the original payment until paid off without having to extend the life of the debt.

The current rate is 4.34% and the estimated new rate would be 1.26%, with total estimated savings of over \$200,000 over the life of the bond. The last bond payment is May 1, 2029.

In other business at the Dec. 6 meeting,

the council:

- Held a moment of silence for the Oxford community in the wake of the school shooting on Nov. 30;

• Witnessed 34th District Court Chief Judge Brian A. Oakley swear in the newly elected council members, Steve Jones and Amy Henry. After they were seated at the council table, the council elected Councilman Ken Voigt as mayor pro tem;

• Heard Mayor Conley say a proclamation has been prepared for council members to sign honoring the Belleville High School football championship. It will be presented when the team can attend the meeting in person;

• Heard Police Chief/City Manager Dave Robinson announce that city hall will be closed between Christmas and New Year with employees taking paid time off or vacation days on the Tuesday and Wednesday. Tax payments can be dropped in the drop box in the lobby and will get a payment date of 2021 when they are processed in 2022 when offices reopen;

• Voted to move the public hearing on a stormwater management ordinance set for Dec. 20 to an unspecified date in the future. Chief Robinson said it is unwise to act on the ordinance since the state legislature had not completed details on the law;

• Approved \$212,597.74 and the following

departmental purchases in excess of \$500: to Abbey Door, \$1,600 for emergency repair to the fire department garage door opener and replacement of remotes; to B&R Janitorial, \$1,141.28 in cleaning supplies for the DPW; to Dawson Tire & Wheel, \$1,801 for tires for the backhoe for the DPW; to Election Source, \$933 for testing of tabulators/ICX and creation of test decks for the clerk's office; to Hennessey Engineers, \$660 for inspection and testing of the Early Childhood Center at Van Buren Public Schools for the DPW; to Miss Dig, \$2,026.73 for membership fees for the DPW; and to Wolverine, \$984.04 for repair of the dump truck for the DPW;

• Heard Chief Robinson report that two officers are being promoted to sergeants and they will be at the Dec. 20 meeting. The department has gone without sergeants since the late 1990s. He said the two passed their written and oral tests. He said he is working on a Wayne County grant for total refurbishing of Victory Station for use by senior citizens during the day and social services and other things in the evening. He is considering additions, like new bathrooms and a kitchen. He said the county had told him the green building next to the police department would be torn down by winter and he has been calling the

county every day. When snowflakes started falling he called the county and said, "It's winter." He was told the county is getting a special contractor to make sure they don't damage city hall when the former store is torn down;

• Heard Councilwoman Kelly Bates report that \$700 was raised out of the veterans' banners program and the holiday lights decorating contest will be judged from 6 to 7 p.m. on Dec. 13. She also announced the city has free gun locks to distribute;

• Heard 7th Day Adventist Pastor Nathaniel Oregon announced that his church is moving him to an Alma/Ithaca assignment and someone else will be assigned to the Belleville church. He said his father died of COVID and now his mother is diagnosed with stage four cancer. He said Belleville has a special place in his heart and it is sad to leave it behind. He brought two elders of the church with him to the meeting. He recalled that five years ago he came to Belleville and told them his goal was to work on the spiritual, mental, and physical health of the community. Mayor Conley said his leaving is a loss to the community. He was praised by council members for his activities, including serving on the parks commission, putting on the free dental clinics, and other events and services;

(continued on page 13)

OPINIONS

Editorial

New year's wishes include reading words on paper

We are at the edge of a new year full of hopes for happiness and prosperity and health for all. We send wishes for the best for all of our advertisers and readers in 2022 – and even to those who no longer read anything on paper. But we wish they would.

A report that was part of the last district library board meeting packet was from Pew Research Center which stated that federal data show for many U.S. children, reading for fun has become less common. The shares of American 9- and 13-year-olds who say they read for fun on an almost daily basis have dropped from nearly a decade ago and are at the lowest levels since at least the mid-1980s.

One grandfather we know told us he encouraged his grandchildren to jump out of the car each Thursday and get a new, free *Independent* from the box in front of our office. Then the grandchildren would read the paper to him. The study showed those students who read for fun also scored higher on the NWEA reading tests. Makes sense.

Our wishes for 2022 include hopes that those of all ages in the Belleville area will read their *Independents* – on line or on paper -- to become better-informed citizens and voters. The nice thing about a small, local paper is that you can always call up the editor or come into the office to discuss what was printed.

And, your thoughts are welcomed.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

Dan Power, director of planning and economic development for Van Buren Township, sent me a message last week concerning what he found out about the Lakewood Shopping Center.

"I have spoken with ownership from the Lakewood Shopping Center. They have explained that Dollar Tree's lease is ending soon and will not be renewed. However, there are several other tenants at the site who have leases that will be honored which will extend potentially as long as over the next few years. So, there is no imminent demolition or redevelopment at the site..."

When we were at Willis Feed Mill recently, we went inside to pay for the bird seed and heard a lot of tweeting going on in the far end of the room. There was a small chicken and a small rooster in a cage. They were for sale.

The information on the cage explained that the two represent the smallest breed of chicken there is, the Serama bantam. They are said to make great house pets because they love people and are friendly and confident. They also lay eggs year-round. The eggs are smaller and it takes five Serama eggs to equal one large, graded egg.

The rooster's crow is quieter than a larger breed's crow. We noticed that when the two were out on the porch at the mill during the summer when we delivered their *Independents*. They can't take the cold weather, so Willis Feed Mill brought them inside near a heater for the winter.

They were so cute I almost bought them for my son as a Christmas present.

I've been informed that there was an

...By Rosemary K. Oztman

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



announcement on Facebook that a new coffee shop is coming to Belleville's Main Street, across the street from the Crafted Beanery. There's no one to check with at City Hall since it is closed this week for the holidays. We'll check to see if any permits have been issued on this next week, when everything opens up again.

Belleville City Manager/Police Chief Dave Robinson has said, over and over again, that his goal is to have the City of Belleville as pristine as Disneyland. One of the ideas working its way to fruition is getting some city employees doing constant maintenance so things stay tidy and broken things get fixed immediately.

One of the ideas is to have the Belleville Downtown Development Authority pay for three part-time summer city employees from April through September, which is estimated to cost a total of \$43,200.

Because of COVID, the DDA hasn't been spending much money. Its revenue is \$835,445 and its fund balance is \$910,000, which Tim McLean, deputy city manager and DDA director, said is higher than it should be. He suggested 15-30% for a fund balance and so they have \$659,000 to use on projects. About 50% of their annual income is to pay off bonds.

In a discussion on Dec. 18, one DDA member suggested a full-time employee because work is needed in the winter as well as the summer. But McLean said that

would cost \$50,000 plus legacy costs. He said the legacy costs would make this idea too expensive, but he agreed to get a real figure on what that cost might be.

One DDA member said the Fourth Street Square looks disappointing because of the cigarette butts and other trash there. Jennifer Winter of Egan's Pub said the Square is a wind-tunnel.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ken Voigt said he'd like to see a permanent stage at the back of the Fourth Street Square, or at least have the stage stay up all summer and get packed up in the fall. He said the use of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts' stage there for music through the DDA's First Wednesday events last summer showed the stage was "a good proof of concept." He asked the DDA to put it on their list of things to consider.

One man said those new cameras along the roadsides in Van Buren really annoy him, so he pulled his vehicle to the side of the road and went up to one and put his face next to it, saying, "Go ahead. Take my picture."

We're told 30 of those license plate identification cameras have been put up at intersections in VBT to take still photos of license plates to help with identification of suspects in serious crimes. They are not used to send tickets to drivers.



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Letters

Winter Simply Give campaign starts Jan. 2

To the editor:

Meijer has selected our food closet to partner with during their Winter *Simply Give Campaign* at the Belleville Meijer store located at 9701 Belleville Rd. and runs from Jan. 2 through April 2, 2022. This is the Emergency Food Closet's biggest fundraiser and helps provide food for our shelves.

The campaign has two Double Match Days – Saturday, March 5, and Saturday, March 26. Circle these dates on your calendar! If you would like to purchase a Simply Give card, please purchase on Double Match Days. On these two days, Meijer will double what one donates on the card. If one buys a \$10 card, Meijer will donate \$20, for a total donation of \$30. If we can raise locally \$5,000 total on these two Double Match Days, Meijer will match up to \$10,000.

Thank you for helping the Emergency Food Closet feed the hungry in our community!

Marilyn Wood - coordinator
 Emergency Food Closet
 Belleville First United Methodist Church
 417 Charles St., Belleville

BHS Robotics' team organizes for kickoff

To the editor:

The 2022 BHS Robotics' team had a meet-and-greet session at Lodge Lanes on Dec. 15. New freshmen and members had the opportunity to discuss their role in building, programming, or marketing. The program kickoff is at 11 a.m. Jan. 8 at Belleville High School.

Aaron Lang
 Aaron Watkins
 Bill Wolters

Sumpter Township needs new leadership

To the editor:

The consciousness of good and honest people must come together in Sumpter Township and stop the alleged onslaught and misuse of our tax dollars because of greed and the arrogant behavior of the current elected board of trustees and others hired to do the township business.

We must get rid of this current board by recall, or at our next election. Out with the old and in with the new progressive citizens that want a better future for our children, elderly, and all taxpayers. If we don't, we will witness the same old nothing like increased poor leadership and higher taxes. We have thousands of wonderful people living in this township that not only want honesty and a voice but

just as important, for our elected officials to respect us. The current elected officials have failed miserably. No more zoom meetings or editing should be allowed. What do they have to hide from us? If you witness something you don't like, speak up and say something.

The board's salaries should not be based on the amount of tax dollars received. Just recently, all seven members received thousands more in compensation for part-time work that they voted on themselves without having many comments from the public. Why?

They only work four hours a month but receive \$30,000+ yearly for part-time work. Full-time, 40-hour-week workers don't even make that type of money. This township is in a free-fall. You can't put a cube in a round hole and expect it to fit.

We have no industry to help with our infrastructure. We live in a food desert. Prices in the few places that sell limited groceries are extremely high. The reason why companies don't want to relocate here is probably because of the negative environment, poor leadership, bad roads, trash, and blight on every road. The culverts in our ditches have not been cleaned out in years. There is overgrowth around our fire hydrants -- the list is endless. I love this community and as a community activist, all we want is respect. These elected officials and hired helpers work for us. We must hold them accountable.

The vast majority of us have just received our Winter Tax notices. I don't think anybody is satisfied with the amount they must pay this year. In my opinion, there may be thousands more in 2022.

Sumpter has no resources other than our tax dollars. How can we support all of these increases in wages that were passed by this unwanted board of trustees? This increase is equivalent to a 125% raise.

In fact, this is the worst board of trustees that Sumpter Township, Michigan has ever had, which is echoed by many people that I have had the pleasure of speaking with. We have wonderful employees that work for us in this township but work in a hostile environment with fear and retribution if they speak up or voice concerns.

In my opinion, this is just another reason that this board must be replaced by recall, or by the State of Michigan. I have stated in earlier articles that if you work in such an environment, make a complaint with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, or hire an attorney. Some will represent you *pro-bono*, which means you won't have to pay them.

Your elected Sumpter Township Precinct Delegate, Ronald Barrington Robinson

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

Obituaries



Diana (Roberts) Viers

DIANA (ROBERTS) VIERS

(October 31, 1926 - December 27, 2021)
Diana (Roberts) Viers, age 95, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away Monday, December 27, 2021, at Cedar Woods Assisted Living Care Center, Belleville, MI. She was born October 31, 1926, in Pike County, Kentucky. Mrs. Viers was a member of the Ypsilanti Old Regular Baptist Church. She enjoyed making quilts, crocheting, baking, and gardening. She played the guitar and loved to sing! She was in the American House Choir and loved visiting Cedar Woods in her younger years to sing to the residents. She was a true caregiver who gave to others through caring for the sick, helping the poor, baking and the gift of song, to name a few. Most of all, Diana loved to fish. She could out-fish just about anyone. If she could, she would have spent every day on a boat fishing.

Mrs. Viers is survived by daughter Alison Hughes of Sterling, Virginia; two sons: Jesse (Marie) Viers of Adrian, MI, and Tony (Lynnette) Viers of South Lyon, MI; four grandchildren: Chipp (Suzanne) Viers, Chad (Amy) Viers, Kelly (Tom) Faro, and Jennifer (Mark) Wasilewski; 7 great-grandchildren; three sisters: Leslie Faye of Pikeville, KY, Ginger Branham of Falls Church, VA, and Ann Trichilo of Fairfax, VA; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Diana was preceded in death by her husband, Pastor Noah Viers, in 1993.

Visitation will be 4-8 PM with a 7:30 PM Service Thursday, December 30, 2021, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Brother Danny Adams will officiate. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the family has requested everyone wear a mask while indoors. Funeral and burial services are being planned and will be through Haysi Funeral Home, Haysi, Virginia. Interment will be in the Viers Family Cemetery, Haysi, VA.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association and would be appreciated. Diana had lung cancer at 75 years old and recovered due to medical science. The family would appreciate donations to help save other lives.

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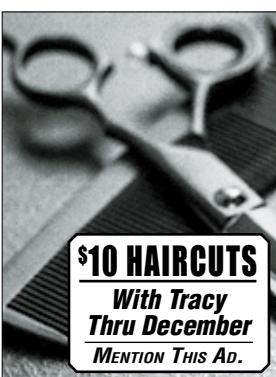
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Obituaries



Kenneth Dean Thornell



Romayne Frances Stoker

ROMAYNE FRANCES STOKER

(September 18, 1933 - December 21, 2021) Romayne Frances Stoker, age 88, of Belleville, MI, passed away Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at Beaumont Hospital, Taylor, MI. She was born September 18, 1933, in Decatur, Illinois, daughter of Hershel Albert & Dorothy Beatrice (Feamster) Younger. She was the Assistant Clerk for Huron Township for many years. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ Restoration Branch, Garden City, MI. She enjoyed reading, playing Bridge, traveling. She loved music, dancing, and time spent with her family.

Mrs. Stoker is survived by two sons: James W. Stoker II of Clio, MI, and Jeffrey (Susan) Stoker of Belleville, MI; four grandchildren: Stephanie (Shawn) Sloan, and Joshua (Heather) Stoker, both of Port St. Lucie, Florida, Stacey (Nick Thacker) Stoker of Wayne, MI, and Sarah Stoker of Detroit, MI; three great-grandchildren: Addison Sloan, Mason Sloan, and Helayna Thacker; a brother Jessie (Tonya) Kincaid of Ann Arbor, MI; a sister Janet (Leo) Robinson of South Lyon, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Romayne was preceded in death by her parents, also her husband of 64 years, James William Stoker on May 9, 2016.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements were by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Alzheimer's Association and would be appreciated.

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CONNIE LOUISE BUNCH

(February 7, 1968 - December 21, 2021)
Age 53, Belleville. Survived by daughter Khrysta Gomula of Riverside, Ohio; son Christopher Chamberlain of Belleville; two grandchildren; half-brother Terry; half-sister Elizabeth. Cremation rites have been accorded.

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DELORES FRANCES RATHWELL

(July 15, 1943 - December 24, 2021)
Age 78, of Romulus. Survived by niece Debbie Stewart, nephew Robert Vettes, numerous extended family members. Interment in South Lyon Cemetery. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

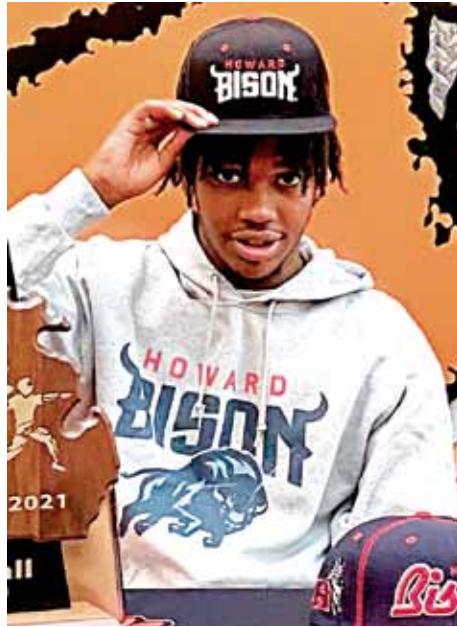
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Ja'Kobe Watkins, a senior at Belleville High School, has signed to play football at Southeast Missouri State University.



Cameron Dyson, a senior at Belleville High School, has signed to play football at Howard University.

Sumpter Twp. board gets DPW Internal Compliance Audit

Although a short discussion with questions on the Department of Public Works Internal Compliance Audit was scheduled to be presented by then-Township Administrator Michelle Cole and the new DPW Director John Danci during the Nov. 9 workshop before the regular meeting, there was no oral report.

A written report was included in the board packet, but not mentioned.

Cole wrote that during the new DPW director's first weeks in Sumpter, she requested he join her in an internal audit to ensure the water reporting and testing requirements were compliant. They found two concerns.

Romulus Councilwoman Williams gives away turkeys to residents

On Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 11 a.m. Councilwoman Virginia Williams started giving away Christmas turkeys to the City of Romulus residents at the Romulus High School parking lot.

Councilwoman Williams said when she heard the surrounding cities were giving Christmas turkeys to their residents, she thought to herself, "Our Romulus residents deserve to be blessed, too!"

So, Williams became motivated and decided to spearhead a turkey give-away for the residents of Romulus. Williams brought together local businesses to donate to help make this possible.

"The coronavirus brought hardship upon so many, showing our residents that they have not been forgotten is dear to my heart," she said.

Williams added, "I am so thankful and grateful" to Kroger, 411 Therapy, Infinity Homes, Wild Willy's, Super "Y" Market, The UpScale Warehouse Lounge, Wingate by Wyndham, Madco Truck Plaza and House of Graphics for their contribution and support.

She said the MS4 Desk Audit from May 25 required corrective actions for unsubmitted plans for the Public Education Program that requires the township to provide educational materials to residents related to storm water. She wrote that violation was quickly remedied and the documents sent to the state.

Also, there was an unfulfilled requirement for the Elicit Discharge Elimination Program, a risk assessment for pollutants that may enter the storm water system. This requirement was simply a question-and-answer form that needed to be completed. It was completed and provided to the state.

The second complication was related to regular required testing. A quarterly test was missed in July during the transition following former DPW Director Ken Kunka's retirement. They performed the next quarterly testing on Oct. 21. The tests were flawless and there are no concerns of contamination, she wrote.

"However, we will be required to notify residents of the missed test in the consumer water report of 2022," she wrote.

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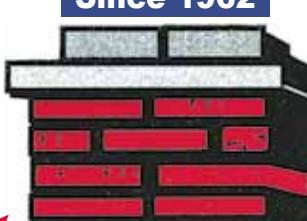
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I don't know for sure how I will act in a new home but I do know if you give me some time and after I start to feel safe, I will be the best friend you'll ever have. I'll probably do best in a calmer home either without kids or older, calmer kids. I'd love to become part of your family for the New Year so visit friendsofmichigan.org and fill out an application to meet me.

I'm spayed, vaccinated and micro-chipped.

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



The 2022 edition of Thunder Over Michigan Air Show at Willow Run Airport next summer will be here before you know it, featuring the same drive-up format as last

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year with two shows on both Saturday and Sunday with the Blue Angels and F-16 Demo as headliners. From now until midnight, Dec. 31, the Thunder Over Michigan website will be offering \$55 off any single, drive-up vehicle ticket. The show, slated for July 16-17, will include static display, a kids' zone, concessions, vendors, and more. Visit www.yankeeairmuseum.org.

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue of Sumpter is closing out another year with warm stories of pet adoption, donations, and a forecast of even better things to come into the new year. Our hometown Meijer store recently named FMAR as its Charity of the Year, and with it came a \$10,000 donation that was hand-delivered right before Christmas. Store representatives received a tour of the FMAR facilities and got to meet some of the cats and dogs currently housed at the no-kill shelter in Sumpter. During the month of December alone for example, FMAR adopted out 25 kittens. Last June, FMAR took in six female Chihuahuas from a hoarding situation in Monroe and the majority of the dogs had medical needs along with the usual spay and microchipping process. While one was pregnant and later had two healthy pups, there are still three looking for new homes.

You can read their stories and see other cat and dog profiles on the FMAR website. Next year, FMAR's annual Cinco de Mayo fundraiser is scheduled for May 7 at the Romulus Recreation Center. There will also be many dine-to-donate events scheduled. For now, FMAR remains open only by appointment. There are many ways to help FMAR, from volunteering and fundraising to simply dropping off your piggy bank of change, (Coins for a Cause) along with items used for everyday operations, such as cleaning products, dry cat food, and office supplies. The Winter newsletter is available online at www.friendsofmichigan.org and it lists these items. There are also ways to help through your Amazon account, Kroger Community Rewards program, and Charity Motors, to name a few. See their website for the details.

As we close out 2021, we say thank you to our readers and advertisers that help keep this newspaper publication free. We appreciate you. Since 1995, we've been at it as the mission remains the same of providing a source of local news and information for our community. Here's a toast to a breakthrough year in 2022 as we continue to navigate challenging times. I did hear that area greenhouses are about to get their seed on for another growing season. Can't wait to water the garden once again.

There's no better time to try our publication with your advertisement. We offer 25% discounts if any same-sized ads are run for four weeks, and greater discounts for longer terms. Business card display ads, for example, are very reasonable to start with and we never charge to design or assist in the design of your ad. To obtain our ad rate sheets, simply email me at sporzriter@aol.com or at mail@bellevilleareaindependent.com. Happy New Year!

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Van Buren Twp. hires two new communications specialists

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Charles (Christopher) Campbell and Michael Japowicz were hired as the township's new communications specialists at the regular meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees on Dec. 7 via zoom.

They replace Alysha Albrecht and Ryan Nichols who recently took jobs elsewhere.

Campbell holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Strategic Communications from Liberty University and has 23 years of experience. He started working at Bloomfield Township

and moved on to the City of Southfield. He continues to be the producer and host of WDET 101.9 FM and NPR as the media personality. He has received a number of awards and recognition for his work.

Japowicz is a videographer and photojournalist. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Media and Information from Michigan State University. He earned an Emmy Award in 2020 for WRTZ Weekend News at 11 in Indianapolis for his news coverage. He was present at the township meeting via zoom from his home in Indianapolis where he was packing up to move back to Michigan.

Human Resources Director Nicole Sumpter said they had 90 resumes submitted for the two jobs.

Clerk Leon Wright said he hoped the two would "give us at least 36 months" and Campbell replied, "Can do."

In other business at the 50-minute meeting the board:

- Approved the revised 2022 board of trustees meeting schedule for 2022, adding the workshop sessions scheduled for 5 p.m. before each 6 p.m. meeting. The workshops will be held "as needed" and may be canceled. The board also approved the 16-day holiday schedule for 2022 when township hall will be closed. This was revised due to union contracts;

- Approved two resolutions on the National Opioids Litigation that is wending its way through the courts. One authorizes entry of state local government intrastate agreement concerning allocation of settlement proceeds. The other authorizes entry of participation agreements in partial

settlement of the National Prescription Optiate Litigation;

- Approved the annual Opt Out exemption from the requirements of 2011 PA 152, the publicly funded health insurance contribution act;

- Approved Supervisor Kevin McNamara's appointment of Elaine Gutierrez to the Board of Review with a term to expire Dec. 21, 2022. She holds bachelor of science and master's degrees in education from Central Michigan University/Eastern Michigan University, and currently is an associate broker at Remerica Main Street Realty. Gutierrez is treasurer of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts, public relations chair and former president of the Friends of the Library, and was a trustee on the Belleville Area District Library Board, serving as treasurer, 2010-2015;

- Approved Supervisor McNamara's reappointments of Dolores Hogan, Mary Korgal, Patricia Sobecki, Patricia Tumas and Helen Wylie to the Endowment Committee with terms to expire Jan. 15, 2024;

- Approved the second reading of the rezoning of 42061 Ecorse Rd. from C-1 (General Business) to M-1 (Light Industrial) to make way for a new DTE Electric substation to improve electrical service in the area;

- Approved adoption of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy and approved adding it to the Employment section of the current Policies and Procedures manual. Human Resources Director Sumpter said Clerk Wright "told me we will have a diversity policy" and she got to work on it. She said employees had just completed their diversity training so this was a good time to get the policy. She said the employees are ready for change with a workplace that is inclusive of everyone. Clerk Wright said the "officials should look like the people we represent";

- Approved the personal services agreement with Kathy Adams for the Treasury Specialist position. Treasurer Sharry Budd said this employee can help out in busy times and do payroll transfers, but not sign checks. "She can run the office when Sean [Deputy Bellingham] and I aren't there and be in charge," Budd said;

- Approved the contract with Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority for another 15 years. Currently receiving wastewater conveyance and disposal under the

contract are: Sebring Car Wash at 7515 Rawsonville Rd., Victory Lane Quick Oil Change at 51300 Huron River Dr., and The Cape Condominiums at 13201 Lake Point Blvd. Receiving services under separate contracts with YCUA are American Waste Oil Corporation, 44141 Yost Rd. and Willow Run Airport. Budd said YCUA is used "when residents need lines and we don't have lines";

- Approved the Dispatch Upgrade Agreement with Motorola at a total cost of \$699,268 to be expensed from the 2022 Dispatch - Capital Outlay Budget. The project is expected to be completed by spring 2022, barring unforeseen delays in the supply chain for some parts. After Dec. 31 there will no longer be warranties on the outdated equipment and they may not be able to get parts. McNamara said the township is approving the contract now, but not paying until next year's budget. He said in one week the price goes up by \$75,000. "We got caught flat-footed," McNamara said, noting he has talked to the leaders of other municipalities and they are in the same situation. "Motorola is the only one that operates with CLEMIS. We're locked in";

- Was advised the treasurer's office will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 30, for tax payments only. All the offices will be closed from Dec. 23 to Jan. 4 for the holidays;

- Heard a legislative report from State Rep. Ranjeev Puri. He talked about keeping Oxford High School in mind and said he is working with colleagues to try to make the schools safer. He congratulated the Belleville High School football team on its state championship and said he is working on getting the team to Lansing for a tribute. He noted COVID cases continue to climb and people should get vaccinations. Rep. Puri said the public can offer comments on the redistricting under way for the state house, state senate, and congressional districts; and

- Held a moment of silence for the victims of the Oxford High School shooting. Later, held another moment of silence in memory of Gerry Cullin, a longtime member of the planning commission who was active in the museum.

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Keystone board seeks more information on spending ESSER funds

By Rosemary K. Oztman

Independent Editor

Jonathon Arneberg, who was representing National Heritage Academies at the Dec. 9 in-person meeting of the Keystone Academy board of directors, told the board that in January NHA will prepare a more detailed report on spending of federal ESSER funds to the vendor level.

Arneberg said NHA is striving for transparency. He was present virtually.

Board members pointed out changes from the last ESSER report and the current report which confused them. Board president Vesta Losen questioned the \$35,800 designated for curriculum in ESSER II has not been spent and she was told it was reassigned.

The latest report said ESSER I had a total allocation of \$99,389; ESSER II had \$221,202; and ESSER III had \$1,139,422. The three funds have different dates by which they must be used.

Arneberg promised them they would have more details next month. Arneberg was filling in for their regular NHA representative, Andrew Roth, who had to attend another meeting.

Board vice president Steven Harsant noted there was \$48,270 designated for COVID Facility Maintenance and he had been asking for upgraded air filtration for Keystone. He said he was told they had put filters at all the NHA schools earlier this year.

"Just to put a new filter on doesn't mean anything," Harsant said. "That needs to be changed regularly." He said he wasn't told where the filters were put and he needs detailed information on Keystone's particular building.

Arneberg said Roth told him NHA already has invested in filtration. He said he would check into it.

"The information we have doesn't meet my needs," Harsant said and board secretary Pat Kirkpatrick said she also would like more information on that.

Harsant also asked about the \$58,000 for COVID-19 stipends in ESSER I and Arneberg said the employees already received those

stipends in May and October. They were \$2,500 each for instructional staff and \$1,250 each for support staff. More stipends are in ESSER II funds.

In other business at the Dec. 9 meeting, the board:

- Voted to put another \$1,000 in the budget to pay for black, hooded rain jackets with the school's logo and the employees name embroidered as Christmas marketing. The total allocation for the coats for the 60 employees was not to exceed \$4,600. The charity Lasting

Impressions helped the board get special prices on the jackets. The employees will receive them as a welcome-back gift when they return to work Jan. 3. Winter break begins Dec. 20;

- Heard Principal Jorvonna Drain present the fall 2021 employee engagement survey and results were all above the Education Benchmark. Forty-three of 52 employees responded. Drain summarized that the numbers were up from where they were in the spring and the staff is still in good spirits, doing the best that they can, despite the COVID, shootings, and short staff.

"For the most part, our families feel very safe here," she said;

- Discussed the NWEA math and reading fall-to-fall test scores. Drain said they wanted to be at least 50% proficient and they are over that in all subjects. She said students are growing wherever they are and that's important. Drain said there was a decrease in the 2020-21 school year in proficiency at grade level and there were slight decreases this fall. Losen said there was more loss the first year and the second year didn't lose as much.

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— John Lennon

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— Will Rogers

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VBT Plan

(continued from page 1)

another one coming in the area. There are no EV charging facilities and that would be good and the property is two-tenths of a mile from French Landing Park and the Iron Belle Trail, which would work with a restaurant and EV charging.

Beydoun said EV stations will be big in the next couple of years because of all the EV vehicles and people might like it. Or, people might not like it, but hopefully it would work, he said. "I'm crossing my fingers," he added.

Treasurer Sharry Budd, who sits on the planning commission, said she would like to see a little more high-class building with brick, with it being near a residential neighborhood, not the metal and bright colors presented in a drawing. She also questioned the plans that show curb cuts on

Haggerty Road for the project, along with curb cuts on the Service Drive.

Chairman Kelley questioned the train tracks on Haggerty and the curb cuts off Haggerty near the freeway and pulling the semis in.

"We'll do a traffic study," said Hamid, to make sure the entryways are safe and far enough away from the train tracks. He said Power had suggested the study.

Commissioner Brian Cullin said he can't believe the township would ever build residences there. And, he agreed with Budd about not having metal and to make it look more appealing. He questioned whether another gas station was appropriate, but people could stop there before going fishing at the park.

Kelley asked if the three parcels would have to be merged into one when they applied for rezoning, and Power said they would have to be merged eventually and

there would have to be a future land use map amendment first to make it commercial rather than residential.

Another speaker identified himself as son of the owner of the property that has owned the property since 1995. He said whatever they do here is going to be a state-of-the-art facility and they would like it to be commercial. He said it would be top-notch and with three other stations nearby, "We would have to stand out."

Secretary Atchinson asked what other things they have considered for that property and the reply was they haven't thought of anything else but a gas station and restaurant, as they've done in other communities. He said when people are traveling and they get off the freeway that's what they need.

Power said the owner recently acquired the motel and Beydoun said he had been working to get the motel for some time and

he finally acquired it. "Now we're ready to finally develop."

Also, at its 90-minute meeting on Dec. 8, the commission:

- Elected new officers. Bryon Kelley is the chairperson, Jeff Jahr the vice-chair, Medina Atchinson the secretary. Jahr was elected liaison to the Board of Zoning Appeals and Atchinson was named alternate to the BZA; and

- Approved the final site plan, with conditions, for Burger King at 11550 Belleville Rd. to construct a second drive-through lane, along with landscaping and architectural improvements associated with the remodeling of the restaurant.

City Council

(continued from page 3)

- Heard Mayor Pro Tem Voigt speak about the need to do something about the deteriorating split rail fence that serves as an important barrier between the play equipment at Victory Park and the busy roadway beyond. DPW Director Rick Rutherford said they replaced eight or ten sections last spring and now the uprights are splitting. He said they should put up a sign "Do not sit on the fence." Voigt said although he likes the look of the split rail, maybe they should look at a more durable solution, which could be cheaper in the long run. Mayor Conley suggested there might not be enough seating around the play equipment so they sit on the fence. Voigt also asked about finding a way to test the compaction on road repairs so they don't sink down and cause problems; and

- Heard Mayor Conley say Winter Fest was a great end to a very difficult year. Councilman Jones said there were more people this year than it has had in the past and the pop-up shops were very popular. Councilwoman Henry said there were 25 vendors in the tent and six to seven in another building.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Board of Trustees Notice of Public Hearing

The Charter Township of Van Buren will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday January 18, 2022 during its regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be conducted in person at the Van Buren Township Hall Board Room, located at 46425 Tyler Road, unless a remote meeting format is enabled by State law in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. If the meeting is changed to a remote format, advance notice will be provided along with instructions regarding how to join the remote meeting. **The Public Hearing is to seek input on the Charter Township of Van Buren's Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update.**

Copies of the draft of the 2022-2026 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan may be found at the Community Services Office at Township Hall (46425 Tyler Road) during normal business hours. The draft Plan may also be accessed online at <https://www.vanburen-mi.org/>

Van Buren residents are asked to submit comments in writing via email to erenaud@vanburen-mi.org or via mail to Elizabeth Renaud, Director of Community Services, at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan, 48111. The required 30-day public review and comment period will end on January 11, 2022.

In Compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations will be made with advance notice to the Clerk's Office 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Twp., MI 48111 (734) 699-8909

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 217 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, Dec. 19:

0036 – assist other dept., Jackson St.
0041 – missing person, Outer Dr.
0140 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0555 – welfare check, Timberview Ct.
0641 – assist fire dept., W I-94/Haggerty Rd.
1021 – disorderly, Tyler Rd.
1159 – property damage accident, Walden Blvd. / Tyler Rd.

1214 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

1319 – malicious destruction of property, Haggerty

1439 – civil matter, Freedom Way

1534 – threat, Richard Run Dr.

1627 – property damage accident, Mott/Dellor

1628 – suspicious person/vehicle, Beckley Rd.

1832 – civil matter, Marlowe Ave.

1844 – breaking & entering, Parkwood Dr.

1900 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.

1918 – civil matter, Solitude Ln.

1945 – family trouble, Bayshore Dr.

2043 – civil matter, Savage Rd.

2132 – assist other dept., Park Estates Dr.

2204 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.

2231 – welfare check, Arborview Ln.

Monday, Dec. 20:

0233 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0824 – domestic, Meadows Ct.

1006 – found property/child, Tyler Rd.

1029 – welfare check, Basswood Cir.

1055 – larceny, Belleville Rd.

1227 – fraud, N. I-94 Service Dr.

1250 – private property impound, Peachtree Ln.

1305 – animal complaint, Belleville Police Station

1318 – welfare check, Florence Ln.

1319 – suspicious person/vehicle, Country Ln.

1322 – civil matter, S. Ponderosa Trl.

1402 – ordinance violation, Country Walk Ct.

1544 – suspicious person/vehicle, Morton Taylor Rd. / Van Born Rd.

1552 – animal complaint, EB I-94/Rawsonville

1556 – civil matter, Brookview Dr.

1840 – property check, Belleville Rd.

1844 – Meijer property check, Belleville Rd.

1925 – parking complaint, Westlake Cir.

2025 – fraud, Westlake Cir.

2331 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Tuesday, Dec. 21:

0008 – Menards property check, Belleville Rd.
0038 – motorist assist, Barnwell Dr./Country Walk
0235 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
0445 – malicious destruction of property, Liberty

Ln.
0850 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.

1004 – animal complaint, Birch Dr.

1133 – neighbor trouble, Alden Ave.

1233 – shooting, Elwell Rd./Martz Rd.

1341 – warrant arrest, Martz Rd.

1351 – mental subject, Barkley St.

1407 – fraud, Belleville Rd.

1409 – misc. complaint, Beckley Rd.

1409 – assist fire dept., Parkwood Dr.

1420 – trespassing, Springwood Blvd.

1711 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1816 – civil matter, Westlake Cir.

1828 – larceny from auto, Kirkridge Park Dr.

1908 – property check, Belleville Rd.

1934 – welfare check, Meadows Ln.

2114 – larceny, S. Ponderosa Trl.

2212 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.

2322 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.

Wednesday, Dec. 22:

0104 – welfare check, Jackson St./Tyler Rd.
0156 – domestic, Denton Rd.

0335 – assist motorist, Tyler Rd./Morton Taylor

0742 – traffic offense, Hannan Rd.

0854 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.

0932 – parking complaint, Haggerty Rd.

0953 – assist other dept., Borgman Ave.

1045 – larceny from auto, Belleville Rd.

1251 – private property impound, Denton Rd.

1320 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
1337 – misc. complaint, Denton Rd.
1412 – welfare check, Westlake Cir.
1616 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1632 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.

1636 – malicious destruction of property, Liberty Ln.

1648 – animal complaint, Endicott St.

1800 – private property impound, Edgedale Dr.

1835 – suicidal person, Westlake Cir.

1844 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Prairiegrass Ct.

1918 – assist citizen, Filmore St.

2008 – assault & battery, Bog Rd.

2055 – trespassing, Edwards Rd.

2254 – operating while intoxicated, Rawsonville

2333 – welfare check, Arborview Dr.

Thursday, Dec. 23:

0647 – domestic, Lighthouse Dr.

0707 – disorderly, Van Born Rd.

0844 – welfare check, N. Ponderosa Trl.

1155 – motorist assist, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.

1203 – traffic offense, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Haggerty

Rd.

1327 – property damage accident, Hannan/Tyler

1341 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Grove Rd.

1401 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.

1458 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.

1503 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.

1602 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.

1714 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.

1751 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.

1820 – welfare check, Wildrye Ct.

1905 – property check, Belleville Rd.

2004 – assault & battery, N. I-94 Service Dr.

2141 – traffic offense, Belleville Manor

2214 – juvenile complaint, N. Cumberland Dr.

2223 – suspicious person/vehicle, Country Walk

Blvd./Freeport Ct.

2301 – suspicious person/vehicle, Lake Pointe Blvd.

2302 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.

Friday, Dec. 24:

0329 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.

0406 – animal complaint, Tyler Rd.

0944 – misc. complaint, Filmore St.

1159 – property damage accident, E. Huron River

Dr./Edison Lake Rd.

1247 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Ponderosa Trl.

1338 – assist other dept., Westlake Cir.

1342 – civil matter, Westlake

1355 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler

1357 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.

1424 – civil matter, Cherry Lane

1646 – weapons violation, Parkwood Dr.

1728 – fight, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1835 – property check, Belleville Rd.

1837 – property check, Belleville Rd.

1850 – property check, Belleville Rd.

1911 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.

1949 – animal complaint, Sonrisa St.

2011 – assist other dept., Tyler extension / Denton

2028 – property check, Belleville Rd.

2108 – unauthorized driving away of auto,

Lighthouse Dr.

2118 – welfare check, Briarcliff Dr.

2229 – domestic, N. I-94 Service Dr.

2354 – 911 welfare check, Nautica Dr.

Saturday, Dec. 25:

0002 – noise complaint, Lighthouse Dr.

0125 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Ponderosa Trl.

0208 – suspicious person/vehicle, Westlake Cir.

1049 – assist other dept., Estrada

1456 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd.

1606 – larceny from auto, Lohr

1655 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd.

1725 – 911 welfare check, Kirkridge Park Dr.

1958 – Meijer property check, Belleville Rd.

2011 – welfare check, S. Bellridge Dr.

2019 – 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.

2040 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Walden Dr.

2130 – welfare check, Maple Dr.

2257 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.

2330 – road hazard, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.

2334 – family trouble, Van Buren St.

Also on this week's log are 32 traffic stops, six of

which were on the I-94 freeway.

"I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize."

– Steven Wright

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 19:

0129 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Biggs

0407 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Thornhill Ct.

1232 – traffic stop, Main St.

1307 – traffic offense, Main St.

1317 – traffic stop, High St./Edison Ave.

1542 – disorderly, N. Liberty St./Fifth St.

1622 – vehicle impound, N. Liberty St.

1808 – civil matter, Church St.

2006 – suspicious person/vehicle, Henry St.

Monday, Dec. 20:

0044 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.

1845 – property damage accident, Sumpter Rd. / Belle Villa Blvd.

1851 – juvenile complaint, Loza Ln.

Tuesday, Dec. 21:

0008 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave.

0257 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./E. Huron River

0411 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Clarence

0710 – intrusion alarm, Breakwater Dr.

0848 – property damage accident, Main St.

1636 – property damage accident, Main St./First

2118 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Liberty

2148 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.

Wednesday, Dec. 22:

0322 – intrusion alarm, E. Columbia Ave.

0539 – road hazard, Main St./Fourth St.

1515 – traffic stop, Main St.

1534 – traffic stop, High St./Church St.

1557 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.

1719 – traffic stop, South St.

1812 – traffic stop, Clarence St./E. Huron River Dr.

1944 – private property/property damage accident, Main St.

Thursday, Dec. 23:

0802 – property check, Denton Rd.

0904 – traffic stop, Angola St./E. Huron River Dr.

1057 – intrusion alarm, Carmell St.

1502 – assist other dept., Estrada

1606 – property damage accident, South St.

1646 – traffic stop, Main St./Second St.

Friday, Dec. 24:

0456 – overdose, E. Huron River Dr.

1209 – civil matter, Carmell St.

1319 – welfare check, N. Liberty St.

1330 – civil matter, Carmell St.

1616 – civil matter, Carmell St.

2144 – domestic, N. Aberdeen Ct.

2243 – domestic, Carmell St.

Saturday, Dec. 25:

0033 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia

0247 – intrusion alarm, Main St.

0510 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

1044 – suicidal person, Estrada

1152 – welfare check, Menlo Park Dr.

2312 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belle Villa Blvd.

There were 16 traffic stops on this week's log.

VBT Clerk Leon Wright connects children with needed school supplies

Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright's office recently conducted its ninth-annual community outreach program, which seeks to link children with needed school supplies.

He visited Tyler, Rawsonville, Savage, and Edgemont elementary schools, Haggerty Early Childhood Development Center, Owen Intermediate School and McBride Middle School.

Established by Clerk Wright, the program started as a coat donation drive and fundraiser that impacted a small, limited number of children and has grown into a yearly initiative that impacts families and their children throughout the township.

"Over the years, this program has raised money for a wide array of items for Van Buren Township-based families and children," said Clerk Leon Wright. "This year, we considered the fact that schoolteachers often buy supplies out of their own pockets for their students and decided we would focus on making sure

we would use donated funds to purchase markers, pens, pencils and various other classroom items. It really felt good to get these school supplies into the hands of these kids."

A main catalyst for program growth has been the support of an ever-broadening list of community, business, and individual sponsors, he said. This year's sponsors included US Ecology, Waste Management, McKenna & Associates, Belleville Square Holdings/Mark Canvasser, Atchinson Ford, Fischbeck Engineering, CMDA, Wade Trim Engineering, Michael Brown and Mary J. Lore, IBEX Insurance, Carlito Young, Trustee Kevin Martin, and Trustee Reggie Miller.

Clerk office staffers Brittany Beaudry and Donae Hubbard accompanied Wright as they made strategic visits to schools to drop off the supplies to happy students and faculty.

"So many amazing people are involved with this initiative," said Wright. "Without



Photo by Michael Japowicz, Van Buren Township

the sponsors, the program would not be possible, and without my staff nothing would get done. We were able to raise \$6,000 dollars through the sponsors this year, an all-time high. And my staff coordinated calling the schools, scheduling the orders and visits. I am so appreciative of everyone's dedication and commitment to positively impacting the lives of these students."

Clerk Wright said he sees more growth, expansion and even greater community engagement opportunities for the program moving forward.

"I would love to see this program grow into a mechanism that enables us to give back all year round," said Wright. "It's a wonderful venture that makes me feel good. We are well into the holiday season, and what better way to capture the spirit of the holidays than by giving back and making a difference. It feels great to be part of a solution and this program is one of the best things I'm blessed to be a part of because it solves problems and gets things done."

To learn more about the clerk's community outreach initiative, visit www.vanburen-mi.org.

Press release by Christopher Campbell
Van Buren Township
Communications Specialist

Josh Bryan Rigor to represent U.S. in World Games in Austria

Josh Bryan Rigor, a basketball student-athlete from Belleville High School, has been selected by Student Athletic World to represent the United States in the United World Games, an international sporting competition to be held in Klagenfurt, Austria, June 13-22, 2022.

The event is an Olympic-style youth sports event with teams in many sports from all over the world. Previous events hosted over 12,000 athletes in 15 sports from more than 50 countries and five continents.

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 21, 2021 ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom meeting ID: 880 599 311 54 at 4:00 p.m. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Martin and Trustee Miller. Absent/Excused: Trustee Frazier. Late arrival: Trustee Boynton (4:15 p.m.). Others participating, facilitating and monitoring the meeting: Secretary Beaudry, Deputy Supervisor Selman, Director of Community Services Renaud and a maximum audience of eleven (11).

CLOSED SESSION: Budd moved; Miller seconded to go into closed session at 4:03 p.m. pursuant to MCL 15.268 (h) To consider the contents of an attorney-client communication and pursuant to MCL 15.268 (c) To discuss the strategy and negotiations of the MAFF collective bargaining agreement. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Martin and Miller. Absent/Excused: Frazier and Boynton. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Martin seconded to reconvene the meeting at 4:54 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Martin and Miller. Absent/Excused: Frazier. Motion Carried.

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Wright moved; Miller seconded to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Martin and Miller. Absent/Excused: Frazier. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA: Miller moved, Boynton seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2021, Prepaid List of December 9, 2021, Prepaid List of December 16, 2021, Voucher List of December 21, 2021 and

Approval of the attorney recommendation provided in the attorney-client communication. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Martin and Miller. Absent/Excused: Frazier. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS: The Treasurer's office will be open on December 30, 2021 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. to receive tax payments, the Township Administrative offices will be closed December 24, 2021 until January 4, 2022 per AFSCME negotiations, the assessing department passed their AMAR certification 5 year review and the Van Buren Township Police Department completed an audit to receive their Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation which is the highest accreditation a Michigan police department can be awarded.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The Board discussed the return of in-person meetings starting in 2022.

NEW BUSINESS: Miller moved; Wright seconded to approve Resolution 2021-33: To Designate Funds for the Van Buren Township Community Center. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Martin and Miller. Absent/Excused: Frazier. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

BOARD COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: The Board wished residents a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year and longtime building inspector Judy Fields is retiring and will be honored with a staff luncheon.

ADJOURNMENT: Boynton moved; Martin seconded to adjourn at 5:07 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Published: December 30, 2021



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BELLEVILLE LAKE	ENJOY BELLEVILLE LAKE	NEW LISTING	NEW LISTING	4 BEDROOMS 4 1/2 BATHS
47677 N SHORE , VAN BUREN 5,920 SQUARE FOOT Belleville Lake Estate. 3 Br, 3 1/2 Ba, 1st Fl Master, Library, Fireplace, Sunroom, Basement. 200 Ft Lakefront, 1 Acre. One of the Finest Parcels Available \$1,050,000.	545 HIGH STREET, BELLEVILLE EXPERIENCE UNDISTURBED LAKESIDE MORNINGS. Updated 3 Bedroom 2 1/2 Bath Home. Living Room w/Fireplace, Hardwood Floors, Full Basement 2 1/2 Car Garage \$349,900	254 E HURON RIVER DR, BELLEVILLE CITY OF BELLEVILLE 3 Bedrooms 1 Bath home with Living Room, Family Room, Dining Room and Basement. Large Yard with 2 Car Garage. Great Huron River Dr Location \$165,000	9000 OAKVILLE WALTZ, AUGUSTA TWP LOTS TO SEE! Large 1,854 SqFt Ranch with New Carpet & Floor Coverings, Open Kitchen, Fireplace, Sun Room, 2 1/2 Car Attached Garage, Pole Barn, Paved Street & More. \$269,900	12753 MYSTIC FOREST, PLYMOUTH TWP THE VERY BEST OF EVERYTHING! 4 Bedrooms, 4 1/2 Baths, 5 Fireplaces, Inground Pool, 4 Car Garage with Privacy and Gated Access on 2.2 Acres. Sold in December 2021 at \$1,850,000
6 ACRES & 5 BEDROOMS	1,527 SQ FT FENCED YARD	NEW LISTING	MOST AFFORDABLE	COUNTRY LIVING 1.78 ACRES
10479 BEMIS, YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP LARGE HOME with Premium Lafada Kitchen, Hardwood Floors, Granite, Ceramic and Quarry Tile Baths. 5 Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Baths, New Roof-2020 and 90+ Furnace. 2 1/2 car Garage. \$450,000	10955 BUCHANAN, VAN BUREN LARGE 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Ranch in Van Buren Estates. 1,527 Square Feet, Newer Central Air. Huge 2 1/2 Car + Garage. Big Fenced Yard, Great Neighborhood and Priced to Sell at \$210,000	14081 LENMOORE, VAN BUREN TWP COUNTRY LIVING ON ALMOST TWO ACRES. 3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Baths, Fireplace, New Roof 2018, 1,844 SF, Entertainment Room 18x36 Covered Patio City Water and Sewer \$300,000	1705 LONDON, LINCOLN PARK A Most Affordable Lincoln Park Home.. 3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Baths and Partially Finished Basement. 12x18 Three Seasons Room, Large 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage Double Lot \$119,500	43004 JUDD SUMPTER TOWNSHIP IT'S COUNTRY LIVING at an Affordable Price. 2 Bedroom (possible 3) and 1 Bath, Updated Kitchen, Updated Bath and New Metal Roof. 1.78 Acres on Paved Street, 2 1/2 Car Garage \$179,900
BELLEVILLE RESIDENTIAL LOTS 3 LOTS ONE PRICE. TOTALING .41 ACRES WITH CITY WATER AND SEWER AT STREET. SIDE-WALKS IN AND SOME VIEWS OF BELLEVILLE LAKE \$60,000 00000 SUMPTER 243X687 3.63 AC \$40,000	COMMERCIAL CORNER OF ECORSE & WAYNE ROMULUS 4.27ACRES \$650,000 VACANT RAWSONVILLE 2.6 AC \$95,000 WAYNE RD COM ZONE 1.48 AC \$149,000 TORREY 2.48 AC PERC +SURVEY \$39,000 WILLIS SUMPTER 1.14 ACRES \$45,000	ONE 12+ ACRE PARCEL AT \$120,000 NEAR CORNER WEAR AND HAGGERTY VACANT LOUISA "DREAM LOT" \$70,000 VACANT VENETIAN 1/2 ACRE LOT \$60,000 41530 SAVAGE 30AC VAN BUREN \$349,999 10 AC BUNTON YPSILANTI TWP \$155,000	7 PARCELS ON THE CORNER OF BEMIS AND MARTINSVILLE, PRICED \$50,000 TO \$60,000 EACH. BUILD YOUR DREAM KARR RD 10 ACRES 663 FRONT \$100,000 KARR RD 20 ACRES ZONED AG \$200,000 HAGGERTY 1.5 AC VAN BUREN \$70,000	44194 ROBSON,VAN BUREN .81 AC \$44,000 HURON TWP VAC CLARK 1.14 AC \$50,000 HURON TWP VAC CLARK .74 AC \$40,000 HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$55,000 21464 CLARK CORNER OF JUDD \$180,000 OR FOUR 2.2 ACRE SITES AT \$45,000 EACH

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