



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 23.6 Thursday, February 9, 2017

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

## Court Watching:

### Judge Green is asked to decide if defendant is faking being mute

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

34<sup>th</sup> District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green heard more than an hour and a half of testimony from medical professionals in her courtroom on Feb. 1 about a defendant who may or may not be pretending to be mute to avoid facing a felony charge.

She is being asked to determine if Joshua Lee Morris, 24, of Van Buren Township is competent to stand trial on the charge of reckless driving causing death on July 6, 2014.

Morris was driving a Chevrolet Malibu northbound on Morton Taylor Road, just north of Van Born, in VBT at about 2:10 a.m. when he lost control of the car and hit a tree. Dead at the scene was his passenger and lifelong friend Marcus McIntosh, 21.

Morris was taken from the scene by Survival Flight to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital where he reportedly was in a coma for three days.

When he was charged with the felony last June, his defense attorney Murray Duncan asked for a competency hearing.

At the Feb. 1 court session before Judge Green, Duncan said his client can't communicate about the case, has a closed-head injury and has been in the Walter Reuther Psychiatric Hospital in Westland for 14 months. He said Morris can communicate in writing, but it is just gibberish.

"I have a client I can't talk to" to help with the case, Duncan said.

Judge Green said there was an order for a competency hearing in August 2015. She said she didn't think it was necessary to have the defendant in court for that hearing and her Feb. 1 hearing because she thought it was a simple decision. So, she said it was unnecessary for Morris to be present.

But it turns out she got conflicting reports  
(continued on page 15)



Photo courtesy of Peter Dodge

Belleville Day in Florida was held Feb. 1 at Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club in Hernando. Everyone gathered for a group picture. Lynn (Akans) Gorman organized the event.

## Library goes out for bids for construction manager

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

The Belleville Area District Library Board voted unanimously to immediately go out for bids for a construction manager so the architect can work with the firm as details are made to construction drawings.

At the Jan. 10 meeting of the board, a detailed Request for Proposals for Construction Management Services for the New Downtown Library was presented by architect Dan Whisler.

Building committee chairwoman Joy Cichewicz said the committee decided to reach out for RFPs by invitation and local subcontractors will be included.

Whisler said the board's building committee met three times since the last board meeting and he made a list based on his past experience with the companies.

"I have not reached out to see if they are interested, but a \$10.5 million project is appealing," Whisler said.

"We've included those who have been involved in building libraries," Cichewicz

said. "We're including Davenport because they're a local firm and done a lot of local work."

Harlan and Steve Davenport were in the audience for the entire meeting, but did not offer any comments. Building committee member John Juriga has been a vocal supporter of having Davenport build the library.

Whisler said there will be a two-step selection process. He said they should ask for qualifications and make a list of who they want based on qualifications. Then, turn to separate sealed fee proposals and look at the proposed fees.

Whisler said he expects completion of the library in late 2019.

He said they don't have the site survey complete yet, but in a week or so it will be ready. He said if it is ready it will be included with the call for RFPs.

Whisler said construction management service firms they plan to contact are: Frank Rewold & Sons of Rochester, The Christman Company of Lansing, McCarthy & Smith of Farmington Hills, Phoenix Contractors of Ypsilanti, O'Neal Construction, Inc. of Ann Arbor, Granger Construction of Lansing, The Dailey Company of Lake Orion, J.S. Vig Construction Company of Taylor,

and Davenport Brothers Construction of Belleville.

He said from the nine firms, they should pick three to five to interview and give them two weeks to respond. He recommended strongly that the members of the selection committee sit in on all interviews together.

"This is a big deal ... a big decision," said Board President Sharon Peters. "It's very important we do this and do it right."

After discussion, the board decided to have the building committee do the selection. Currently on the committee were Cichewicz and Juriga. She appointed Mary Jane Dawson to make it a committee of three.

The committee was directed to review the nine RFPs, make a short list of three to five, interview them, and make a recommendation to the board at its Feb. 14 meeting.

"This is intensive," Whisler said, adding he doesn't want them to kick the decision to March. "The earlier we have a construction manager working at our elbow, the better."

Peters told the board members to take home the RFP written by Whisler and if they have any questions on it within 24 hours to let the committee know, otherwise Whisler will send out the RFPs.

(continued on page 3)

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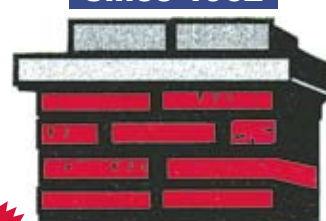
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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## Library Board

(continued from page 1)

[On Feb. 8, the committee interviewed O’Neal, The Dailey, Phoenix, McCarthy, and Rewold. On Feb. 9, it was scheduled to meet at 1 p.m. to make a decision on who to recommend to the board for a decision at the board’s Feb. 14 meeting.]

In other business at the Jan. 10 two-hour meeting, the board:

- Elected Sharon Peters chairperson for 2017, Mary Jane Dawson as vice-chairperson, LaChelle Caver as secretary, and Tanya Stoudemire as treasurer;
- Approved the financial advisory services contract with PFM Group, Paul Stauder, managing director, for the 2017 Library Facility Bonds;
- Approved the investment advisory agreement with PFM Asset Management LLC, Michael Barry, Sr., managing consultant, so when they get \$14 million they will know what to do with it;
- Approved a resolution to join the Michigan Liquid Asset Fund Plus to assist them in investing surplus funds in certain investment pools;
- Received legal information on former board member Mike Boelter’s proposal to offer stipends to board members and tabled the item until the next meeting when it will be discussed. Boelter had proposed \$40 a meeting for board members and \$60 a meeting for the chairperson. Michigan Compiled Laws allows for payment of no more than \$30 per board member per meeting, and they shall not be compensated for more than 52 meetings a year. Peters told board members to think about it and talk with members of the bylaws committee. “It has financial implications,” Peters said; and
- Received a budget report for July-September from Treasurer Stoudemire, who reported a \$350,000 fund balance. She also recommended a budget amendment of \$14,000 for the 2016-17 fiscal year for additional staffing, as requested by Director Mary Jo Suchy, which was passed unanimously. The total is for addition of one 20-hour per week librarian at \$9,000 and a promotion from part-time to full-time library assistant at \$5,000.

### Belleville Area District Library Board Building Committee Meeting Thursday, Feb. 9, 1 p.m.

The Building Committee of the Belleville Area District Library will meet in the program room at the library (167 Fourth St., Belleville, MI 48111) to make its recommendation of a construction management services firm for the new downtown library. The full library board will vote on the Building Committee’s recommendation at its next scheduled regular meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

On Jan. 10, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Mark Slavens, right, swore in the Belleville Area District Library board members who ran unopposed in the November election. From left are Joy Cichewicz, John Juriga, and Alma Hughes-Grubbs. Judge Slavens said both of his parents were librarians and this is the first time he has sworn in library board members. His father also was a professor at the University of Michigan.

Belleville Area District Library 2016 Wages and Benefits			
	Wages	Benefits	Total
<b>Librarians and Administration:</b>			
Suchy, Mary Jo	75,004.80	21,710.52	96,715.32
Savage, Hilary	57,169.61	18,446.41	75,616.02
McCann, Tara	50,546.13	24,867.44	75,413.57
Greschaw, Amy	40,958.40	15,472.69	56,431.09
Wloch, Michelle	37,884.01	24,015.24	61,899.25
Frazier, Sherry	13,000.00	994.50	13,994.50
Green, Debra	855.00	65.41	920.41
Richards, Jonathan	8,172.38	625.19	8,797.57
Skinner, Kelly	19,625.65	1,501.36	21,127.01
Johnson, Carol	27,700.04	5,169.85	32,869.89
Lewis-Yarbrough	1,044.75	79.92	1,124.67
<b>Library Clerks</b>			
Booher, Beth	10,482.75	801.93	11,284.68
Carr, Mary	7,847.28	600.32	8,447.60
Douglas, Jackie	10,810.65	827.01	11,637.66
Garascia, Judy	9,885.26	756.22	10,641.48
Green-Husted, Jessamy	8,483.00	648.95	9,131.95
Lebron, Joe	18,777.60	1,436.49	20,214.09
Reed, Ronda	14,352.00	1,097.93	15,449.93
Willson, Lori	11,806.00	903.16	12,709.16
<b>Library Student Assistants:</b>			
Demery, Mikail	3,981.35	304.57	4,285.92
Douglas, Noelle	4,977.80	380.80	5,358.60
Lore, Lindsay	2,738.25	209.48	2,947.73
Mayo, Diana	3,932.54	300.84	4,233.38
Oudsema, Olivia	4,433.90	339.19	4,773.09
<b>Library Computer Techs:</b>			
Marshall, Bradly	2,241.40	171.47	2,412.87
Meder, Todd	3,144.75	240.57	3,385.32
Clement, Taylor	569.53	43.57	613.10
<b>Custodian:</b>			
Curry, Sintra	4,651.00	355.80	5,006.80
<b>Total Wages</b>			<b>577,442.66</b>

City of Belleville 2016 Employee Wages & Cost to City		
Employee	Wages	Compensation Total
<b>City Council</b>		
Fielder, T	1,000.00	1,076.50
Conley, K	1,500.00	1,614.75
Loria, J	1,000.00	1,076.50
Smith, T	1,000.00	1,076.50
<b>City Manager</b>		
Kollmeyer, D	67,995.20	102,200.82
<b>Clerk/Treasurer</b>		
Long, L	33,992.59	68,723.55
Scharf, S	25,305.28	72,631.24
<b>Account Clerks</b>		
Bellingham, M	33,645.48	48,918.38
Tindall, K	6,768.43	7,286.21
McGlynn, T	40,655.52	59,646.99
Moore, S	38,689.20	59,592.90
Tinsley, M	36,760.92	63,980.35
Smith, C	12,208.29	13,142.22
<b>Public Service Dept.</b>		
Rutherford, R	56,235.00	60,536.98
Adams, S	61,454.48	86,626.92
Demon, S	57,024.42	92,371.89
Prybyla, L	9,005.47	16,277.46
Demon, N	8,396.00	9,038.29
Jenkins, R	2,857.50	3,076.10
Akans, R	14,980.00	16,125.97
Tackett, K	11,250.00	12,110.63
Koepp, G	2,985.00	3,213.35
<b>Police Officers</b>		
Berriman, H	38,937.50	41,916.22
Faull-Schlund, K	70,419.26	113,551.40
Lewis, C	27,434.16	29,532.87
Aldrich, M	3,704.00	3,987.36
Schrencengost, T	68,882.17	102,719.59
VanDeweghe, M	61,120.36	89,790.47
Wickham, J	71,522.84	115,558.37
Trombly, T	36,856.09	39,675.58
Rose, K	60,035.94	87,968.40
Beach, G	32,573.76	49,766.60
Templeton, S	11,984.00	12,900.78
<b>Crossing Guards</b>		
Talaga, M	4,109.70	4,424.09
<b>Fire Department</b>		
Blackburn, B	7,364.43	7,927.81
Reed, J	4,244.25	4,568.94
Marginean, C	1,634.55	1,759.59
Mosholder, D	5,028.14	5,412.79
Loranger, B	10,851.62	11,681.77
Loveland, M	8,436.41	9,081.80
Martin, J	1,755.98	1,890.31
Kelly, J	2,599.76	2,798.64
McClinton, C	2,238.56	2,409.81
Rix, K	2,248.20	2,435.49
Widener, K	1,684.95	1,813.85
Smith, E	5,162.83	5,557.79
Smith, D	5,858.61	6,306.79
Spoonamore, S	293.50	315.95
Zehel, A	2,839.83	3,057.08
Griffin, L	918.90	989.20
Zweng, C	8,880.31	9,559.65
McInally, D	2,144.60	2,308.66
Skender, M	2,334.38	2,512.96
<b>Senior Trans. Drivers</b>		
Akana, J	6,602.75	7,107.86
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,581,632.97</b>

# OPINIONS

## Editorial

### VBT OKs fire cadet dual enrollment at Schoolcraft College

If all goes as planned, students at Van Buren Public Schools, ages 16 and 17, will be able to enroll in Schoolcraft College's new Dual Enrollment Fire Project this fall. And, after two semesters, they would have 20 college credit hours from their classes in fire fighting.

At Monday's work/study meeting of the VBT board, Liam Carroll, fire technology program coordinator at Schoolcraft, explained the new project to the board. On Tuesday, at its regular meeting, the board approved organization of a VBT Fire Department Firefighter Cadet Program.

Carroll said the state of Michigan allows local cadet programs and technically the students would be in the cadet program, not college. Carroll said he will be meeting with Belleville High School officials on Friday and a week from Friday with the city of Romulus.

VBT Fire Chief Dan Besson said he wanted to set this up before he left for his new job Up North so VBT's new fire chief would have it all in place when he takes over. Carroll, who is a former fire chief, said he wanted to give Chief Besson the first chance at the brand-new program. They believe it will interest young people in fire fighting and, perhaps, encourage them to fight fires for VBT after they are trained. Payment for the schooling would come through the high school, Carroll said.

Communities need fire fighters and this is one way to get young people interested.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

Former Sumpter Township Supervisor Johnny Vawters dropped by last Friday to bring me a booklet called "Rise Above: The Story of the Tuskegee Airmen."

He thought I might like to write something for Black History Month about the Tuskegee Airmen.

Johnny said he had the honor of meeting with these Tuskegee Airmen twice: once at the PNA Hall in Sumpter and another time at the Air Show in Van Buren Township. He said it was a real honor to meet them.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American aviators in the U.S. Army Air Corps. They were pilots, bombardiers, navigators, flight trainers, and support personnel working together to keep combat airplanes in the air.

In 1941, a few men of color were training on airfields in Tuskegee, Alabama, to fly combat missions for the U.S. Army. At this time, African Americans had never served as aviators for the military. Segregation, or "Jim Crow" laws segregated the military, schools, and public places.

The Tuskegee Airmen and their Red Tail squadron grew to more than 900 aviators who served with great distinction in World War II and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, overcoming racial discrimination with superior effort and service.

February's Black History Month is a good time to remember the Tuskegee Airmen.

\*\*\*

Ron Akers, director of VBT department of Planning and Economic Development, told me the sandwich shop "Which Wich" will be the final business located in the strip mall to the northeast of the Belleville Road/North I-94 Service Drive intersection.

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



The strip has Starbucks at one end and Qdoba Mexican restaurant at the other end and T-Mobile, a vision center, and Which Wich in the middle.

\*\*\*

VBT Police Sgt. Louis Keele told me Wayne County and Washtenaw County trucks worked together the morning of Feb. 1 to spread salt on the hill on Rawsonville Road north of West Huron River Drive. It was a sheet of ice from the Huron River bridge up to McDonald's at the top and vehicles were unable to get up the hill.

Sgt. Keele said he understands Rawsonville Road south of West Huron River Drive also was very icy.

We heard about the iced up Rawsonville Road on the police/fire scanner at about 7 a.m., but by that time the VBT fire trucks had already been summoned from Station #1 and were coming out to block off Rawsonville at West Huron River Drive at the south end and at the South I-94 Service Drive at the north end, so they could work on the icy snarl in between.

On the scanner at one point they said there were two semis and four cars that couldn't get up the hill because of the ice and that the backup on Rawsonville to the south was two miles long.

The cars that had to stream east on Huron River Drive that morning snarled traffic into Belleville and to Haggerty Road and in between. Everybody was probably trying to get to work on time.

Sgt. Keele said the vehicles finally got themselves out at the incline near Grove Road. Of course, as you all know, by afternoon the sky was sunny and the roads were clear.

\*\*\*

A man who lives in the city of Belleville called me on Monday afternoon to say he received a computer-generated phone message from the IRS saying he was being sued and police were coming for him if he didn't return their call.

He called the Belleville Police and they said that kind of scam is going on all over the country and he should call the *Independent* to warn residents not to return the call or to worry about the IRS suing them. The IRS never calls you. It always sends messages by mail.

\*\*\*

At Monday's meeting of the Belleville City Council a member of the audience asked if Belleville had been a part of putting together the new VBT Lake Ordinance. Mayor Conley said about a year and a half ago, she and DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson were invited in to talk about it, but not since then.



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**BELLEVILLE-AREA INDEPENDENT**

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## Letters

### No democracy in Sumpter Township

To the Editor:

Are you tired of the same? The John Morgan Team continues to lie to the taxpayers and residents of the township. The board of trustees continues to deny the taxpayers of the township fair and impartial democratic elections.

They cheated and broke state and federal election laws in the 2016 primary election. They continue to arbitrarily choose their friends that are not qualified to represent the taxpayers and residents.

They continue to disregard our constitutional democratic vote and its process by the people. We must stand together and reject this continued good old boy and girl network. This has been systemic and detrimental to due process in Sumpter Township for years. It must stop now. The Morgan Team must be replaced by honorable and transparent leadership now.

Sumpter Township Board of Trustees continues to deny our seniors and poor the right to live peacefully and gracefully without disruption and chaos in their daily lives. First, the board must restore grass cutting and snow removal without cost or delay immediately to those that qualify, not just the board of trustee friends.

Sumpter Township has hundreds of seniors. Some are blind, bedridden, cancer patients and suffering with other debilitating health conditions and are living on fixed incomes. As a society, we must provide these vulnerable citizens a safety net with quality and dignified lives and security.

The township must also provide those delivered lunches even when township offices are closed. Over the past holidays, seniors did not receive food deliveries and that is reprehensible.

Sumpter Township board meetings are every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the Sumpter Township Administration offices located at 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111.

CDBG Community Development Block Grants applications Jan. 24, Feb. 14, 2017 at 6 p.m. Residents / taxpayer input is desperately needed.  
 Ronald Barrington Robinson  
 Sumpter Township

### Thank you, St. Jude

To the Editor:

Thank you, St. Jude's Novena: For answering my prayers. I will continue to pray for myself and my country.  
 Prayers and Love,  
 S.J.

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### Happy New Year to all my local friends

To the Editor:

Happy New Year! To all my Belleville, Sumpter, and Van Buren friends.

Yes, I have moved away due to a change in my life. My heart remains. A love affair that began 59 years ago. Coming from Detroit on Monday nights. Skating with my friends at Sumpter Roller Rink. Chief of Police (we called "Mr. Terry") who kept us in line.

So many wonderful memories. How time passes, but the memories last and last. Priceless. God bless you all.

Vera Z. Howell, Southfield  
 Former resident of Victoria Commons,  
 Belleville

### St. Jude's Novena answered my prayer

To the Editor:

Say this prayer nine times a day for nine consecutive days. By the eighth day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised when you receive what you've been asking for.

St. Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.

Van Buren Township resident  
 L. Razo

### Upcoming Meetings

• Thursday, Feb. 9 – District Library Board Building Committee at 1 p.m. to decide on recommendation on construction management services to the full board for its Feb. 14 meeting. Also, Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission meeting at 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Monday, Feb. 13 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education regular meeting, 7 p.m. Belleville High School Commons

• Tuesday, Feb. 14 – Van Buren Township Senior Center Endowment Committee at 11 a.m. Also, VBT Recreation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, Feb. 15 -- Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. Also, Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.

• Tuesday, Feb. 21 – Van Buren Township work/study meeting at 4 p.m. and VBT regular meeting at 7 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, Feb. 22 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.



# Eagles set Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Dinner, First Ladies event

The Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Road, Van Buren Township, has announced three events open to the public over the next few months.

• Mardi Gras on Friday, Feb. 24. Tickets: \$15. Social hour begins at 5 p.m., followed by Mardi Gras-inspired buffet at 6 p.m.,

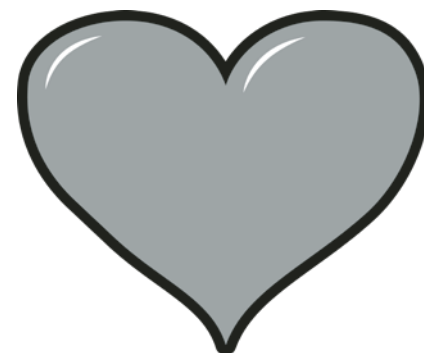
and band and dancing, 8 p.m., with live class rock music by Old Skool Detroit. Basket raffles, 50/50s, and face painting.

• St. Patrick's Dinner on Friday, March 17, from 5 to 8 p.m., or until gone. Menu includes corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots, rutabagas, bread, butter and dessert. Dinners: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Entertainment by Whitey.

• First Ladies of the White House on Saturday, May 6. Doors open 5:30 p.m.,

dinner 6-7:30 p.m., show at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$12 in advance; \$15 at the door. Includes dinner and show. Three meats and sides. History Buffs: Come and learn things about more than 20 First Ladies you never knew. Table reservations for eight or more are available if you purchase tickets by April 22 by contacting Ginger or Keith Bruder at (734) 461-2498.

For tickets and information on all the events call the Eagles at (734) 699-8836.



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# Obituaries



Steven Lewis Walters

**STEVEN LEWIS WALTERS**  
 (April 7, 1944 – January 14, 2007)  
 Steven Lewis Walters was born on April 7, 1944 in Battle Creek, MI. He was one of three children born from the union of the late Dr. John Walters and the late Phyllis (Cannon) Walters. Steven was a 1962 graduate of Battle Creek High School and went on to receive his Master's in Public Administration at the University of Michigan. During his thirty-six year career, Steven supported his family as a City Manager for St. Ignace, Northville, Plymouth and Belleville, retiring in 2007. He was a past president of the Rotary Club of Belleville, a member of Northville Kiwanis Club, and was awarded Michigan Public Servant of the Year in 2000. He was a kind, caring, and loving with an amazing sense of humor and intellect. He gave great advice and was well respected by his family and friends. Steven enjoyed traveling with his wife and family get-togethers. He especially cherished time spent with his grandchildren who will forever remember him as their "Bumpa." In his quiet time, Steven could be found creating stained glass works of art, assembling Lionel and Thomas the Tank Engine model trains, or watching his favorite political television shows.

Steven Lewis Walters, age 72, of Monroe passed away at 11:17 a.m. on January 14, 2017 at ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital surrounded by his loving family. His passing was preceded by his parents. To cherish his memory, he leaves his beloved wife of 25 years Beverly; three sons David (Suzanne Flannery) Walters of Brockton, Mass., Tom Walters of Beverly Hills, and Rich Walters of Chicago; one daughter Marilyn (Dan Huber) Meadows of Monroe; one brother Dr. Bruce (Dr. Jean Dunigan) Walters of Brighton; one sister Martha Austin of St. Mary's Kan.; four grandchildren Alex Walters and Maya Walters of Beverly Hills, MI, and Timothy "T.J." Grove and Jamie Marshall of Monroe. Services were January 17 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Monroe, with Pastor Jeffrey Heimsoth officiating. Arrangements were by Merkle Funeral Service, Monroe. The family extends a special thank you to all the ICU nurses at ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital for the tender care they provided. Memorials are suggested to Trinity Lutheran Church. Online guests may leave words of comfort, inspiration, send a floral arrangement, or share a photo by visiting [www.merklefs.com](http://www.merklefs.com).

**SHARON MAE GORRING**  
 (July 25, 1943 – February 4, 2017)  
 Age 73, of Taylor. Survived by children Jeffrey, Thomas, Timothy, Tracey, and Terri; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren. Service was Feb. 6 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Union-Udell Cemetery.



Elizabeth Mae Campbell

**ELIZABETH MAE CAMPBELL**  
 (March 1, 1922 – February 4, 2017)  
 Elizabeth Mae Campbell, born March 1, 1922 in Canton Township, Michigan, passed away on February 4, 2017 after a short illness at Beaumont Annapolis Hospital at the young age of 94. She was the daughter of August and Flora Cecelia (MacDonald) Bohms. Wife of the late Jack Campbell (d.1963). Loving mother of Ronald (Diana) Campbell, grandmother of Brian (Julie) Campbell, Michael (Kelly) Campbell, great-grandmother to Trevor and Seth Campbell and step-great-grandmother to Mckenzey and Blake Kelley. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, infant son, sisters Florence Haeussler and Irene Pyle, and brother Floyd Bohms. Elizabeth was one of the original "Rosie the Riveters" at the Willow Run Bomber Plant during World War II. She retired from Ford Motor Co., Rawsonville Plant after 34 years of service. After retiring she was a member of the "Recycled Teenagers" Travel Club going on many fun trips, one of which was Alaska. She enjoyed bowling and served on the Tri-City WBA for 36 years, starting as a director and ending as vice president. She was also a Hall of Fame member of the WBA of Tri-City. She enjoyed all kinds of arts and crafts, mainly crocheting. She was called "The Scrubby Lady" as she has made hundreds of scrubbies over the years for Belleville Presbyterian Church bazaar of which she was a charter member. Funeral services for Mrs. Campbell were held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, February 8, at the Belleville Presbyterian Church, 11900 Belleville Rd., Belleville. The Campbell family greeted guests one hour prior to the service. Visiting hours were Tuesday from 1 until 8 p.m. at the David C. Brown Funeral Home of Belleville. A Masonic walk-by took place at 7 p.m.

**More Obituaries  
 on page 8**

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# Obituaries



Clifford Thomas Arquette



## CLIFFORD THOMAS ARQUETTE

(August 19, 1923 – February 2, 2017)

Clifford Thomas Arquette, age 93, of Sumpter Township, died peacefully at home on Thursday evening, February 2, 2017.

Clifford is the loving husband of the late Eva (Ruth) (d. 1988); dear father of Melvin Arquette of Belleville, Sue Arquette-Harnisch of Belleville, Sarah (Brian) Sykes of Grand Blanc and Eva (Larry) Hawkins of Milan. Mr. Arquette is also survived by seven grandchildren and many great- and great-great-grandchildren, brother Richard Arquette of Romulus, and many loving family and friends.

Mr. Arquette was a long-time Belleville resident, moving to the area in 1942. A proud U.S. Navy veteran in the Pacific during World War II, Clifford on the L.C.S. #86. After the war, he was very active in the U.S.S.L.C.S. #1-130 Group. Being outdoors was a passion. Clifford enjoyed hunting, water skiing and snowmobiling. Mostly, he loved time with his family. A funeral ceremony was held at 1 p.m., Monday, February 6, 2017 in the Main Chapel of the David C. Brown Funeral Home of Belleville, (734) 697-4500.

Interment followed at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock. Visiting hours were Sunday from 2 until 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be directed to restoration of L.C.S. #102 at Mare Island Ship Yard, California.



Loverta Irene Chamberlain

## LOVERTA IRENE CHAMBERLAIN

(February 9, 1956 – February 2, 2017)

Loverta Irene Chamberlain, age 60, of Sumpter Township, passed away peacefully on February 2, 2017 with her family at her side at home. Loverta is the loving wife of John for forty-one wonderful years; dear mother of Duane Chamberlain of St. Clair Shores, Jennifer Chamberlain of Fort Gratiot, Thomas Chamberlain of Belleville and Clinton (Amanda) Chamberlain also of Belleville; cherished daughter of Jean Coulter of Livonia; proud grandmother of John, Arielle and Gracie. Mrs. Chamberlain is also survived by her siblings, Gerald Coulter of Florida and Bridgette (Harry) Campbell of Milford. Sadly, Loverta is preceded in death by her father, Gerald Coulter.

Born on February 9, 1956 in Fort Polk, LA, the Chamberlain family settled in Sumpter Township in 1994. Loverta was a twenty-year employee with the Lincoln Consolidated School System where she was involved with the Special Education ISS program. Her grandchildren were her pride and joy. A fond memory that the Chamberlain family has is her playing "Tea Party" with the kids. She will be truly missed. A funeral ceremony was held at noon, Sunday, February 5, in the main chapel of the David C. Brown Funeral Home of Belleville, 734-697-4500. Loverta's family greeted guests from 4-9 p.m., Saturday at the funeral home and one hour prior to the service on Sunday.

In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be directed to American Cancer Society.



Mary Josephine Scarberry

## MARY JOSEPHINE SCARBERRY

(June 14, 1926 – January 31, 2017)

Mary Josephine Scarberry, age 90, a longtime resident of Ypsilanti, died Tuesday afternoon, January 31, 2017.

Mary is the beloved wife of the late Herman (d.1999); dear mother of Deborah Scarberry of Ypsilanti, Susan (Thomas) Marks of Azalia, Jeff (Nikki) Scarberry of Swartz Creek and Patricia Scarberry of Ypsilanti; cherished grandmother of Sarah (Joshua) Larsen of Grass Lake, Jeffery Scarberry of Iowa, Jennifer Marks of Saline, Amanda Palmer of Romulus, Joshua (Hannah Rice) Scarberry of Wisconsin, and Timothy Scarberry of Fenton. Mary is also survived by four great-grandchildren Jonathin, Chloe, Ethan, and Ava; siblings Anna Plitz of Livonia and Elizabeth (Anthony) Schavillie of North Carolina. Sadly, Mrs. Scarberry is preceded in death by her brother, Henry (Mary Louise DeCou) Worth of North Carolina.

Born on June 14, 1926 in Marysville, MI to Jacob and Olga Worth, members of the Scarberry family have been Ypsilanti residents for over 50 years. A longtime member of the Antioch Baptist Church of Belleville, Mary truly enjoyed her church family's fellowship. An avid reader, Mary also enjoyed gardening, cooking, and attending the grandkids' sporting events. A funeral service was held Saturday, February 4, at 1 p.m. in the main chapel of the David C. Brown Funeral Home of Belleville, (734) 697-4500. The Scarberry family greeted guests from 10 a.m. until the time of the service. Interment followed at Union-Udell cemetery, Ypsilanti. Memorial contributions will be directed to the wishes of the family.



John Loop

## JOHN LOOP

John Loop, age 57, of Tipton, MI, passed away February 5, 2017 into the arms of God surrounded by his loving family at University of Michigan Hospital.

Memorial Services will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, February 11, 2017, at J. Gilbert Purse Funeral Home, 2959 N. Adrian Hwy., Adrian, MI, with Pastor Greg Grotbeck officiating. Visitation will be on Friday February 10, 2017, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and also on Saturday morning from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at the J. Gilbert Purse Funeral Home, Adrian, MI. [www.PurseFuneralHome.com](http://www.PurseFuneralHome.com)

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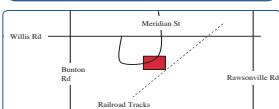


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## Lincoln Consolidated Schools adopt positive budget amendment

The Lincoln Consolidated Schools Board of Education and administration announce the adoption of a revised 2016-17 budget projecting a positive fund equity of \$5,217,668 for the year, resulting in an 11.97% fund balance as a percent of expenditures.

Lincoln was removed from the state-imposed Deficit Elimination Plan in December following a positive audit and the adoption of a positive budget for the current fiscal year.

School Supt. Sean McNatt stated, "We are now in the strongest financial position we have had in quite some time and could not have achieved it without the help of ALL of our employees. Their significant sacrifice during the past two years has provided the financial stability needed to allow Lincoln to move forward and on to great things."

The major factors contributing to the positive fund balance include higher per-student foundation allowance, less than budgeted student loss, continued staff concessions, and increased at-risk and other grant funds.

Lincoln Consolidated Schools serves more than 3,800 students from Southeast Washtenaw and Southwest Wayne counties.



On Feb. 1, Belleville High School student Cameron Wesley signed to play soccer at Tiffin University. Behind him are his BHS coaches, from left, Brian Rupnow, Cris Brunett, and Kevin Rupnow.



On Feb. 1, Belleville High School student Zion Beaton signed to play soccer at Duquesne University. Standing behind him are his BHS coaches, from left, Cris Brunett, Brian Rupnow, and Kevin Rupnow.

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

- **Thursday, Feb. 9** – The Homegrown Knowledge series at the Belleville Area District Library features Jonathan Richards, part-time librarian, who will present a travelogue on Peru at 7 p.m. "Snapshot: Peru" will share new discoveries at Machu Picchu, the local culture, and the 2016 Peruvian election. Presented by the Friends of the Library.
- **Thursday, Feb. 9** – Weight Watchers sign up has been changed and is no longer today. Now it must be by email. The first meeting has been changed to be Feb. 16 at the Van Buren Township Hall Denton Room and no registrations will be taken that day. Twelve-week program. All welcome to join. Information: (734) 699-8921 or Dez Houston, (248) 479-1378.
- **Saturday, Feb. 11** – You are invited to visit the Western Wayne County Quilt Guild on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Otisville Room at Van Buren Township Hall. All levels of sewers are welcome and there are lots of different projects.
- **Saturday, Feb. 11** – Roast Beef Dinner at the Community United Methodist Church, 11160 Olive St., Romulus, 5-7 p.m. Donations: \$10 per adult, \$4 for children 6-12, and free for children 5 and under. For carry outs, call (734) 941-0736 after 5 p.m. [www.romcomumc.org](http://www.romcomumc.org)

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- **Sunday, Feb. 12** – 3 J's musical performance from 2 to 5 p.m. at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township. Free. Information: Mike Hoben (734) 260-1170 or Lynette Jordan (734) 699-8918.
- **Monday, February 13** – Michigan Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood will hold a coffee hour at

- noon at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township. Tell him all your concerns about the state.
- **Tuesday, February 14** – State Rep. Joe Bellino will visit with the public at and after the 6:30 p.m. meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees at township hall.

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## Superintendent's Corner

By Pete Kudlak  
Superintendent,  
Van Buren Public Schools



About a year before I joined the Van Buren team, district leaders began a dynamic project with the intent to improve the education that we provide to our students. They started meeting with the MI Excel Team from the state and their new initiative called the Blueprint for Turnaround.

Van Buren Public Schools was an "Early Adopter" of this work as one of the first districts in the state to officially join. We had a presentation to the School Board that explained the process, the work that would be done, and the uneasiness that change causes.

The Blueprint for Turnaround walked us through a process that created district-wide systems. We had issues within

our own organization in curriculum, communication, data management, and analysis, and having dynamic building teams making real decisions.

Many districts that needed a "turnaround" had similar issues. The MI Excel Team developed this process specifically to address these common problems.

I walked into this process in full swing. Over the summer, I spent four days in workshops to learn all about it and another few months learning about VBPS. The work absolutely aligns with our needs. I am thrilled to continue this work.

Currently, 65 districts are engaged in this work from all corners of Michigan. Networking and partnering with these other districts has become a big part of our change. We learn from and share with each other. The competition between districts that has developed since Proposal A in 1994, is set aside for the common good. It has been very powerful.

Last school year, many of the processes were developed and much of the curriculum was written. Urgency was the district mantra and a lot of work was completed. This year, we are continuing the curriculum work, building the strong building-level teams, and (most importantly) strengthening our foundation on which this Blueprint for Turnaround is built.

The base of this change is anchored in a culture of collective responsibility that is collegial, collaborative, and professional while allocating resources in an equitable (not equal) manner that is based upon student need. I have been working to build trust in the administration, as well as, treating our professionals as professionals by providing them a voice. Building principals have been working in creating a collegial and collaborative environment to steer their ship through this work.

We are also re-launching this initiative as we get the work into the hands of the staff. They will make the changes come to life and we need their experiences and knowledge in order to do it correctly. Many hands make light work.

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# VBT DDA to consider shared driveway at its Placemaking project

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

A developer, who has an option on the two parcels on Belleville Road just north of the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority's Placemaking project, has shown an interest in sharing the DDA's parking lot and driveway.

The DDA has purchased 10101 and 10151 Belleville Road to develop a destination point for residents and visitors.

At the Jan. 24 meeting of the DDA, Executive Director Susan Ireland said the developer inquired if the DDA would like to partner with him, such as he giving the DDA land for a shared driveway. He also wanted to share parking in the DDA's planned parking area.

"I was afraid they would use all of our parking lot," Ireland said. "I told him I would talk to you about sharing a driveway."

"We're all about development," said DDA president Craig Atchinson. "Share a driveway? We can do that. Parking?"

"Leave him on his own for parking," said William M. Wiemer of Wakely Associates/Architects, who is working as director of construction services on the Placemaking project. He said every parking lot is a hard surface.

"You let him handle his own storm water ... If he wants it, he can put in his own driveway and pay for it," Wiemer said.

Atchinson said the two parcels are very small and Ireland agreed.

"He offered to give you an annual fee for parking," Ireland said, reading from some notes she had just retrieved from her office.

"I said parking is an issue and that we need a drawing of what he plans," Ireland said, adding, "It's not a site big enough to build much." She said each parcel is 35' wide.

She said the developer, who she did not name, said he would put in typical retails, like a 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. store or hair salon. There was the possibility of sharing an approach.

Ireland said she knows that businesses put more money on the tax rolls.

VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara asked what kind of business could be put in and Ireland said nothing with a drive-through, but "by sharing an access you might get something."

She said the Placemaking project is ready to get going.

"We can't let useless property just lie there," McNamara said.

Ireland said she wanted McNamara to know that the DDA did make a fair offer on that property and they never called back.

Ireland said Realtor Carol Bird, who serves on the DDA, said she received a call from the broker and he said he didn't think the deal between the developer and the property owners would go through. Bird was absent from the meeting.

"We went as high as \$25,000 each and they never called back," Ireland said. The owners wanted \$400,000 total for the two parcels, she said.

Wiemer said the two lots total 70' less the two 10' setbacks, leave the lot at 50' frontage. "That's a small residential lot," he said.

"I think the people here think you should talk to them," McNamara said to Ireland. "If they want to pay for our entryway. The entryway would cost more than the property."

DDA member Victor Delibera said the developer would have to pay for razing the two buildings on the lots.

"Do they have the financial means?" McNamara asked.

Ireland said the developer working on this is also working on a project down the street (referring to the property just north of Belle Tire).

"He's working on a very long due-

diligence period," Ireland said.

"I would like to see us have the property," Atchinson said. "I think we should make another offer."

"Show we're interested in sharing a drive and make another offer," Delibera said.

"It's not a big deal to our project if we get the other property," Wiemer said.

In other discussion on the Placemaking project, the DDA was informed the project's committee met and came to the conclusion it would be best to eliminate all the drainage ponds and put in underground storm water facilities. It would mean two 48" underground pipes.

"That opens up an area for picnicking and you can drive over it," Wiemer said, noting there's a system for stabilizing the surface so fire trucks and other vehicles can drive over it.

This change was estimated at \$100,000, but he said it would be substantially lower.

"We haven't been to Wayne County, yet," Wiemer said, referring to approval for storm water drainage.

"I've seen this at Wayne County approved regularly," said McNamara, who formerly served as a Wayne County commissioner.

In other business at the Jan. 24 meeting, the DDA:

- Discussed ornamental details for the planned pedestrian walkway over I-94 on Belleville Road. Ireland said the Michigan Department of Transportation wants VBT's information in April so it can meet in June for a plan review. Besides the name of the township, other designs were suggested, along with a preference for a wrought-iron looking fence instead of the standard MDOT chain link fence, which would cost 30-40% more. MDOT is furnishing design costs, engineering, construction management and VBT has two grants. Anything more the township wants to add, it will pay the difference. Ireland asked them to think about the additions to the bridge so they can talk about it at the next meeting;

- Heard Ireland explain Public Act 506 of 2016 that was signed by the Governor on Jan. 9. It would exempt certain taxes levied for library purposes from being captured by tax incremental financing authorities (TIFA). She said the DDA's bond counsel said he thought some additional language may be added to this law since there are some internal inconsistencies. He suggested waiting 30 days for the changes. "We may not be able to capture the new stuff," Ireland said of the Belleville Area District Library's millages; and

- Heard Lisa Lothringer report on E-Blasts promoting DDA businesses and other promotions. She did a Monthly Spotlight on Planet Fitness and said it is very nice inside. Atchinson said a dozen of his employees joined and go there on their lunch breaks. McNamara said people can work out at the township senior center for \$15 a year, but Lothringer said not everyone qualifies in age. Ireland said it is nice to see a formerly empty building occupied.

Absent from the meeting were vice chair Carol Bird and Directors Bob Bechtel, Ron Blank, and Helen Foster. Present were chairman Atchinson, Secretary Sophia Zoller, Joe Baskin, Jr., Chris Brown, Victoria Delibera, Mark Laginess, and Supervisor McNamara.

## Priest elected president of Friends of Belleville Area District Library

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

Linda Priest, who has been serving as president of Friends of the Belleville Area District Library since last February -- when the elected president Tony D'Onofrio moved to Columbus, Ohio for his job -- has officially been elected president for 2017.

At the Jan. 21 annual meeting of the Friends, Donna Gilkey-Lavin was elected vice president; Rick Cichewicz, treasurer; and Katerina Tyner, secretary.

The meeting was a general celebration of the November passage of the millages to build a new library.

The membership heard reports from chairmen of the different committees: Marty Wilson for Membership, a written report from Carol Shanks on book sales and donations, and Elaine Gutierrez on public relations.

In other business, the Friends:

- Gave awards to members: Lifetime Achievement award to Marty and the late David Wilson; Volunteer of the Year award to Katerina Tyner; and awards to all member of the Belleville Area Citizens for a New Library who worked hard to get the millage passed;

- Heard Barbara Miller ask the library to start a kids' chess club. She said the Detroit Institute of Arts started a kids' chess club that went from 10 members to a couple hundred at present. She said she asked the museum to start such a club, but got no response. Members were informed that Keystone Academy has a chess club that starts in the second grade;

- Heard Miller ask if a committee has been set up yet to solicit donations from substantial businesses in the community to add artworks and other amenities to the new library that cannot be purchased with millage funds. Miller said she has seen charming statues in the Livonia and Dearborn libraries. Director Mary Jo Suchy said they may get the Friends to help with that; and

- Heard library board president Sharon Peters announce that the night before that meeting she became a grandmother for the first time and she is leaving immediately to travel to New York City to be with her daughter and her granddaughter Baldwin Belle. She plans to be gone at least two weeks.

"You have to be odd to be number one."

— Dr. Seuss

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\*\*\*

March is Reading Month and Edgemont Elementary School in Belleville is looking for volunteer readers during the week of March 27-31. Reading times are a half hour to an hour and volunteers can bring in their own book or story or choose from a book provided in the class. To learn more, email Karen Mida at edgemont06@yahoo.com or text to (734) 635-1208.

\*\*\*

Shear Envy Salon on Sumpter Road in the Cork n Bottle Plaza welcomes Alexa to their staff of salon professionals. In addition to great-looking haircuts, colors, and styles, Alexa is certified in Brazilian Blowout, hair extensions, and facials. And, right now, get a free haircut with any color purchase with Alexa only and with their ad coupon in today's paper. Sugaring, a 100% natural method of hair removal is also available. Ask for Brenda and be sure to check out the salon's other coupon offers, too. The business is open Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, from 8 a.m. to noon. Walk-ins welcome. Appointments can be made by calling (734) 697-9778. Visit them on Facebook and their website at [www.shearenvysalon.us](http://www.shearenvysalon.us).

\*\*\*

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce and Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation are holding a bowling fund raiser on April 7 at Lodge Lanes in Belleville. The cost is \$20 per person, which includes three games of bowling, shoes, and pizza. Registration starts at 7 p.m. with bowling at 8 p.m. Cash Bar will be available. There will also be mystery games, high games, and raffle baskets. For info, call the chamber at (734) 697-7151.

\*\*\*

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

## Shereif Bynum named to Youngstown State University Dean's List

Shereif Bynum of Belleville was named to the Dean's List at Youngstown State University, Ohio, for the Fall Semester 2016. Bynum is a YSU Pre-Nursing major.

At YSU, the Dean's List recognizes students each semester who achieve academic excellence.

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

- Yoda



# Court watching

(continued from page 1)

on his competency from testimony and Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor John Cayce alleges Morris is malingering, pretending to be mute, to avoid facing the felony charge.

Duncan said the competency reports every 90 days have shown he is incompetent, incompetent, and "kind of competent." He said he leaves the decision to the court.

Prosecutor Cayce said there is no physical damage to the brain to cause his failure to speak or talk.

Duncan said his client is bipolar. Later in the session, Morris was described as having a ninth-grade education and was a

special education student suffering from ADHD (Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder).

Dr. Michele Hill, a psychiatrist, testified that Morris was significantly depressed and apathetic when she met him. He spoke -- but very little -- cried, and had a lack of motivation. She said he has no observable brain injury.

She said a year after the accident he was articulate and his depression was controlled with anti-depression drugs and therapy.

"After he was informed about the charge, he stopped speaking," she said.

Judge Green suggested that someone



Morris

already suffering from depression could have a triggering event, like finding out about the charges, which could cause him to go mute.

"I felt his depression was sincere," said the psychiatrist. "But any reason for not speaking was not because of injury."

"I don't care about the reason," Judge Green said. "Is it medically plausible that being charged caused a medical / psychiatric event?"

The doctor said that could be, but he currently is not speaking. She had labeled Morris incompetent for trial in two reports and was not seeing him now.

The prosecution's second witness was Dr. Erin Michael Shepherd, consulting neuropsychologist at Walter Reuther Hospital. He said he reviewed Dr. Hill's reports along with talking to Morris. He said he observed Morris could walk without difficulty and had no external signs of depression. He said he is able to write out things, but did not speak verbally and he did not observe him interacting with any staff.

Dr. Shepherd told of a simple memory test that Morris passed easily the first time and then the second time, after he was charged, he scored very, very low. "He would have to make an effort to go so low," he said.

He told Judge Green that Morris is likely malingering because there is no disorder to cause him to be mute.

"Depression can cause a person to be mute temporarily, but wouldn't prevent speaking. There is no physical thing stopping him from speaking," Dr. Shepherd said.

Judge Green asked if it is plausible that Morris was stable and then was informed there was an accident and he was being held responsible for a death and that impacted him?

"Is it plausible he's not malingering?" Judge Green asked. "He is criminally charged for a felony and ... this triggered something and he is not malingering?"

"It's highly implausible," said Dr. Shepherd. "We would see other things. He wouldn't be able to function in his daily life."

"It's not likely that depression caused mutism," he said.

Defense attorney Duncan asked if it was possible and Dr. Shepherd conceded it was possible.

Duncan referred to a report that said Morris may not regain cognitive deficits and Dr. Shepherd said his report doesn't talk about competency. It talks about malingering.

Dr. Shepherd said he had some writings that Morris gave to him, but he did not bring them to court. He said they were childlike and Morris wrote about having lots of toys to play with when he goes home.

"My determination was that he was malingering with the mutism," Dr. Shepherd said.

Next witness was Bernice Diop, clinical social worker at Walter Reuther. She said Morris communicated to her in writing because his Fund Card was empty and he couldn't get snacks at the vending machine.

Another written message was presented that said, in part, "Mom's not coming, is she? How much can I stay here? No robot, no games, cartoons. It sucks here. I hurt no one. I've been a good boy. Only crazy people need help. I need mom ..."

"He'd rather not be here," Judge Green said, noting she could understand that.

Diop said staff had observed him on the house telephone to someone else in the hospital. She said he has spoken with his mother on the other phone where people can call in.

Judge Green asked about his education and was told he finished ninth grade and his communication skills were limited, at best.

Dr. H. Gummati, a psychiatrist to Morris, said Morris is competent to be able to understand the charges and work with the attorney. He said Morris works with staff and other patients. He said he interacts and gets to sessions on time without help.

Duncan asked about the February 2016 report that said "closed injury cognitive deficiency -- may not regain competency."

Dr. Gummati said he first met with Morris on May 26. The patient was in another psychiatric unit and was transferred into his current unit in a wheelchair with a helmet on his head from an altercation and assault by another patient.

He said the medication seems to be working and he communicates by writing, with a lot of misspellings.

"He can assist his attorney in defending himself," Dr. Gummati said.

Defense attorney Duncan called his only witness, Dr. George Watson, Jr., a clinical and forensic psychologist hired by the defense for an independent evaluation.

Dr. Watson met with Morris on Jan. 18 and, "My opinion was he was incompetent based on other available documents, plus interactions."

Dr. Watson said he was required to inform the patient of why he was there and Morris would not read the information, so he read it to him.

"He made no acknowledgement. He nodded ... gestures with his hands ... gave no meaningful acknowledgement of the

(continued on page 16)

## INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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**8979 Samuel Barton Drive, Belleville, MI 48111**

**Phone# 734-398-7700**

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### HELP WANTED

## Birthdays

- Feb. 1 – Kathie Steigerwald
- Feb. 5 – Cheryl Martin, Zachary Sloan, Denise Partridge
- Feb. 6 – Woody Sloan
- Feb. 7 – D'Antoine Robinson
- Feb. 11 – Dominic Craft
- Feb. 12 – Tina McGlynn, Nora Hemphill, Donna Gotts
- Feb. 13 – Ron Akers, Dave McFall
- Feb. 15 – Ryan Ely
- Feb. 16 – Debbie Simpkins, Chris Whitt, Jessabelle Bradley, Sherry Zunk

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



# Court watching

(continued from page 15)

notice.”

Dr. Watson said he asked him to fill out a questionnaire and he didn’t. He asked him questions and Morris began to write things in block print that were not responsive to the questions.

Dr. Watson said malingering was defined as a willful presentation of fabricated symptoms of mental or physical disorders for a false result.

“I felt he was genuine,” Dr. Watson said.

He went through Morris’ problems: traumatic brain injury, special ed., ADHD, traumatized as a youth, trauma on top of trauma.

He said he has not heard anything that means Morris’ attention will be up to the task of assisting his attorney. “I didn’t see any evidence of him able to process abstract concepts.”

Prosecutor Cayce said Dr. Watson met with Morris for an hour. Morris talked to his mom by telephone. Being ADHD doesn’t make him incompetent.

“He was out living in the world, driving a car,” Cayce said, noting his problems were laid on pretty thick.

“I didn’t think it was authentic,” Cayce said.

Judge Green said court is not something Morris wants.

“I haven’t been in this position in all these years,” said Judge Green of her required decision, noting if the defendant is not competent the state would arrange a civil commitment. “But the state says he’s competent. If I find him competent, he is taken into custody and goes to trial.”

“He had 14-15 months to regain his competency,” said Prosecutor Cayce. “His mutism is exaggerated.”

“Should he be released tomorrow?” Judge Green asked.

“And be living out in the world?” Cayce asked.

The mother of Marcus McIntosh, the person that died in the crash, told Judge Green that Morris lives near her home and after the accident she watched Morris walk his dog. “I watched him live,” she said.

“There is no evidence that brain injury kept him from talking and walking,” Cayce said.

Duncan said, “He can’t assist me. I can’t do anything with him. I’m helpless if I’m forced to represent an incompetent person.”

Judge Green said the ATM card activities concern her and she’s concerned that people saw him on the phone.

“ON the phone,” Duncan said. “There’s no testimony he was talking.”

Judge Green said she wants to see Morris in her courtroom.

“It’s not fair for me to make a decision ...” she said. “I want to see the defendant and see his mother. I apologize to the victim’s family for prolonging this. I would feel more comfortable with the decision. I want to see the defendant and I want to ask the

mother a lot of questions.”

She asked the medical witnesses still in the courtroom if there is a daily attendant that she can talk to and they said there is.

“I want the defendant, his mother, and the daily attendant in my courtroom at 10 a.m., Feb. 22, for a competency hearing.”

She asked the victim’s family if that would be too long and the victim’s mother replied, through tears, “It’s been two and a half years.”

VBT Detective Mark Buxton is officer in charge of the case.

If found guilty of the felony charge, Morris could be imprisoned for up to 15 years and/ or pay a fine of \$2,500 to \$10,000.

Morris was released April 24, 2014 after serving three years in prison on a plea bargain to criminal sexual conduct, third degree. He is considered a habitual offender. His release from prison was about three months before the fatal accident.



Photo courtesy Michigan House Democrats  
State Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, takes the oath of office from Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget Mary McCormack on Jan. 11, at the state Capitol in Lansing. With her are her parents, Nick and Kathy Pagan, and her partner, Karl Lopata.

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



### Van Buren Township

### Local Township Road Improvement

### Request for Participation



The Wayne County Department of Public Services has allocated \$750,000 to repair, resurface, or reconstruct existing local township residential zoned roads under Wayne County’s jurisdiction within Van Buren Township. In order to utilize these funds, Wayne County has required that a 20% match of the total cost of a project be provided. Van Buren Township is seeking to identify subdivisions who have funds available for road improvements and are interested in making improvements to the roads in their subdivision.

#### Who is Eligible?

Subdivisions in Van Buren Township who have Wayne County owned public roads in their subdivision are eligible for this funding. This funding can only be used for road repairs, resurfacing, or reconstruction in an eligible subdivision.

#### How Can My Subdivision Apply?

Please submit a letter to the Township which provides the following:

- A request for participation to the Township from your homeowner’s association indicating the subdivision that is interested in the program,
- Contact information for the designated representative for the subdivision,
- The amount of funds that your subdivision can contribute towards the potential road project.

Subdivisions without a homeowner’s association should contact Ron Akers. Director of Planning & Economic Development, at 734-699-8913 prior to applying to discuss options for providing the required 20% funding match. All requests for participation can be sent via e-mail to [rakers@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:rakers@vanburen-mi.org) or to the following mailing address:

Planning & Economic Development  
Attn: Ron Akers  
46425 Tyler Road  
Van Buren Township, MI 48111

**Requests for participation must be received at Township Hall no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 3, 2017.**





## City of Belleville Regular City Council Meeting Minutes January 17, 2017

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street by Mayor Pro Tem Loria.

### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

### 2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Marcotte	Present
Council Member Smith	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Absent

### 3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS

Presentations  
Darlene Owens, representing the Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Authority (DWMHA) presented a plaque/award to the Belleville City Council with remarks that two Belleville businesses had kept their pledges not to sell tobacco to minors.

### Citizen Comments

Jeff Vernon distributed a handout to the City Council regarding the results of a recent safety site visit that he initiated regarding Sugar Plum Candy Shoppe.

### 4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Fielder, second by Marcotte to approve the agenda as presented.

### MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Marcotte, second by Fielder to approve the regular city council meeting minutes of January 3, 2017 as presented.

### MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

### 7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

### 8. GENERAL BUSINESS

None

### 9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Fielder, second by Loria to approve **Resolution No. 17-004** for accounts payable and payables over \$500.00 totaling \$589,363.03.

### MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Marcotte, Second by Smith to adjourn meeting at 7:45 p.m.

### MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Scharf, City Clerk

Approved: February 6, 2017

Published: February 9, 2017

"They say marriages are made in Heaven.  
But so is thunder and lightning"  
— Clint Eastwood

# Council to consider proper staffing level for City of Belleville

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

The Belleville City Council gave a nod to Councilman Tom Fielder's suggestion that it look at city staffing and decide just how many people should be working for the city.

Councilman Fielder said he asked that the item be put on the agenda of Monday's regular meeting because there is a new officer in the police department, a new employee at city hall, and one DPS worker will be leaving.

He said the council should decide how many employees are needed and what their job descriptions are. He asked the council to ask the city manager to develop a staffing plan and develop the appropriate staff level with job descriptions and possible cross-staffing.

"Ask her to brainstorm with her administration and come back with a recommendation," Fielder said.

Mayor Kerreen Conley agreed that this work is most appropriate as part of the budget process.

"Possibly we don't need three, but need two," she said of employees at city hall.

She said they are pleased with Karen in the front office and a good police officer (Sarah Dzagulones) recently was hired, but no part-time officer yet.

"Rick is working on a shoestring right now, with one leaving soon," said City Manager Diana Kollmeyer, referring to DPW Director Rick Rutherford whose department consists of him and two workers.

"That's a part of her job, anyway," Mayor Conley said, noting a lot goes into job descriptions.

Fielder suggested the report be shown to council members first and if a sub-committee is needed, it could be set up.

No vote was taken on the direction given to Kollmeyer because Mayor Conley said the city manager doesn't need to be told to do her job.

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

- Approved Mayor Conley's new appointments of James Shrove to the Board of Review, with a term to expire Dec. 31, 2019, and Jeff Vernon to Parks and Recreation, with a term to expire Dec. 31, 2020. The council also approved the mayor's re-appointments of Reginald Dawson to the Board of Review, with a term to expire Dec. 31, 2019; Steve Jones and John Juriga to the Planning Commission, with terms to expire Dec. 31, 2019; and Denise Baker to the Downtown Development Authority, with a term to expire Dec. 31, 2020;

- Received the 2017 Strawberry Festival Policies from festival executive director Joan Bodnar and referred it to the administration for review. Bodnar said it is the same as last year, except for date changes;

- Designated DPS Director Rick Rutherford as Street Administrator for Act 51 funds;

- Briefly discussed the proposed Special Events Ordinance. Mayor Conley said it will be fine-tuned and come back one more time. Kollmeyer said once it is approved it will go into effect in January 2018;

- Took no action on the agenda item "Music Lakeside 2017 Dates and Request to Use Horizon Park" because no one was present with information on the event. Kollmeyer said Ken Voigt emailed her and asked to be put on the agenda, "and that's the last I heard of it." Mayor Conley said the procedure has been to have the material in hand before placing an item on the agenda. "We don't like surprises," she said;

- Approved \$196,632.14 in accounts payable and the following purchases in excess of \$500: to Blue Ribbon Contracting, \$2,544 for catch basin repair from the General/Water fund; to Absolute Heating, \$860 for repair of boiler at city hall, from General/Building Maintenance fund; to Osier & Sons Electric, \$697.50 for repair of electric outlets, from General / Building Maintenance; and to Wise Technologies, \$528.75 for computer support from General/various funds;

- Heard Fielder comment that there has been \$1,500 more in repairs at city hall over the past few weeks. Fielder has repeatedly talked about selling city hall and said he doesn't like putting money into an old building;

- Heard Mayor Conley ask when the DPS and Engineers' Assessment on city street repairs would be ready for the council. Kollmeyer said it should be at the next meeting. She has been waiting for figures from the city's Plante Moran employee. Mayor Conley said if the council can't get the figures soon, it would put off things for this year;

- Heard Kollmeyer announce that budget amendments will be on the next meeting agenda and an audit presentation in the meeting after that;

- Heard Mayor Conley say the city has vacancies on several of its board and appreciates volunteers;

- Heard Kelly Bates ask about replacing the wrought iron fencing at Doane's Landing. Kollmeyer said the seawall is pulling away from the bank at Doane's Landing and the Veteran's Monument also needs work. She said the city should have a recommendation on this work soon. Rutherford said maybe the seawall is below the 655' level and it's on Van Buren Township property. He said they are looking into a possible Department of Natural Resources grant;

- Heard Pastor Nathaniel Oregon, the new pastor of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church on South Edgemont Street, introduce himself and pass out free copies of a book, "Hero of Hacksaw Ridge," to members of the council and the audience. He also asked them to fill out a survey because the church wants to plan community events and wants to make sure the events they plan are what would be welcomed; and

- Heard Mary Talaga thank the police department for filling in for her as a crossing guard at Edgemont Elementary School while she underwent heart surgery. She said Monday was her first day back at work and children in the lunch room, where she also works, gave her big hugs and welcomed her back.

## Sumpter Township Public Notice

### Sumpter Township's 2017 Recreation Master Plan

Sumpter Township is seeking public input regarding the Township's 2017 Recreation Master Plan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires a minimum 30-day public review process as part of the master planning process. A formal public hearing regarding the plan will be held at the Township Board of Trustees meeting on February 14, 2017, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The draft master plan is available for review at the following locations:

- Sumpter Township Offices, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville
- Sumpter Community Center, 23501 Sumpter Road, Belleville
- Belleville Public Library, 167 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Belleville

The draft plan is also available online on the Township's website at [www.sumptertwp.com](http://www.sumptertwp.com).

Please address questions and comments to Chris Nordstrom at [cnordstrom@cwaplan.com](mailto:cnordstrom@cwaplan.com) or by phone at (734) 662-2200.

Publish: February 9, 2017

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# Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*Out of the 461 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.*

**Sunday, Jan. 29:**  
0350 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville / Burger King  
0409 – shots fired, Parkwood Manor  
1304 – mental, Belleville Rd.  
1348 – hold-up alarm, Harmony Ln.  
1526 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1724 – intimidation threat, Parkwood  
1736 – shots fired, Denton Rd.  
2104 – vehicle repossession, Milton Dr.

**Monday, Jan. 30:**  
0718 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2030 – noise complaint, Lake Point Blvd. / W. Huron River Dr.  
2203 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.

**Tuesday, Jan. 31:**  
0119 – vehicle repossession, Cambridge Ct.  
0721 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.  
0730 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Belleville Rd.  
0859 – property damage accident, W. I-94/E. of Belleville Rd.  
1030 – property damage accident, Chinkapin Dr.  
1148 – larceny, Belleville Rd.  
1253 – trespassing, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
1302 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1313 – property damage accident, Lakeview Dr.  
1526 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1555 – property damage accident, Harbour Pointe Ct.  
2031 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville Rd.  
2150 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2240 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.  
2259 – private property incident, Belleville Rd.

**Wednesday, Feb. 1:**  
0455 – property damage accident, W. bypass / Michigan Ave.  
0553 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.  
0549 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Edwards  
0627 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Textile  
0627 – property damage accident, Bemis/Savage  
0644 – property damage accident, Michigan / bypass  
0717 – property damage accident, EB/Haggerty  
0733 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./E. Huron River Dr.  
0748 – property damage accident, WB/Belleville  
0821 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd./Beck  
1000 – property damage accident, Belleville/I-94  
1044 – fraud, E. Huron River Dr.  
1122 – private property incident, Van Born Rd.  
1235 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1350 – property damage accident, I-94/rest area  
1505 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.  
1616 – agency assist, W. Columbia Ave.  
1646 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1813 – property damage accident, Haggerty/I-94  
1839 – property damage accident, W. Schooner Dr. / Michigan Ave.  
2030 – hold-up alarm, Belleville Rd.  
2133 – assault & battery, N. Bellridge Dr.  
2201 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2234 – intimidation threat, S. I-94 Service Dr.

**Thursday, Feb. 2:**  
0211 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.  
0836 – harassment call, Belleville Rd.  
1040 – abandoned auto, Michigan/bypass  
1127 – property damage accident, Marina Dr.  
1152 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.  
1232 – suicide or attempt, Nautica Dr.  
1448 – agency assist, McBride  
1637 – assault & battery, Oak Blvd.  
1640 – fraud, Rawsonville Rd.

**Friday, Feb. 3:**  
0218 – noise complaint, Village Green Ln.  
0326 – assault & battery, Westlake  
0458 – vehicle repossession, Independence Ln.  
0627 – property damage accident, E. Sadie Ln.

1110 – private property accident, COSTCO  
1132 – reckless driving, Haggerty/RR tracks  
1434 – disorderly conduct, S. Schooner Dr.  
1508 – property damage accident, Belleville / McDonald’s  
1621 – mental, Elwell Rd.  
1702 – animal bite, Wildbrook Dr.  
1751 – noise complaint, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
1857 – trespassing, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
2048 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.  
2104 – assault & battery, Richard Run  
2207 – disturbance, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2219 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.  
2231 – intimidation threat, Ecorse Rd.  
2246 – suspicious situation, Dellor St.

**Saturday, Feb. 4:**  
0211 – assault & battery, Richard Run  
1042 – intimidation threat, Haggerty Rd.  
1159 – vehicle repossession, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1217 – harassment call, Rawsonville Rd.  
1516 – abandoned auto, Lilac Ln./Harbour Ln.  
1609 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Van Born  
1619 – ATV/ORV complaint, Westlake clubhouse  
1619 – operating while intoxicated, Haggerty Rd. / Ecorse Rd.  
1637 – code enforcement, Sadie Ln.  
1655 – assault & battery, Quirk Rd.  
1735 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1951 – private property accident, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
2000 – harassment call, Parkwood Dr.  
2045 – fight, Haggerty Rd.  
2202 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

Also on this week’s log are 150 traffic stops, 42 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways and bypasses, with 30 at Lakewood shopping center, six at Woodstone, and five within the city of Belleville.

# Belleville Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, Jan. 29:**  
0018 – parking complaint, Carmell St.  
0354 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
0928 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.  
1624 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
1703 – E-911 hang up, South St.  
**Monday, Jan. 30:**  
0102 – traffic hazard, S. Liberty St.  
1033 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.  
1505 – vehicle lockout, Carmell St.  
1756 – suspicious situation, N. Liberty/Third St.  
2330 – narcotics crime, N. Liberty St.

**Tuesday, Jan. 31:**  
0833 – intrusion alarm, San Carlos St.  
0847 – vehicle lock out, Estrada  
1106 – assist fire dept., San Carlos St.  
1258 – assist fire dept., S. Edgemont Ave.  
1428 – assist fire dept., E. Columbia Ave.  
1515 – property damage accident, Main/High  
1553 – fraud all, Clarence St.  
1638 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
2122 – intrusion alarm, E. Columbia Ave.  
2321 – assault & battery, Carmell St.  
2336 – all other traffic, Belle Villa Blvd.

**Wednesday, Feb. 1:**  
0350 – follow up, Sumpter Rd.  
1221 – vehicle lock out, W. Columbia Ave.  
1232 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.  
1358 – property damage, S. Biggs  
1519 – ordinance violation, South St.  
1540 – civil matter, S. Biggs  
1613 – domestic assault, W. Columbia Ave.

**Thursday, Feb. 2:**  
1124 – abandoned auto, E. Waterbury Ct.  
1202 – intrusion alarm, N. Aberdeen Ct.

**Friday, Feb. 3:**  
0405 – suspicious vehicle, Robbe St.  
0852 – P.B.T. alcohol, Main St.  
1637 – property damage accident, Main St. / W. Columbia Ave.  
1731 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
1751 – juvenile complaint, Lakeview  
2003 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.

**Saturday, Feb. 4:**  
1246 – found property, E. Thornhill Ct.  
1543 – property damage accident, Main St. / N. Liberty St.

1548 – property damage accident, Main St. / Huron River Dr.  
2219 – warrant arrest, Main St.  
2341 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.  
Also on this week’s log are 37 traffic stops.

# Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, Jan. 29:**  
0248 – suspicious vehicle, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1014 – civil dispute, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1119 – traffic hazard, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1619 – suspicious incident, Brookview  
1811 – civil dispute, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2110 – animal complaint, Judd/Karr

**Monday, Jan. 30:**  
0022 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Harris/Sumpter  
0122 – alarm, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
0152 – alarm, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
0241 – alarm, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
0755 – suspicious incident, 43000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
0915 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Dunn Rd.  
0935 – well-being check, Nevada  
1001 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1002 – animal complaint, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1010 – larceny, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1110 – neighbor dispute, 20000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
1133 – 911 hang up, Greenmeadow  
1206 – property damage accident, 24000 bl. Elwell  
1509 – citizen assist, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1609 – property damage accident, Bemis/Sumpter  
1701 – property damage accident, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.

1931 – civil dispute, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
**Tuesday, Jan. 31:**  
0548 – suspicious vehicle, 8200 bl. Rawsonville  
1246 – warrant arrest pick up, out of township  
1307 – warrant arrest, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1357 – identity theft, Oregon  
1713 – mental health commitment, 44000 bl. Paris  
1714 – 911 hang up, Carriage Ln.  
2053 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2106 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
2308 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

**Wednesday, Feb. 1:**  
0636 – property damage accident, Judd/Clark  
0640 – property damage accident, Bemis/Savage  
0858 – alarm, 27000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
0936 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Executive Dr.  
1001 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1002 – alarm, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1641 – malicious destruction of property, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

2030 – civil dispute, Rawsonville/Willis  
**Thursday, Feb. 2:**  
0757 – suspicious vehicle, Wilmot/Willis  
0855 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1219 – well-being check, 6000 bl. Oakville Waltz  
1225 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Lohr Rd.  
1454 – suspicious incident, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1525 – larceny, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1538 – reckless driver, 47000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1542 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1628 – warrant arrest pick up, out of township  
2210 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Lohr Rd.  
2227 – death investigation, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.  
2346 – suspicious person, Sumpter/Willow

**Friday, Feb. 3:**  
0629 – property damage accident, Willow / Haggerty  
1247 – assist other agency, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1514 – assault, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.  
1603 – civil dispute, 8200 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.  
1651 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1738 – assist other agency, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1741 – shots fired, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1848 – larceny, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1855 – disorderly person, Virginia  
1955 – alarm, 29000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

**Saturday, Feb. 4:**  
0013 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Arkona / Rawsonville  
0026 – suspicious incident, Carriage Ln.  
0954 – suspicious vehicle, Martinsville/Arkona  
1007 – animal complaint, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1158 – animal complaint, Oakville Waltz/Sumpter  
1215 – traffic hazard, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1248 – citizen assist, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.

1340 – personal injury accident, Oakville Waltz / Clark  
1409 – property damage accident, Bemis / Rawsonville  
1646 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.  
2242 – citizen assist, Rawsonville/Willow  
2317 – reckless driver, Rawsonville/Willis  
Also on this week’s log are six follow-up investigations, 26 miscellaneous details, 132 patrol checks, and 25 traffic stops.

# Arndola Charles Lewis charged in Harbour Club Apt. slaying

Arndola Charles Lewis, 44, was arraigned Feb. 1 at 34<sup>th</sup> District Court on charges of first-degree, premeditated murder, felon in possession of a firearm, and second offense felony firearm.

Lewis, who lives in Harbour Club Apartments in Van Buren Township, is accused of shooting Samer Taha Abukaff, Lewis 37, of Ypsilanti in the back of the head as he was leaving Lewis’ apartment after an altercation.

VBT police were called to the scene in the 48000 block of Denton Road at about 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, and Lewis was immediately arrested.

34<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley arraigned Lewis and set a \$500,000 cash bond. He is lodged in the Wayne County Jail.

Lewis’ probable cause conference will be Feb. 8 at 34<sup>th</sup> District Court and his preliminary exam will be Feb. 22. Detective Ken Toney is the officer in charge of the case.

According to Michigan Department of Corrections records, Lewis’ criminal record includes an attempted robbery while armed charge from November 1999. He also faced an assault with intent to do great bodily harm charge in 2011, followed by two drug possession charges in 2015 in Washtenaw County. He is on probation until Feb. 12, 2018 on the drug charges.

# Daniel Lacey earns Master of Science degree

Daniel Lacey of Belleville was among the 680 students receiving degrees from the University of Dayton, OH, during the 2016 winter commencement ceremony.

He earned a Master of Science in engineering management.

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## League of Women Voters celebrate 1st year in town

Local members of the League of Women Voters – and anyone else interested in the league – will meet at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 23 at Trinity Episcopal Church, 11575 Belleville Road.

The local geographical unit of the non-partisan League of Women Voters, is made up of male and female members from Belleville, Van Buren Township and Sumpter Township.

The purpose of the meeting is to celebrate the first year of the Belleville Geographical Unit and plan for the coming year.

Those at the meeting also will discuss a Government Financial Study. It is a list

of consensus questions and the responses suggested by the local League's study committee. At the meeting, participants will discuss the questions and try to reach consensus within the Belleville unit.

The Belleville unit is part of the Northwest Wayne County League, a group based primarily in Livonia.

At the Belleville group's first meeting in January 2016, about 40 showed up and 26 have become paid members.

For more information on the group, call attorney Barbara Rogalle Miller during business hours at (734) 697-4455.

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20743 GRIFFIN COURT 1.4 AC	\$29,500
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49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES	\$180,000
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VACANT BOG RD 12.83 ACRES	\$129,000
6422 GILMORE 82X165 ALL UTIL	\$15,000
739 SAVAGE PAVED ST 1.02 ACRES	\$35,000
HURON TOWNSHIP	
26129 LEONTINE DOUBLE LOT	\$24,000



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