



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Family grateful for young man who helped twins in accident

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

"We'd like to throw him a dinner. He is our hero," Latoya Slaton said of the young man who helped her 21-year-old twin sons after an accident on the South I-94 Service Drive early March 9.

After learning of a brief mention of the accident in the *Independent*, Slaton called the newspaper to find out who the hero was. She learned he was Michael Anderson, 23, of Swan Creek mobile home community in Ypsilanti Township.

Slaton reports one of her sons, Bryant Smith, suffered bruises and cut legs in the accident, but twin Ryan Smith is paralyzed from the neck down and confined to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

A large prayer circle is praying for Ryan's return to health, Slaton said.

Slaton said her sons, who live in the apartments behind the bowling alley, were on their way to work at Panera Breads on Washtenaw Ave. and pulled out of the apartment complex onto the service drive with Ryan at the wheel.

The car hit a patch of black ice and slid into a mailbox and then into an embankment and then slipped over onto its top, she said. They ended up almost in the parking lot of Diamondback Saloon.

Anderson said he left Belleville Road McDonald's, where he works, at about 5:45 a.m. that morning and had to walk home to McKean Road in Ypsilanti Township, which usually takes 1½ hours.

He said Diamondback is about half way home for him. He remembers walking part way backwards, trying to avoid the bitter winds from the west on that cold morning. He remembers the icy conditions.

He said he saw the twins' car exit the apartment complex because he was walking backward at the time. The car passed him and then he heard the crash. He turned around.

"I got to the driver's side window and knocked on the glass, but there was no movement," Anderson said. "I then went to the other side and tapped on the window. Bryant responded.

"He got himself out," Anderson said.

Bryant told his mother that the car was upside down on its roof and they were hanging from their seatbelts. All the windows on the passenger side were shattered and Bryant got out of his seatbelt and told Ryan he had to get out, too, because he smelled gas.

Ryan was hanging by his seatbelt, too, and he told Bryant that he couldn't feel his arms. Bryant crawled out the window, cutting his legs on the glass.

Then Bryant ran to his brother and got him out of the seatbelt. The two young men untangled him from the wreckage and pulled Ryan out of the car by his legs, LaToya said.

Anderson said they put him next to the car because they didn't want to move him any further. They secured his neck, Anderson said.

At first, when he approached, Anderson was afraid the car would burst into flame because gasoline was everywhere, he said. But, then they felt it was safe to lay Ryan next to the car because the engine was off and they didn't think fire would erupt.

LaToya said Anderson gave Bryant a blanket for Ryan. But Anderson said the person with the blanket actually was a passerby in the bright orange Dodge Caliber that stopped to help. That was a white couple. Then an older black male stopped to help.

After police arrived, Anderson felt unwelcome at the scene and continued the cold walk home, drenched in gasoline.

LaToya said police didn't offer a blanket or anything to Bryant, who also was injured. Bryant told his mother he had to

(continued on page 17)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Last Thursday, Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright gave a presentation on the importance of voting to the fifth-hour government class of Marc Miloser at Belleville High School. Wright also offered them positions as Student Election Inspectors – first for graduation credit and later for cash.

VBT Clerk Wright invites BHS students to be Election Inspectors

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The 11th-grade students in Marc Miloser's fifth-hour government class at Belleville High School were very interested in what Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright had to say last Thursday – especially when he got to the part where they could earn 6 hours of community service credit hours as a volunteer and then \$140 for paid service after that.

Clerk Wright invited them to apply to be Student Election Inspectors, a program he is starting this year that not only gets him help for the upcoming elections, but encourages students to become voters when they get to be 18.

Wright gave the same presentation in three other government classes last week and he said a couple of students came to the township hall for applications after his first presentation.

Miloser told the students to listen to Wright because he is the government they've been studying about.

Wright said he was elected by the people in 2008 and his most important duty as

clerk is to administer elections.

Wright said 17% of the 21,458 registered voters in VBT turned out to vote in the 2010 election and, "Seventeen percent is ridiculous!"

He said just 4% of the 18 year olds voted and he wanted the class' help to increase that number. He said there are absentee ballots that can be used if you can't be there for the regular election.

"We're not going to send the election police out after you," Wright said.

He said the Student Election Inspectors will help set up the polling location, perform tasks to establish a voter's right to vote, and assist any individual who may have difficulty with voting.

Student Election Inspectors will be used in a few other area municipalities, but Wright said it takes extra effort for the clerks and some aren't able to take part in the program.

He foresees the students going down the line of people waiting to vote in this November's Presidential Election to make sure they are in the right precinct. Voters

(continued on page 17)

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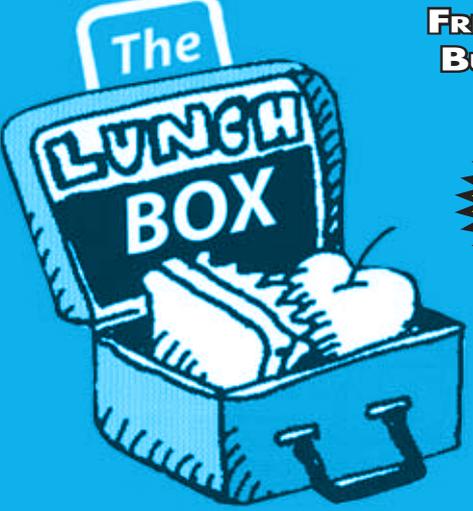
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT Police charge four suspects in armed robbery on Victoria

As of Saturday, March 24, five suspects were located and taken into custody in connection with a Home Invasion/Armed Robbery that occurred in the 6000 block of Victoria in the Wagon Wheel South mobile home park north of Michigan Avenue in Van Buren Township.

Four of the five were 17 year old VBT residents, who were charged and arraigned, according to a news release from VBT Police.

On Thursday, March 22, at 11:11 p.m., a resident/victim called police and reported being robbed by four unknown males who kicked in the front door and held the two residents at gunpoint while rummaging through their home.

The victims stated that the suspects, who were all wearing Halloween masks during the robbery, took a television and other small electronics before leaving.

A security guard told officers that while patrolling through the streets, he noticed a red Chevy Impala slowly driving through the park. The car was occupied by four or five subjects prior to the time the robbery occurred.

Security made contact with this vehicle a short time later near the club house, but it was occupied only by the driver. The driver advised security that he was there to see a friend. Security obtained a license number and this information was broadcast to area departments as a vehicle of interest by police.

At 11:58 p.m. Canton Police located and stopped the red Impala on Belleville Road south of Michigan Ave. and the lone driver was turned over to Van Buren officers for questioning.

After detectives interviewed the driver, four other subjects were implicated and throughout the week end were picked up by police for questioning.

This event appears not to be a random crime and the victims were specifically targeted by the suspects, said Captain Gregory Laurain in the news release. All of the property taken from the home has been recovered. Firearms used by the suspects were seized following search warrants served over the weekend by Van Buren Detectives and the Special Investigative Unit team.

The four apprehended were charged by the Wayne County Prosecutors Office with:

- Brandon Fair -- 2 counts of Robbery Armed (any term up to life), Home Invasion 1st Degree (20 years), Possession of Marijuana (1 year), and Felony Firearms (2 year);
- Renjamin Scribble-Elmore: 2 counts

of Robbery Armed (any term up to life), Home Invasion 1st Degree (20 years), and Possession of Marijuana (1 year);

- Joseph Marsh: 2 counts of Robbery Armed (any term up to life), Home Invasion 1st Degree (20 years), Possession of Marijuana (1 year), and Felony Firearms (2 years); and

- Jaleel Booker: 2 counts of Robbery Armed (any term up to life), Home Invasion 1st Degree (20 years), and Possession of Marijuana (1 year).

All have been arraigned on the charges and all have a \$500,000 or 10% bond. Preliminary Exam is scheduled for April 2 at 34th District Court in Romulus.

There is no indication as of now that this incident is connected with previous home invasions that occurred in the Denton subdivision, Captain Laurain said.

Nephew arrested for stealing items from his uncle's garage in Denton

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The neighbors in the Denton community thought police finally had apprehended the person who has been breaking into their homes, but the suspect turned out to be someone else.

Darryl Edward Vanover-Pullen, 29, of Belleville was charged with Home Invasion, 2nd degree, and larceny in a building after neighbors spotted him taking stuff from his uncle's garage on Denton Road around lunchtime on March 19.

Neighbors, who had been advised by Van Buren Township Police at a meeting just days earlier, to call police if anything looked suspicious, called police.

Vanover-Pullen was apprehended within minutes at the Michigan Avenue-Denton Road turnaround. Neighbors said he locked the garage when he left. There is no evidence that he entered the house.

VBT Police Captain Gregory Laurain said Vanover-Pullen was arraigned at 34th District Court and was being held on a \$10,000 cash bond. His pre-exam was set for March 26 and his exam for March 28, Laurain said.

Police say Vanover-Pullen walked into his uncle's unlocked garage on Denton Road to pick up pop bottles, which he had been allowed to do in the past.

But this time, he decided to take his uncle's new Mercury boat motor and a chain saw.

Vigilant neighbors called the homeowner at work to ask if anyone had permission to be in his garage after they heard the



Photo courtesy Keystone Academy

The Safety Patrol team for Keystone Academy in Sumpter Township paused for a group photo. In front, from left, are Hope Priest, Jack Gregg, Jaiden Robbins, Matthew Mrocca, and Emma MacLeod. In the second row are Emi Iwao, Houston Patton, Faith Spitznagel, Noah Copeland, Amanda Green, Ivy Eifert, and Brooke Sperr. In the back row are Trevor Beard, Tess Eifert, Brylee Bryant, Hannah Priest, Nick Eller, Janay Stuckey, Paige Spitznagel, Erik Thomas, and AJ Barker.

intruder start up the man's Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Then, they called police, who they said must have been just around the corner since they arrived "in a minute" and then apprehended the man a short distance away. The motor and the saw were in the back of his pickup truck under the pop bottles.

The uncle pressed charges.

"We have interviewed him and do not believe he is responsible for any of the other break-ins in the Denton Sub," Laurain said. "We are still actively working the home invasions within Denton Sub."

Laurain said police had a town hall informational meeting the morning of March 17 with Denton Sub residents to answer questions. He said more than 50 people showed up, which he considered a very good turnout.

One of the break-in victims told the *Independent* her break-in near the Denton Sub was considered #38 of the recent string of break-ins and more have occurred since then.

Belleville Police Cpl. Kris Faull assaulted at BHS

Belleville Police Cpl. Kris Faull was breaking up a fight at Belleville High School about 12:57 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, when she was assaulted by a student.

Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor said the assault aggravated an old injury for Cpl. Faull.

Although a charge of Assault on a Police Officer was sought, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office authorized a charge of "Attempted Resisting Arrest."

Belleville Police investigate forced entry in Victoria Commons

At about 11:15 p.m. Sunday, April 25, Belleville Police were called to investigate the report of suspicious persons in Victorian Commons subdivision.

Chief Gene Taylor said Officers John Kapchus and David Brooks initially responded and found there had been a forced entry home invasion in one of the residences.

There was a group of male subjects and police detained one from the Romulus area, who had to be released pending issuance of a warrant from the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Chief Taylor said.

Also taking part in the investigation were Officer Matthew Vandeweghe, Cpl. Todd Schrecengost, and Van Buren Township Officer Michael Long.

On Tuesday, Chief Taylor said the case is still open and the investigation continues.

Belleville sirens: Three minutes means take cover, one min. all clear

Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor said some residents of the city are questioning what it means when the emergency siren sounds. Chief Taylor said a three-minute continuous sound is a warning to take cover. A one-minute continuous cycle means all-clear. The siren is to warn the public of severe weather. In the past it also was to warn against the Russians, Chief Taylor said.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Sumpter Twp. sets meeting to discuss flood insurance

Sumpter Township offices are getting a lot of calls about FEMA's mandate that all residents in the newly delineated flood plain in Sumpter get flood insurance.

One family said their insurance was \$1,750 a year and "that's ridiculous" since they live on a hill and never flood.

People don't know what to do, so Sumpter Township officials have set a meeting for 6 p.m., Thursday, April 5, at the township hall to try to answer questions and make some plans to help.

The township's newly hired consultants, Hennessey Engineers, will be there to offer expertise.

Sumpter Deputy Supervisor Craig Moody suggests people who have concerns call the township hall before the meeting and give their names and addresses, so township officials can look up the properties on the new flood plain map for study.

Property owners have 45 days to request an extension, which is not hard to get, Moody said. If there is no extension, after 45 days the bank will pick up the insurance and add it to the mortgage, he said.

"They have nobody to turn to," Moody said at Tuesday's regular township board meeting. Although the township has no money to help with this, people can band together to get surveys to fight the new maps, which they believe are in error. The more residents, the less expensive.

It's hard to fight federal mandates, but Sumpter residents are not afraid to try.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

On Friday, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Michael Sapala ruled that County Executive Robert Ficano can't rescind promised severance payments worth as much as \$850,000 to a group of county appointees.

He ruled in the suit brought by six appointees, including Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley, whose full-time job is with the county.

The ruling is expected to apply to all 15 employees who agreed to defer 2011 early buyout plans designed to cut county payroll. The payouts promised up to 24 weeks pay and enhanced pensions to key Ficano aides.

The six filed a law suit in February after Ficano canceled their expected severances because of a big to-do over Turkia Mullin's \$200,000 severance.

Ed Plato, the attorney for the six appointees who sued, called it a fair decision and said many of his clients now expect to retire.

On Saturday morning, a stolen police car was apprehended on Eastbound I-94 near Haggerty by a group of officers from Pittsfield Township, Michigan State Police, and Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department.

Ann Arbor.com reported that a 26-year-old man jumped in the parked car at about 6:30 a.m. and took off from a gas station in the 4900 block of Washtenaw.

The dispatcher tracked the car and so the officers knew where he was. When they found him he pulled over and was arrested without further incident. There was no damage to the police car.

Ann Arbor.com reported that a 26-year-old man jumped in the parked car at about 6:30 a.m. and took off from a gas station in the 4900 block of Washtenaw.



On Friday, the skies over Belleville were smoky due to the burning of just-cut, green trees at the tree farm south of Hull at Martinsville. The new owners of the property to the north had used huge machinery to pull up and shred the trees. To the south, they burned the trees.

We had several calls about the fire. Police say it is an agricultural burn that is allowed.

I drove over after work to look at the smoldering trees. I know the new owners can do whatever they want to the properties, within reason, but it still was sad to see the tree farm go like this.

Joe Balowski of Flat Rock had been cleared by the Civil Service Commission in Belleville for a part-time position on the police department and he was about to be hired.

But, Chief Gene Taylor reported on Monday that Balowski, who was looking for a full-time job, was hired by another department. Balowski worked part time for the Lower Huron Metroparks, but was looking for a full-time entry position in a municipal police department. He got it, but not here.

As of Tuesday morning, the following people have filed as Democrat candidates for office in the Van Buren Township

August primary: Denise Partridge for trustee, Karen LaMothe for clerk, Timothy Szetela for supervisor, Sharry Budd for treasurer, and Leon Wright for clerk.

Their petitions have been validated and their affidavits of identity filed, so they are valid candidates for the primary election, unless they withdraw, said Elections Clerk Joanne Montgomery.

The final date to file for the election is May 15, so we're sure to see a lot more petitions turned in. Some of the election computers had been down for redistricting, so candidates who wanted to file last week were asked to wait.

In Sumpter Township, Deputy Clerk Esther Hurst said John Morgan has filed for treasurer, Johnny Vawters for supervisor, and Craig Moody for precinct delegate - so far. Their petitions have been checked so they are valid candidates, Esther said.

The reason there are no faces of students in the picture of the BHS class on page one is because Jackie Floro in the principal's office told me I couldn't take pictures of their faces because of privacy laws. She said the backs of their heads was OK with her.



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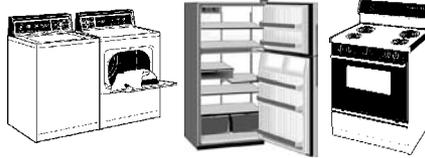
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Letters

Do you want to save skate park? Call me

To the Editor:

Late in the Fall of 2011, I attended a City of Belleville Council meeting at which time the skate park was discussed. I volunteered to meet with any individuals interested in the skate park to help determine what interest there may be in the continuance of the skate park as a public facility.

The city council has been advised that there is way too much destruction and costs being incurred by the destruction and misuse of the park.

I am asking everyone who may be interested in the skate park and would not want to see it be removed from the city park to please get in touch with me.

At the meeting in the Fall, I told the city council that I would meet with interested people and report back to the council with a possible solution to the problems associated with the park.

Any interested persons can call me at my work number which is 734-697-9376. Last week the paper reiterated the concerns of city council and I would want to report back timely with a positive plan of action for their consideration.

Sincerely,
Kay Atkins
Former Mayor Pro Tem, 1997-2005

P.S. I'm making this effort "for the kids" who want to keep the skate park in operation.

gone from city coffers. It is sad to see the "for lease or for rent" signs go up. As a well known businessman often states "It's not personal, it's just business." (paraphrased)

This is just another sign of why we must support the small businesses -- they help keep the community together. Sidebar: It's nice to walk into a business and the owners know your name!

It is important to shop your "block". How long will empty buildings stand unused, entrepreneurs with lost dreams, graduating students wondering what their futures may hold -- it is indeed a sad day in town.

Marian Caldwell
Van Buren Township

Fish Fry set Friday at Trinity Episcopal

To the Editor:

Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 11575 Belleville Road, (across from Burger King) would like to announce that their annual Fish Fry will take place on Friday, March 30, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets can be bought at the door for \$9 per person which includes your choice of baked potato or french fries, cole slaw, bread, sides of spaghetti, a beverage, dessert and coffee.

This is a fund raiser for the youth group. This is a great cause and we could use as much community support as possible. If you need further information, contact 734-699-3361.

So, come join us for this terrific community dinner. Thank you in advance for your support.

Mrs. Reggie Miller
Trinity Episcopal Church

Indeed a sad day in town: Foodland closes

To the Editor:

As the weekend started, I wanted to buy some chicken wings to cook, but to my dismay the local Foodland grocer in Belle Plaza was shutting its doors --they had lost their lease! The leasing giant had awakened and devoured another small business.

The convenience of running down to the local store is now but a memory. More jobs lost, more taxes for the community are

Partner with Atchinson Ford to fight cancer

To the Editor:

Atchinson Ford dealership has stepped up to the plate once again with the Atchinson Ford Fighters. Amy Quinn (VBT) and Medina Atchinson (VBT) are heading this team for the relay for life event that will be hosted at Quirk Park on May 5, which

(continued on page 6)

"Another good thing about being poor is that when you are seventy your children will not have you declared legally insane in order to gain control of your estate."

--Woody Allen



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Belleville Area Independent

More Letters

(continued on page 5)

is located on Quirk Rd. just south of Tyler Rd. The Atchinson Ford Fighters partnered with the American Cancer Society to raise contributions that will be used to research cures for cancer.

As a community advocate of Van Buren Township I am asking that we partner with Atchinson Ford and their effort in fighting cancer. You can contribute to this event by going to http://main.acevents.org/site/TR?team_id=1146785&pg=team&fr_i_d=37839&fl=en_US&et=le8YGnanS2IBoRTrA_V-Nw&stafid=842100 or attending the event which will be hosted May 5, start time 10 a.m.

Atchinson Ford is located at 9800 Belleville Rd. They have given many contributions to our community. Some of the recent accomplishments include the contribution to the Van Buren Public School Education Foundation through the Frozen Leprechaun Fundraiser that was hosted by the Belleville Lake Ski Club March 17. Also, they have contributed to Viking Velocity, the Boys and Girls Club, and Drive One 4UR School, in which \$5,000 was given to our school district.

Let's have some healthy fun with one of our local anchor businesses May 5 and walk for a cause. Please continue to patronize our local businesses that contribute to our health, youth, and organizations.

Thank you,
Adam Byrd
Community Advocate &
Van Buren Township Resident

President agrees to build END of pipeline

To the Editor:

This past week with all this wisdom of the Biblical King Solomon (He was the guy that offered to cut a baby in half to settle a dispute.) the President thinks he has solved his reelection problem with the Keystone Pipeline that he opposes.

He has agreed to build the END (making those nutty conservatives happy) and NOT building where it starts (making those wacky environmentalists happy). Sort of like building a bridge to nowhere, only backwards - Looking forward to his reelection, he has now decided to run against himself.

Isn't it great to live in America where insanity is now considered a virtue by some?

Mickey Widener
Van Buren Township

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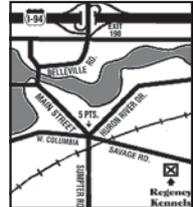
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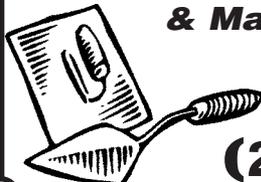
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Obituaries



RICHARD F. PUBLISKI

(August 9, 1926 - March 20, 2012)
 Richard Frank Publiski, age 85, of Belleville, MI, passed away Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at Heartland Healthcare Center, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born August 9, 1926 in Detroit, MI, son of the late Frank & Nellie (Rokita) Publiski. Richard proudly served his country in the U.S. Army in WWII. He loved staying at his cabin up north. He enjoyed the outdoors: hunting, fishing, gardening and wood-working. Richard is survived by his loving wife Ilene Mae (Smith) Publiski; a son Paul (Marilyn) Publiski of Ypsilanti; two grandchildren Becky (Mike) Mourgas and Brian (Anna) Publiski; four great-grandchildren Kaitlyn, Tyler, William and Addison; and also numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Patricia, in 2001; five brothers Stan, Edward, Henry, Frank & Joseph; and also, a sister Genevieve. Visitation was 3-5 PM Friday, March 23, 2012 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, with a 5:00 PM Funeral Service. Pastor Gordon Moore officiated. Interment was in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to Heartland Hospice, and would be greatly appreciated by the family. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a story for his family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



JAMES B. FRUIT

(August 30, 1929 - March 23, 2012)
 James Bernard Fruit, age 82, of Belleville, MI, passed away Friday, March 23, 2012 at Heartland Health Care Center, Canton, MI. He was born August 30, 1929 in Detroit, MI, son of the late Bernard Dale & Myra Lucille (Wood) Fruit.

Jim proudly served his country in the U.S. Army from July 25, 1951 until July 7, 1953. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity at Carroll College, Waukesha, Wisconsin. He also attended the University of Michigan and received his Master's degree in Psychology from Wayne State University. He worked at several hospitals in Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor, before working for a private practice in Southfield, MI, where he retired. He was a member of the former Archery Club and the Poker Club, both in Belleville, and numerous other professional and aggregate clubs.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of nearly 56 years, Judith L. (Payne) Fruit; daughter Nancy (Bill Poulin) Fruit of Clearwater, FL; son James C. B. Fruit of Belleville; granddaughter Lauren J. Poulin of Clearwater, FL; and cousin Richard E. Wood of White Lake, MI. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A private family celebration will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army or the Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue and would be appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Edgar L. Quinley



EDGAR L. QUINLEY

(January 22, 1921 - March 25, 2012)
 Edgar Lee Quinley, age 91, of Dearborn, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI, passed away Sunday, March 25, 2012 at his home. He was born January 22, 1921 in Corbin, Kentucky, son of the late Duff Kendall & Maude Bell (Bergen) Quinley.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army and was a mechanic in the 10th Armor Division stationed at the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of the VFW, the Belleville Masonic Lodge, various Camping groups and several Square Dancing Clubs. He retired from Ford Motor Company after 42 years of loyal service, retiring from Dearborn Engineering. He enjoyed playing baseball, hunting and fishing. For 25 years, Ed and Pauline enjoyed winters at Upriver Campground Resort in North Fort Myers, Florida, where they had many special friends.

Survived by daughter Faye (Larry) Traskos of Belleville, son Ken (Rosemary) Quinley of Sheperd, Montana, two granddaughters Tracy & Wendy Traskos, two sisters Billie Firby of Southfield, MI and Charley Samhat of Redford, MI, also several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Pauline (Gambrell) Quinley on January 28, 2012, also three sisters Edith Blommart, Stella Roark and Merita Williams.

Visitation was 2-8 PM Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville with a 6 PM Funeral Service, followed by Military Honors. Deacon Peter Cornell officiated.

Memorial contributions may be made to Belleville Masonic Temple or VFW Post #4434 and would be appreciated.

Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

EDWIN 'EDDIE' SPENCER

(January 19, 1944 - March 19, 2012)
 Age 68 of Belleville. Survived by wife Linda; 3 sons, Paul, Jeff and Perry; 4 grandchildren; brother Kenneth; sister Corrina Patrick. Services were March 23 at David C. Brown Funeral Home. Interment in Denton Cemetery.

DREXEL R. SIMON

(December 21, 1926 - March 21, 2012)
 Age 85, of Belleville. Served in US Navy and was mail carrier in Belleville for many years. Survived by daughter Susan (Gary) Bremer, 2 granddaughters, and a sister Jackie Czinski. David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

JAMES EDWARD CHAMBERLAIN

Age 79, passed away March 21, 2012. He was born in Detroit, to the late William H and Virginia (Henry) Chamberlain. Service held at David C. Brown Funeral Home, March 26, 2012; interment was at Cadillac Memorial Gardens, Westland.

More Letters

Keri passed away; thanks for caring

To the Editor:

I lost my niece to Juvenile Huntington's Disease two weeks ago. Back in 2009, I sent a request out to the public through your newspaper in a Letter to the Editor titled "Cards for Keri" asking the public to send her cards and letters to brighten her spirit.

Well, word spread fast and soon she was receiving cards and letters from all over. Up until the day she passed away, Keri received cards and letters from all over the country.

Keri absolutely loved getting those cards and letters and she would get a big smile on her face whenever we would open them and read them to her. Her room was covered at one time from floor to ceiling in those cards.

This community reached out to a young lady who was suffering from a terminal illness and sent her the message that she was prayed over and that others were thinking of her.

Keri said, "Aunt Reg, I feel like a rock star." I am so grateful for that, I can't thank you all enough for reaching out.

A special thank you goes out to Kelly Wenzel and family for their constant support. I am so blessed to live in this community with so many wonderful and caring individuals.

Mrs. Regina "Reggie" Miller
 Van Buren Township Resident

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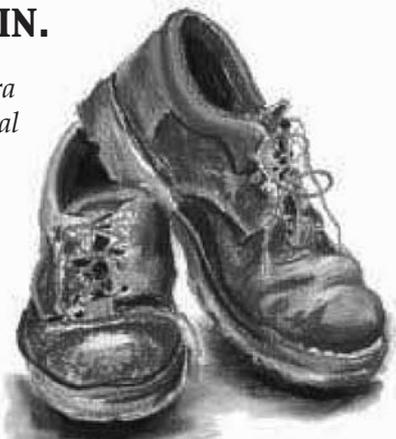
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More Letters

Donate used baseball, softball equipment

To the Editor:

Tuesday, March 20, was the first day of Spring so, hopefully, the nice weather we have all experienced the last couple of days is here to stay with maybe just a couple of cooler days.

The arrival of Spring signifies many things -- flowers blooming, robins laying their eggs, and Tiger baseball starting, as well as Belleville Area Little League.

With opening day on May 5, the baseball fields on Beck Road will soon be buzzing with the sounds of our community children playing America's favorite pastime: Baseball.

I'm asking the wonderful citizens of the community to help out by simply donating any gently used baseball gloves and/or baseball cleats.

I asked for the same help when I was actively involved with soccer and the response was overwhelming. A lot of families in our community are struggling to keep their homes or even find jobs, so our way of helping can be giving them equipment so their son or daughter will have the right equipment that they will need to play.

It is well known that the children who actively participate in sports grow up healthier and do better in school. Please help by donating any of your gently used baseball or softball equipment.

You can drop off any donations at my home at 42233 McBride Avenue, which is in the Haggerty Sub. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your generosity in the past and upcoming years.

Thank you,
Marc Littleson
B.A.L.L.

City Skate Park offers activity for young people

To the Editor:

In the late 1970s and early '80s, when I was growing up in Virginia, I was a semi-professional skateboarder and later, bicycle trick rider.

So, you can see, when the anti-fun police, make comments of the intent to tear down the Belleville Skate Park, I am torn.

I have been at the park several times, with my bicycle. Now keep in mind, I am a 50-year-old man. I watched and enjoyed the riding skills of many people there. Most of the riders, both skate and bike, are young adults, many married and even with their kids.

But, like what even Steven Jones said last week, at the city council meeting, the park is old and doesn't challenge the riders; the ramps and area, is too cramped and small for anyone to really ride; plus being totally out of sight and mind, makes it logical for riders to "add" other dimensions (pallets, etc.) to make a better challenge.

As for people riding bikes on it, well, it comes from three reasons:

1. The natural rate of progression -- it usually goes from riding skates, or skate boards to bikes; like myself, it hurts to try and bend down and ride the small ramps, but on a bike, even a 26" one, I can easily adapt;

2. The park is so out of the way, it comes natural, when you ride a bike to the park, you also use it to perform tricks; and

3. Since the Fun Nazis last year banned bike and skateboard riding on the Main Street sidewalks, the guys and girls run out of places to release their energy and talents.

I agree with Keith Boc: the park has to go. Not just for the reasons he and the city feels about it, but mark my words, you will be taking away a very important activity site for young people, without access to cars.

Do we really need any more reasons for our kids to have less than nothing to enjoy here in Belleville? I understand the demographic of this town is graying, but we are driving away any reason for young people to stay active within the confines of the town.

Bob Balderston
Belleville

Correction:

Typo increased Mary Beagan's school salary

Mary Beagan's salary for 2011 should have been listed as \$70,750 in last week's printed report on salaries of employees in the Van Buren Public Schools.

A typographical error gave her an increase of \$9,000. Her salary of \$70,750 was printed as \$79,750. We apologize for the error.

— Rosemary Otzman, editor

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PET RESORT, 50425 Bemis Rd., BELLEVILLE, Wed., April 12th, 5-8 p.m.
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Independent photo by Bob Mytych

More than 40 people attended the grand-opening, ribbon-cutting ceremony last Thursday afternoon at A Design Line Embroidery on Belleville Road, across from MacDonald's. Owner Janet Manley welcomed the Belleville Chamber of Commerce members, local government officials, and many other supporters.



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Former Lakeside Jeweler owner Mike Colletta may not have his store on Main Street anymore but he does keep an office here in town where he buys diamonds, gold and other precious metals. To get the highest price around on your unwanted scrap gold and other jewelry, call for an appointment at **(734) 697-9110**.

Sumpter Township Parks & Rec will be holding an **Easter Egg Hunt** this Saturday, March 31, at noon at **Graham Park** on Sumpter Road. The event is free and will feature egg hunts in different age groups. Call **(734) 461-6201**.

Flop E. Bunny will greet children with candy and free photos on Saturday, April 7, beginning at 12 noon at Victory Park. Easter Candy hunts will take place in various age groups. Children are asked to bring their own Easter baskets to fill. The free event is sponsored by the **Belleville Central Business Community**.

With Easter Sunday around the corner, area restaurants are gearing up with their fancy fixin's. The **Belleville Charhouse** will offer **Sunday Brunch** on April 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The menu will feature French toast, egg specialties, waffles, corned beef hash, bacon, sausage, hash browns, spiral sliced ham, roast leg of lamb, garden vegetables, and assorted desserts. Cost is \$12.95 per person. For reservations, call **(734) 699-9959**.

The **Bayou Grill** will present their Easter Brunch, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring made-to-order omelets, waffles, biscuits, ham, mashed potatoes, corn, catfish, fried chicken, and a salad and fruit bar. The cost is \$9.99 for adults, \$4.99 for children under 10. Reservations are recommended. Call **(734) 697-2300**.

If you need a morning fix of sliced ham on fresh bread on the go Easter Sunday, the **Lunch Box** on Main Street will pile it high for you.

her upcoming participation in the **Miss Michigan** competition to be held this summer in Muskegon. Tickets for "**An Evening with Elyse**" are \$10 each and will feature a concert, coffee and desserts, all getting under way at 7 p.m. at the Bethany Ministry Center at 810 E. Huron River Drive in Belleville. Call **(313) 530-5989** or **(734) 968-8995**.

Former Belleville resident **Dan Martin** returns to Belleville next week with his new book, titled "**Covenant**", his first novel. Several years in the making, Martin teamed up with Energion Publishing in Florida and the book went to print two weeks ago. Dan worked here at the *Independent* many years ago and he can't wait to come home. He will be holding several book signings in the area, the first taking place at the **Belleville Charhouse** on Thursday, April 5 at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Tony Koenig Outdoors is a local professional landscape designer with more than 25 years of experience in everything from ponds and waterfalls to arbors and brick retaining walls. Licensed and insured, TKO offers discounts to seniors, military and public safety personnel, too. Call **(734) 732-0679**.

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

Annual Van Buren Twp. Drive-In Dog Clinic set Saturday, May 12

The annual Van Buren Township Drive-In Dog Clinic will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 12, at the Water/Sewer Building, 46425 Tyler Road.

Participants are advised to follow the signs from Tyler Road near the township hall.

Dr. Gerald Graf and his staff from the Belleville Animal Hospital will be on site to administer all vaccines.

A one-year rabies vaccination will be \$16; one-year distemper vaccination, \$28; one-year dog license, \$5; and senior citizen cost for dog license, \$2.50.

For more information, call the VBT Treasurer's office at 699-8903.

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DTE pays Sumpter Twp. resident \$854.55 for items ruined by surge

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Perry MacKall of Sumpter Township wanted DTE Energy to pay for his electrical items ruined by power surges last summer.

While DTE claimed the damage was an act of God from a catastrophic storm, MacKall claimed it was negligence.

On March 12, MacKall finally received a check from DTE for \$854.55, which reimbursed him for two sump pumps, three telephones, an answering machine, and his favorite, programmable coffee maker.

The check was signed by Robin Marko-Harris, claims representative at the Mt. Clemens Service Center.

Actually, the value of the items amounted to \$729.55, but court and other costs were added on.

MacKall said some people are afraid to fight city hall, but he said if you persevere and you are in the right, you can win. He said some of his neighbors, who also suffered losses from the same power surges, are afraid to confront DTE.

There were others with damaged electrical items in Sumpter last July, since he was told by Ace Hardware that it sold out of sump pumps the week of July 30.

Marko-Harris said she investigated MacKall's complaint and denied the claim in a Nov. 16 letter, stating the company denied negligence.

She said her investigation showed that on July 17 a catastrophic storm with strong winds damaged Detroit Edison overhead equipment resulting in over 191,000 customers with power problems. On July 24 tree interference caused equipment damage.

She continued that on July 27, a second storm again damaged overhead equipment resulting in over 74,000 outages. Due to a cable failure at the substation from the excess load on the circuits, a portable substation was brought in which was then struck by lightning.

Since DTE refused to accept responsibility, MacKall took the matter to small claims court, at 34th District Court in Romulus. A mediation session was held Jan. 3.

On Feb. 13, DTE failed to appear at a court session and so it lost by default. (MacKall said the date was set at the arbitration hearing and everyone knew when the next session was.)

Marko-Harris then said the paperwork on the court appearance had been sent to the wrong office, so she entered a motion to have the default judgment set aside.

On March 5, 34th District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green heard testimony on the motion to set aside and denied the motion.

DTE had to pay up.

MacKall said one of his pieces of evidence was an official affidavit, with blue ribbon and gold seal affixed, from the U.S. Department of Commerce Records Custodian at the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, NC.

The document showed DTE had misrepresented the storms that were either non-existent or very mild on the dates in question.

Wind gusts up to 10 mph, as shown by the official records, are hardly catastrophic in nature, MacKall pointed out.

He now encourages others who have lost electrical equipment due to power surges to file complaints against DTE and they could be reimbursed. He said all you have to do is prove negligence.

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Linda Combs throws hat in the ring for Van Buren Twp. Supervisor

Linda H. Combs announces she is seeking the office of Van Buren Township Supervisor on the Democratic ticket in the 2012 election.

Combs' professional career includes 18 years with Van Buren Township, first as Senior Center Specialist, then 15 years as Senior Center Director. During that time she served as the VBT delegate to the Area Agency on Aging 1-C The Senior Alliance, received Senior Director Certification in 2000 through the Michigan Association of Senior Centers, (MASC), held various offices on the MASC Executive Board, including President, served with other senior advocacy professionals on the Steering Committee for Older Michiganians Day, and was the founding President of the Western Wayne County Senior Olympics.

She earned an Associate in Commerce degree from Henry Ford Community College in 1988.

Her press release states that she is well-respected by those she has served and by colleagues at the local, county, state and federal levels.

"My goal is to bring Van Buren Township back to an ethical, respected community in which residents, employees, and business partners are treated with courtesy, respect, and fairness.



"I will work with the other six board members to ensure that all viewpoints are taken into consideration in making the important decisions facing our community.

"The position of supervisor is that of leadership and a unified board is imperative to the success and ability of the township to attract businesses that will provide jobs and future revenue."

Combs, 63, and her husband Oakie, have resided in the township for 22 years. They have been married for 41 years and have two daughters and almost 9 grandchildren, with the newest addition due in September.

Her news release said people may contact her for further information at (734) 740-6853, e-mail at lhcombs81@gmail.com or by regular mail at P.O. Box 1861, Belleville, MI 48112.

Huron Twp. Supervisor Elke Doom honored with Harvard program

Huron Township Supervisor Elke Doom has been named a Taubman Fellow and will attend the prestigious program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University this summer.

Grosse Pointe Park Councilman Daniel Grano also has been named to attend this summer's program.

Administered through the Southeastern Mich-



igan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), The Taubman Company's Fellowship for Executive Excellence provides local public officials with demonstrated leadership and opportunity to improve their management skills and broaden their awareness of effective approaches to public sector problems.

Since 1991, The Taubman Company has sponsored the fellowship and underscored its support for the development of effective leaders in local government in the Southeast Michigan region.

Other area leaders selected for the program in the past included Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy, Detroit Council President Charles Pugh, Detroit Councilman Gary Brown, and Wayne County Sheriff Bennie Napoleon.

Elke Doom has been Supervisor of Huron Charter Township, located in southwestern Wayne County adjoining Sumpter Township, since 2008. She oversees the daily operations of the township, including a \$7 million budget and 49 full-time employees.

As with most communities, Doom's major challenge is to maintain a high level of service with ever-shrinking financial resources. As a result of several strategies to keep the fund balance strong, the township has saved more than \$1.1 million since Doom took office.

Doom also notes a shared service agreement to provide dispatch services to neighboring Sumpter Township that resulted in considerable savings for them and the opportunity for Huron Township to hire additional employees.

"It has been extremely rewarding to develop and implement strategies that maximize resources while keeping services high," Doom said.

Daniel Grano has been a Grosse Pointe Park councilman since 2005, serving a city of approximately 12,000 people and a budget of \$16 million.

The award provides about \$11,450 for each fellowship that covers tuition, housing, curriculum materials, and most meals. It does not cover travel to and from Boston.

The classes at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government are in two sessions, June 4-22 and July 9-27.

Easter is Sunday April 8th

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School Board approves more furnishings, equipment for new BHS

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At Monday's 32-minute meeting, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education unanimously approved purchase of \$245,193.38 worth of additional fixtures, furnishings, and equipment for the new Belleville High School complex that will open in the fall.

Paul Wills of Plante Moran CRESA said this is Phase II in the furniture bids and includes items for athletics, cafeteria tables, concessions equipment, appliances, maintenance items, and a mower – all paid with bond funds.

Three categories will be rebid because there were no bids or only partial bids, Wills said.

Before a scheduled disciplinary hearing on March 29, the school board will take another tour through the new high school to inspect some of the furniture that is already in place.

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

- Heard a presentation by Nelson O'Bryan, Committee Chairman/Director of American Legion Boys State, who described the 77-year-old program that gives boys, between their junior and senior years, an experience in government that influences them the rest of their lives. The program is now based at Northwood University in Midland. Anyone

can sponsor a student at a cost of \$310 for the week, which covers room, board, and education in government. He said Hawaii is the only state that doesn't run a Boys State program. Last year almost 20,000 graduated from Boys State. O'Bryan said one of the graduates was inspired to run for Mayor of Hillsdale and won, becoming the youngest mayor in the state at age 18. He said their parents drop off a boy at the beginning of the session and pick up a young man. "They change. They mature," he explained. School Board President Martha Toth asked about the Girls State program, which is run at MSU. Toth said she graduated from Girls State in Maryland which might have led her to run for school board here. For more information on Boys State see www.michiganlegion.org or O'Bryan at home, 734-482-1920;

- Approved the request of the Van Buren Township Recreation Department to hire a school bus at the established rate (estimated at \$350) for an Aug. 31 trip to Comerica Park to see the Detroit Tigers play;

- Approved the second reading and adoption of a policy on Prohibitive Subjects of Bargaining to comply with new state laws. The superintendent now will be able to draft procedures to guide employees through the change, which removes certain things from collective bargaining contracts, including discipline, demotion and discharge of certified staff, staff evaluation, layoff and recall, and teacher placement;

- Approved the second reading and adoption of a Mi-Access Policy on

alternate assessments for social studies for high school special education students, as required by new state laws;

- Approved the minutes of three disciplinary hearings. The March 14 hearing resulted in the suspension of a student for the rest of the school year for bringing a weapon or look-alike weapon to BHS; the March 20 hearing resulted in suspension of two North Middle School students – one for 180 school days and one for the remainder of the school year -- for violating the policy on weapons or look-alike weapons; and the March 21 hearing resulted in the suspension of a BHS student for 180 school days for violating the code of conduct and also expulsion of a North Middle School student for the remainder of the school year for continual disruptions/

referrals;

- Approved the retirement of teacher Craig Perry of South Middle School after 26 years of service;

- Approved the retirement of Debra Griffin as lunchroom supervisor at Savage after six years of service, and request for termination for personal reasons of Amy Henry as a food service worker after one year;

- Announced a special meeting will be held April 16 to consider bids for the BHS move; upgrades to the music wing and auditorium toilet room; a discussion on the proposed latchkey program, and a discussion on board policies. The next regular meeting will be April 23; and

- Went into executive session to consider negotiations and an update on pending litigation.

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School Board Trustee Scott Russell awarded fellowship to MPLP

Scott Russell of Van Buren Township, a trustee on the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, has been awarded a fellowship to attend the Michigan Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University.



Scott Russell, 43, works in management at J.D. Power and Associates, specializing in automotive finance analytics.

He is among the 24 emerging leaders in the state selected for the 2012 program, administered by the MSU Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, which is a part of the College of Social Science.

The 2012 class was announced on Friday, following the celebration of the graduation of the class of 2011. Graduation was marked in annual fundraising events in Livonia and Grand Rapids featuring Washington Post columnist Eugene Robinson and former White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer.

Douglas B. Roberts, Ph.D., director of MSU's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, said the leadership program the institute administers is considered one of the nation's foremost political fellowships.

"These men and women will join the more than 500 leaders who are MPLP graduates," he said. "These graduates are now serving on school boards, in township offices, city and county positions and in the Michigan House of Representatives.

MPLP Fellows are competitively selected from candidates from all professions and from all over Michigan. Fellows are named each winter from among candidates, who are welcome to express an interest in the program at any time during the year.

"Once again, Michigan is fortunate to have a diverse and talented pool of political leaders who have applied to the Michigan Political Leadership Program and demonstrated a yearning for training on bipartisan, ethical, and policy-focused political training," said MPLP Co-Director Steve Tobocman.

"Our new Fellows represent emerging talent throughout Michigan," said MPLP Co-Director Anne Mervenne. "Their

training will introduce them to experienced leaders at the highest levels in the state, to new concepts that will help them build skills and campaigns, and lead each one of them to extraordinary relationships with 23 other talented men and women."

Russell earned a bachelor of science degree from MSU before joining J.D. Power and Associates. He is married to Mendie and they have two daughters.

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Daniel Martin to have two book signings in Belleville for 'Covenant'

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Daniel Martin, former advertising manager for the *Independent*, is back from Florida for two book signings in Belleville for his newly released novel "Covenant".

This is his first book and it was released March 19 by Energion Publications in Gonzalez, FL. Many of the scenes in the book are set in Belleville and nearby locations, including the Wayne County Jail and Frank Murphy Hall of Justice.

On Sunday, April 1, Martin will speak during the worship service at Great Lakes Assembly, 105 N. Liberty Street, Belleville, and then sign books after the service. April 1 is his 50th birthday and he will speak what this, his Jubilee, means to him.

Church begins at 1 p.m. and everyone is invited. The book signing follows at 3 p.m.

At 7 p.m., Thursday, April 5, Martin will be featured at a book signing at the Belleville Charhouse restaurant, 524 Main Street.

Those who can't make it to the book signings can order the novel at <http://energionpubs.com/books/covenant/> and scroll down to Energion Direct. Price is \$17.99.

"Covenant" is the story of a man named Samuel who skids into alcoholism, his return to the faith, and then an automobile accident on Bemis Road, where he hits and injures his guardian angel, who then is healed and disappears.

Samuel is pursued by Van Buren Township police and other agencies down I-94 after an elderly neighbor to the Bemis Road accident tells police she saw him hit a person and then flee the accident.

Martin, who left his job at the *Independent* to pursue God's work, has plenty of time to preach in his novel, but it's in brief, enjoyable bites.

The angels in his novel are playful, the dark forces powerful and ugly, and the people trying to survive and lead Christian lives are human and likeable – except for a snarling wife-beater.

God, Himself, listens to prayers and looks through portals in Heaven to see what's happening and then sends his messengers to wield his power to enforce his promise to his children – his covenant. But, the angels cannot interfere with free will.

Unforgettable characters in the novel include the irrepressible Large Marge, a pushy television reporter, and a Belleville congregation that keeps the prayers and

good works coming. Then, there's the defense attorney who struggles with narcolepsy and falls asleep during trial.

The story leads up to a courtroom climax where the guardian angel testifies (and refuses to do tricks or miracles, but disappears a lot) while the world of skeptics and believers watches on television.

It's a fun book, with lots of twists and turns and, of course, The Message.

It's easy to imagine "Covenant" as a family movie – with lots of angels in the air riding motorcycles and then later sliding down George Washington's nose at Mount Rushmore before appearing to comfort a little girl in a red hat.

The Message? The most important thing to do in your life is to form a relationship with God the Father and His Son, which brings with it the help of the heavenly host. It's a promise.

VBT family finds AC unit won't work because it's been shot with handgun

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Stephanie and Ken Durbal of Lakeview Court in Van Buren Township tried to turn on their air conditioner on March 20, but it wouldn't work.

They found their AC unit had been shot and the bullet was still lodged in the air conditioner.

The Durbals said they called VBT police and police came out and made a report, but said there was nothing more they could do because no one was injured.

They said police told them that VBT follows Michigan law in which you can discharge a firearm as long as you are 500 feet from a residence.

The bullet is still in the air conditioner. Police told the Durbals they believe it came from a hand gun, 40 or 45 caliber.

"We are not sure when it happened," Stephanie said. "We hear gun shots quite often from across the lake usually just after dark. We believe someone is shooting at geese or ducks."

The Durbals said to them the main issue is safety.

"No one should be able to discharge a firearm in a residential area, period," Ken said.

"The township is not the open space area it was years ago. The laws should be altered to account for residential neighborhoods.

"Van Buren is no longer all farmland," Stephanie said. "This is not a hunting issue. It is a firearm discharge issue.

"The cost to replace the air conditioner is not our main concern," Ken said. "It is our and our neighbors' safety."

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Sumpter Twp. approves new rules for paid-per-call fire fighters

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A controversial Standard of Procedures for the volunteer Sumpter Township Fire Department was unanimously approved by the Township Board of Trustees at its regular meeting March 13.

A second document, Standards of Conduct for the Fire Department, was tabled to the next board meeting.

Both documents were endorsed by a committee set up at the last meeting to review fire department procedures. On the committee were Treasurer John Morgan, Trustee Peggy Morgan, and Clerk Clarence Hoffman.

During discussion in the March 13 work study session, Fire Chief Les Powell said everything that the risk management representative, Pam Baker of Burnham & Flower Insurance Group, said to do, he had already done or was done within a week. He said the SOPs (standard operating procedures), the red list, the yellow list, are all done.

Treasurer John Morgan, who was chairing

the meeting in the absence of the ailing Supervisor Johnny Vawters, told Chief Powell that they were not done talking about it and it could be tweaked.

“Meanwhile, you live by what we approve tonight,” Treasurer Morgan said, telling Powell the rules go into effect immediately, that night.

“We’re always open to talking about it,” Morgan said, adding, “This is no criticism or indictment of you.”

A risk-management agent points out ways to avoid liability and law suits.

Fire Department Captain Rick Sliva, a 30-year fire veteran in the audience, said in all the time he’s been on the department there has never been a law suit. He said Powell has been with the department about 40 years and there had been none in his tenure, either. He added that every other department at the township has had law suits.

Treasurer Morgan said if somebody doesn’t have a valid driver’s license, for example, and there’s an accident, there could be a suit.

Sliva said the risk-management person could come up with 20 more changes after the first round is complete.

“You’re ticking off a lot of people,” Sliva said.

“We want to keep morale sky high,” Treasurer Morgan said, adding the board wants the fire department to continue the excellent job it’s doing. He said the safety, efficiency, and response is perfect.

“But, we still have to cross all the T’s,” he said.

Deputy Supervisor Craig Moody said risk management went to all the departments and recommended changes.

Powell said he had no problem with the risk management rules, which have been complied with. His problem is with the extra rules the committee wanted inserted in the document.

“What she [Baker] gave me had none of these things,” Powell said, referring to the document presented by the committee.

He pointed out that Treasurer Morgan, Trustee Morgan, and Clerk Hoffman were not fire fighters, yet they are making rules for the fire fighters.

Powell referred to a particular fire fighter, saying Baker’s letter said the man could come to runs, but not medically treat people. The additional rules say he can’t even come on runs.

“You’re taking five valuable people out of service,” Powell said of the committee’s rules. He referred to “the same person who kept calling OSHA on us,” noting the complaints were unfounded.

“I was in compliance with Pam’s list the week after I got it,” Powell insisted.

Treasurer Morgan said a discussion on the subject can continue with Chief Powell or his representative in the future.

“This is not you against us,” Treasurer Morgan said, noting there will be further discussions.

“That’s not what I was told,” Chief Powell said, adding he was glad to hear there will be more discussion.

“We’re on the same team trying to go to the same place,” Treasurer Morgan said.

After the board voted to accept the Standard of Procedures, Powell asked for some time to implement the requirements that went into effect that evening. He said he didn’t want to keep fire fighters from responding because of the requirement for all responding vehicles to have lights, even if responding in non-emergency mode.

Treasurer Morgan agreed to give him 30 days to comply.

In other business at the March 13 meeting,

the board:

- Set a special meeting at 11 a.m., March 20, to interview three finalists for township engineering firm;

- Set a public hearing for 5:30 p.m., March 27, to consider the proposed 2012-13 budget;

- Tabled payment of two invoices from METCO Engineers for storm water work: \$4,858.50 and \$518;

- Tabled paying the balance owed to Giffels-Webster Engineers;

- Approved payment of three invoices from METCO for concrete work at the Community Center, paid for with federal Community Development Block Grant funds: \$1,630.50, \$2,125.50, and \$515;

- Approved extending the lease at the Community Center for the Public Service Credit Union to Aug. 31, 2012;

- Approved going out for bids for senior grass cutting to be paid out of federal CDBG funds;

- Approved going out for bids for grass cutting at abandoned/blighted/foreclosed properties;

- Approved going out for bids for site work at Banotai Park, to be paid out of the 2010-11 Wayne County Parks grant;

- Accepted, with regrets, the resignation of fire fighter Joshua Beaudrie, after six months of service, because he moved out of the township;

- Approved upgrading the computer server at township hall at a cost of \$4,569.99;

- Approved purchasing a Dell computer server for the police department at a cost of \$5,779.47. Police Chief James Pierce said the department needed a much larger server because it was starting to lose information. He said the server is also needed to be a part of the OSSI information network;

- Approved the planning commission’s recommendation to rezone 19865 Sumpter Road from R-2 Single Family to C-2 Community Commercial for a proposed funeral home;

- Approved purchase of property just south of the township hall, 23496 Sumpter Road, for \$15,000. The township has a \$7,500 lien on the property;

- Approved preliminary PNA Hall rental fees as presented by the committee formed to get the PNA open again, hopefully as of March 29.



They’re reading the Independent everywhere

Scott and Mendie Russell of Van Buren Township and their daughters vacationed recently in Walt Disney World. They report they stopped by a little shop along Main St. in the Magic Kingdom. “We couldn’t believe our eyes when we saw Mickey Mouse reading the Belleville Independent! We all had a great time and hope to return again in a few years,” Scott said.

For those who are considering submitting a photo, be advised that your entry will be run when space allows. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before it’s printed. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 20, 2012

Supervisor White called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor White, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee Ostrowski and Trustee Partridge. Absent: None. Others in attendance: Parks and Recreation Director Wright, Public Safety Director McClanahan, Planning and Economic Development Services Director Carroll, DPW Director MacDonald, Chief Loyer, Executive Assistant/Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, Secretary Cline and an audience of twenty-six (26).

Supervisor White thanked Clerk Wright for chairing the Work Study meeting yesterday in his absence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jahr moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the agenda. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Budd moved, Partridge seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes March 5, 2012; Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 6, 2012, as amended; approve the reappointments of Charles Coleman, Harold Gant, Ralph Nodwell and Mark Duff and the appointments of Kim Nofz and Tammy Wall to the Recreation Committee with terms to expire February 1, 2013.] Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor White stated at the April 2, 2012 Work Study there will be a presentation by Code Red.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Ostrowski moved, Hart seconded to adopt Resolution 2012-05 authorizing the submission of the Grant Application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and committing to the local match of \$116,380 from the Sewer and Water Fund should the grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund be successful. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Partridge moved, Hart seconded to approve the Lawn Maintenance contract with Gonczy's Property Maintenance, LLC for the 2012 season with an option to extend for two additional seasons at the Township's option and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute on behalf of the Township; in the amount of \$58,800 for the 2012 season. Carried.

Budd moved, Partridge seconded to approve the first reading of General Ordinance 03-20-2012, an ordinance to amend the General Code of Ordinances, Charter Township of Van Buren by adding a Cemetery Ordinance. Carried.

*(A synopsis of Ordinance 03-20-12 follows the minutes. A complete copy may also be obtained in the Clerk's Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road during normal business hours.)

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to approve the adoption of Resolution 2012-06 the

request from Sesame Stix, Inc. to transfer stock in a 2011 Class C license, located at 45915 S. I-94 Service Drive, Van Buren Township, Wayne County (China King restaurant). Carried.

Wright moved, Hart seconded to approve the Lawn Fertilization and Weed Control contract with TruGreen of Ypsilanti to apply fertilizer and weed control to Township owned properties as listed in the specifications and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute on behalf of the Township; this contract is for three (3) years in the amount of \$4,705 per year. Carried.

Hart moved, Wright seconded to award the contract for the 2011 Water Main Project to D.V.M. Utilities in the amount of \$467,147.25; to approve a ten percent contingency to be used at the recommendation and approval of the Director of Public Works to address any unforeseen conditions. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Wright moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the March 20, 2012 voucher list. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Partridge, Ostrowski, Jahr, Hart, Wright and White. Nays: Budd. Absent: None. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor White gave an update on the unaudited 2011 Budget. There was discussion by the Board and audience regarding the 2011 and 2012 Budgets in particular the Public Safety Department Budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Clerk Wright made the following announcements: Township Administrative Offices will be closed on Good Friday, April 6th; Yard Waste pickup begins on your regular trash day beginning the week of April 2nd; annual cemetery cleaning will begin on March 20th and will run through April 15th at the four township cemeteries. New items may be displayed beginning April 22nd. The four township cemeteries are Tyler, Otisville, Denton, and Soop. For further information contact the DPW Leader, Jeff Fondaw at 734.699.8925 extension 9228.

Director Wright announced the Hoppin' Hullaboo will be held on April 1st from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Also, the Spring/Summer Recreation brochure is now available. Director Wright thanked Account Clerk Tina Harman putting the Recreation brochure together. For more information contact the Recreation Department at 734-699-8921.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Comments were made from 8:55 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. by the Board and audience regarding the following topics: Public Safety Department; Trustees Hart, Jahr and Ostrowski along with Public Safety Director will meet to look at number of Police Officers needed for Township; Trustee Jahr requested a formal opinion regarding the Purchasing Policy; acknowledged Directors for reduction of Budget; local businesses; Township attorney; Public Safety Budget; pay rates for electrical inspectors used by Township; sirens for weather warning; Code Red; Computer Use Policy; cost of attorney investigation; Belleville Lake Ski Club donation to Van

Buren Schools Education Foundation from the Frozen Leprechaun fundraiser; blended rate employees; Fire Department; four open Collective Bargaining Agreements / Contracts; Cemetery Advisory Committee; Treasurer Budd requested attorney's opinion for allegation statement by the Supervisor during the last Board meeting regarding change to Computer Use Policy is against state law; DTE Smart meter; Nixle.

CLOSED SESSION: None.
ADJOURNMENT: Jahr moved, Ostrowski seconded to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Carried. Respectfully submitted,
Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Paul D. White, Township Supervisor
Published: 3-29-12

AUCTION

NOTICE OF AUCTION FOR DEARBORN POLICE DEPT. AT GREAT LAKES TOWING 42350 Van Born Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 FRI., MARCH 30, 2012 at 11:30 a.m.

Year	Make/Model	VIN
2008	Dodge Charger	ZB3KA43G98H234961
Publish: March 29, 2012		

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE 03-20-2012

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF GENERAL ORDINANCES, BY ADDING A CEMETERY ORDINANCE

First Reading of Ordinance 03-20-2012. Second reading will be held at 7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 to be held in the Board Room, in the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan 48111.

VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP ORDAINS:

<u>Section 1</u>	Title
<u>Section 2</u>	Purpose and Intent
<u>Section 3</u>	Definitions
<u>Section 4</u>	Sale of Cemetery Plots; transfer of Plot Ownership
<u>Section 5</u>	Purchase Price for Cemetery Plots; Plot Transfers; Indigent burials
<u>Section 6</u>	Grave Opening Charges
<u>Section 7</u>	Markers, Memorials and Monuments
<u>Section 8</u>	Interment
<u>Section 9</u>	Disinterment's
<u>Section 10</u>	Cremated Cremains
<u>Section 11</u>	Grounds Maintenance
<u>Section 12</u>	Disclaimer of Township Liability and Responsibility
<u>Section 13</u>	Records
<u>Section 14</u>	Vaults
<u>Section 15</u>	Cemetery Hours
<u>Section 16</u>	Prohibited Uses and Activities
<u>Section 17</u>	Fees
<u>Section 18</u>	Applicability of this Ordinance
<u>Section 19</u>	Interpretation/Appeals to the Township Board
<u>Section 20</u>	Authority of the Township to Remove Unauthorized or Unlawful Items from a Township Cemetery
<u>Section 21</u>	Penalties
<u>Section 22</u>	Township Officials Who Can Enforce Ordinance
<u>Section 23</u>	Severability
<u>Section 24</u>	Effective Date; Conflicts

This ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, State of Michigan at a Regular Meeting, called and held on the ____ day of _____, 2012.

YEAS : White, Wright, Budd, Hart, Jahr, Ostrowski and Partridge.
NAYS : None.
ABSENT : None.

This Ordinance shall be immediately recorded by the Township Clerk in the Township Ordinance Book as soon as it is adopted, which record shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Supervisor and Clerk and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township within ten (10) days after passage. I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance

Leon Wright, Clerk Paul D. White, Supervisor

Adopted:
Published: 3-29-2012
Effective:

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, April 1 – Bugles Across America, 7:15 p.m., Veterans Memorial, Belleville
- Monday, April 2 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustee work/study, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 3 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 4 – Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. VBT Public Safety Committee, 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 7 – Flop E. Bunny at Victory Park in Belleville, noon – 2 p.m., all free fun courtesy of the Central Business Community.
- Tuesday, April 10 – Van Buren Township September Days Senior Endowment Committee, 11 a.m. Also, VBT LDFA, 2 p.m. Also, VBT Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 11 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.



City of Belleville
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2012

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 Conley.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Blackburn	Present
Council Member Smith	Present
Council Member Tindall	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENT None

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Tindall, Second by Blackburn to approve agenda with the addition of item 8E to set a Special Meeting on March 15, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. for City Attorney interviews and to add to Item 8C to include Mayor's appointment of Tom Smith to the Election Commission.
 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of February 21, 2012 as presented.
 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS None.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. CBC - 2012 Events

Motion by Tindall, Second by Loria to approve Resolution No. 12-026 to approve Central Business Community events.

- Flop-E-Bunny event on April 7, 2012 at Victory Park from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. to include Police and Fire vehicles for public relations.
- Taste of Belleville on August 16, 2012 at Horizon Park and High Street on August 16, 2012 from 2:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. with street closings of High Street starting at Horizon Park to stop sign at Roy's and Church also to include extra trash containers and barriers at start of Horizon Park corner of High and Roy's.

• Halloween Downtown on October 31, 2012 on sidewalks on Main Street and Fourth Street from 5:00 - 7:00 P.M. also to include extra trash containers at Fourth Street square.

B. BACA - Victory Station Use

Motion by Loria, to deny a request from BACA for a fundraising activity at Victory Station on April 7, 2012 from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. to be held in conjunction with CBC's Flop-E-Bunny activity.
 MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF SUPPORT.

C. Mayor's Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Motion by Loria, Second by Blackburn to approve Resolution No. 12-027 to approve Mayor's appointment of Jim Shrove to the Parks and Recreation Commission and Tom Smith to the Election Commission with terms to expire on December 31, 2015.
 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. FY2012/13 Budget Schedule

Motion by Tindall, Second by Blackburn to approve Resolution No. 12-028 to approve 2012/13 Budget Timetable as presented.
 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. Set Special Meeting on March 15, 2012 - Attorney Interviews

Motion by Tindall, Second by Loria to approve Resolution No. 12-029 to set a Special Meeting on March 15, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. to conduct attorney interviews.
 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Tindall, Second by Blackburn to approve Resolution No. 12-030 to approve accounts payable and payables over \$500.00 as amended.
 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

- Senior Alliance Presentation.
- City Attorney review.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Blackburn, Second by Tindall to adjourn meeting at 8:04 P.M.
 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
 Respectfully submitted,
 Lisa Long, City Clerk/Treasurer
 Approved: March 19, 2012
 Published: March 29, 2012

Student inspect.

(continued from page 1)

who find out they are at the wrong precinct after waiting in line to vote, sometimes just give up on the idea of voting and go home, Wright said.

He said VBT will be using an electronic pollbook starting in August which will be on laptops instead of paper books and will allow the skipping of three phases of the check-in process at the polls and enhance checking of signatures of voters.

He said since Haggerty Elementary School is closing, the Haggerty voting precinct is expected to be at Savage Elementary, where there will be two precincts.

The students asked Wright how he happened to become clerk and he told the story of how he had run for school board and lost and was going to run again in 2008, but was encouraged by the late School Supt. Pete Lazaroff to run for clerk instead, since the VBT clerk was running unopposed.

Supt. Lazaroff had planned to go door to door with Wright to campaign, but Lazaroff became ill and couldn't. Wright said he went on to run an extensive campaign and won the election.

Before becoming full-time clerk, he ran a sporting goods business on Main Street in downtown Belleville and then closed the storefront and continued the business out of his home using a website.

Wright said the first step to being a good citizen is getting an education. Then, a young person has to get registered to vote and become informed before voting.

Students lined up to get applications from Wright after class ended. Applications for Student Election Inspectors are available from the BHS government teachers and from the VBT clerk's office, 699-8910.

Students will volunteer service at the first election and then are eligible to get paid \$15 for a training session and \$125 for the next election.

VBT accident

(continued from page 1)

call 911 himself to get an ambulance.

The twins' great aunt Brenda Slaton called the *Independent* from Chicago to ask that her thanks also be passed on to the young man who helped her great nephews. She's been praying for Anderson, without knowing his name, since the accident.

She said although the doctors are not encouraging as to the paralysis, Brenda Slaton said Ryan is getting back some feeling in his body and they are all praying for his recovery.

"He's getting better every day," LaToya said on Sunday. His medical treatment is covered by Medicaid.

She, too, said she is grateful to Anderson who just appeared out of nowhere to help and then disappeared, as well as the others who helped.

She said the police report has many errors, including the statement that it was a rollover. It was not, she said, explaining

the vehicle slipped over onto its top after hitting the embankment. Also, she said Anderson is never mentioned in the report at all, like he didn't exist.

He did exist and he helped her sons, she said. No matter how he helped, he was there for her sons and she appreciates him very much, she said.

For those wishing to send cards, Ryan Smith is in Room 263, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 5301 McAuley Dr., Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

Huron Valley Ambulance seeks award nominations

First responders often say that they do not do what they do for recognition, but rather for the satisfaction in knowing they truly make a difference in the lives of people needing help.

That being said, it is good to stop once a year to say thank you and recognize the often heroic actions taken by bystanders and first responders in our community.

Businesses and organizations in our community are also making a difference by creating heart safe environments for their employees and customers. When someone has a heart attack, every second counts and these organizations have a plan in place to save lives.

To recognize these caring men and women, Huron Valley Ambulance is seeking nominations from the community for their 2012 Life Saving and Heart Safe Awards.

These awards are a part of their annual Emergency Medical Services Recognition Awards. The Awards program will take place during National EMS Week on Thursday, May 24, in Ann Arbor. The deadline for both award nominations is Friday, April 20, 2012 at 5 p.m.

For the Life Saving Award, nominees can be citizens of any age who live in the HVA service area who have saved, or attempted to save, a life under unusual or extraordinary circumstances. Nominees also must not have previously received an award for their life saving deed from any other organization.

For the Heart Safe Award, nominees can be any business or organization located in the HVA service area that meets the following criteria for creating a "heart safe" environment at their workplace:

- Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all buildings;
- Staff trained in CPR/AEDs in all buildings; and
- Regularly practiced cardiac emergency response plan in place.

Forms for both award nominations are available at www.hva.org. To request a nomination form or for questions, call HVA Community Relations at 734-477-6782 or e-mail communityrelations@hva.org.



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VBT wrestles with policy on giving preference to local bidders within 5%

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Daniel DiLegge, president of D.V.M. Utilities of Sterling Heights said he never had the experience before of losing a bid when he was the low bidder.

But that's what appeared to be happening with his bid on a Van Buren Township Water Main project that was recommended to go to the second-lowest bidder because that bidder was located in VBT.

After a lengthy discussion at the March 19 work/study session and again during the regular meeting on March 20, D.V.M. did get the contract as low bidder, after all, and the board decided to look closer at the local bidder policy.

The original recommendation to give the contract to Verdeterre Contracting of VBT came from DPW Director Tom McDonald and Wade Trim engineering consultant Dave Nummer.

Although D.V.M. was low bidder at \$467,147.25, they noted when the VBT 5% leeway for township businesses is applied Verdeterre becomes low bidder at \$468,517.96.

McDonald said he checked with the township attorney about whether the 5% was mandatory or discretionary and said he was told it was mandatory.

"We had the understanding the 5% would make Verdeterre low bidder, so we made the recommendation," McDonald said.

He said D.V.M. is the actual low bidder and is very qualified to do the work, with vast experience and its own machinery on site.

"D.V.M. does have more hands-on direct drilling experience that is needed in this project," McDonald said.

The water main project is to close up some loops in the township, with work scheduled for Bemis Road between Sumpter and Rawsonville, Lenmoore, and a rather complicated Riggs Creek crossing that has significant vertical drain work.

"I want to give work to local businesses, but..." Trustee Phil Hart began, referring to Nummer's March 12 memo that says Verdeterre has exhibited "some experience."

"We've had directional boring problems in the past," Trustee Hart said, referring to the water line under Belleville Lake. "I think experience counts ... It's not as easy as a straight line and they [D.V.M.] have the equipment on hand."

Trustee Jeff Jahr agreed with D.V.M. president DiLegge who said the 5% policy was not spelled out in the bid document.

Jahr said the board is being asked to pay \$1,400 more to go with someone with less experience.

Verdeterre also needs to lease the equipment for the job, but it does have a person highly experienced in directional drilling.

Jahr said at the work/study session he asked for a written opinion on the policy

from the township attorney, but didn't get it.

"It doesn't mean we have to go with 5%," said Clerk Leon Wright. "I don't think it mandates the board to do that.

"I remember the issues we had going across Belleville Lake. I think experience counts. I would rather go with D.V.M.," Wright said.

McDonald said he thought the email from the attorney he furnished to board members addressed Jahr's question, but Jahr was not satisfied and wanted a considered opinion on the matter.

"If there was no purchasing policy in play, we would have clearly recommended D.V.M.," McDonald said.

"I would be very reluctant to pay more money for less experience," Jahr said.

Hart made the motion and Wright seconded to award the contract to D.V.M. Utilities with a 10% contingency to be used at the recommendation and approval of the DPW Director to address any unforeseen conditions. The motion passed unanimously.

In other business at the March 20 meeting, the board:

- Approved the first reading of a new Cemetery Ordinance, as presented by Clerk Wright. He said over a year ago the Cemetery Advisory Committee was formed following concerns over conditions of the four township cemeteries brought forward by Cathy Horste and Marie Krouse. The ordinance was formed through work of the committee, he said. He also thanked Deputy Clerk Cathy Cline and Joanne Montgomery for their work on the project;
- Approved awarding the lawn maintenance contract for 39 township locations to Gonczy's Property Maintenance, LLC of Sumpter Township for \$58,800 for 2012, with the township's option to extend for two additional seasons. Pioneer was very close in the running and both had good references, McDonald said. Last year's firm, Michigan Lawn Management which took over for Abraham's in 2010, did not have its contract extended at \$54,090 because of problems with performance, McDonald said;

- Approved the Lawn Fertilization and Weed Control contract to Tru Green of Ypsilanti at a low bid of \$4,705 per year. The contract is for three years. The other bidder was Green Acres/Gonczy for \$6,270 per year;

- Approved a request from Sesame Stix, Inc. to transfer stock in a 2011 Class C license at 45915 S. I-94 Service Dr. (China King). Da Xuan Zheng is dropped as stockholder through transfer of 1,000 shares to the corporation and transfer of stock interest, wherein existing stockholder Shui Jin Zheng transfers 500 shares to new stockholder Shui Yan Zheng;

- Approved a resolution authorizing submission of the grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and committing the township to pay the local 50% match of \$116,380 from the Sewer and Water Fund should the grant be successful. The project will repair the Old Denton Road entrance to Van Buren Park

that has deteriorated so that sewer service to the U of M boathouse, the bath house, and a rest room is interrupted. Temporary repairs are being made to restore service to those locations until, hopefully, the grant is awarded and the final solution can be completed with installation of a 14' box culvert;

- Approved the Supervisor's reappointments of Charles Coleman, Harold Gant, Ralph Nodwell, and Mark Duff and his new appointments of Kim Nofz and Tammy Wall to the Recreation Committee with terms to expire Feb. 1, 2013. Nofz and Wall replace the longest-serving members of the committee, Ken Askew and Joy Ann Ferris;

- Approved the voucher list as presented on a 6-1 vote, with Treasurer Sharry Budd voting no because she does not approve of Supervisor Paul White having a township vehicle. The voucher list includes a 2012 Ford Fusion, two-year lease, for \$6,673.48 for the supervisor.

Attn: Service members of all Armed Forces

Sumpter Twp. Parks & Recreation Commission is reaching out to all Tri-Community service men and women. We are in the process of putting together our Souvenir Booklet for our 36th Annual Sumpter Country Fest which will be held this year May 24-28. The theme this year is "Welcome Home Troops". We are looking for all local service men and women that came home to gather for a picture to be our cover for our booklet. We are looking for a picture of OUR OWN to be the center of our booklet and to be dressed in "Duty Uniform" (example Army-ACU's/combat uniform). If you are interested in being a part of history of the Sumpter Township Country Fest, please contact Sharon Pokerwinski at 734-461-0989 or email spokewinski@comcast.net by April 11 for more details. If you have a great group picture of your unit when they arrived home, please submit it for us to consider. Also if you are interested in marching in our parade on May 26, let us know that too.

Sharon Pokerwinski

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

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



INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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

VASCULAR ULTRA-SOUND Technician needed for non-profit organization that serves the poor. Call Lynn (734) 461-9915 3/29

APPLIANCE REPAIR TECHNICIAN needed. Prefer experience but willing to train. Must have good driving record. (734) 722-7708 4/12

BAR MAID/WAITRESS needed part time plus Grill Cook. Apply AFTER 4 p.m. Red Rooster, 51390 Willis Rd. Belleville. 4/05

DAY CARE OPENINGS. FULL TIME. Infant/Toddler. Summer opening for school age. (734) 323-5062 4/05

Notice to Advertisers:

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

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

GARAGE/YARD SALE

RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE. Morning Star Church. 44441 Clay Rd. April 4-6, 9 a.m./5 p.m. 4/05

48501 W. HURON RIVER DR. between Elwell & Hoeft Rds. March 29,30,31, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 3/29

MULTI FAMILY SALE. 28101 KARR Rd. S. of Willow Rd. April 12-14, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Household, Seasonal & Garden items. Clothes, Toys, Princess house, Avon. 4/12

FOR SALE

2002 25' MALLARD TRAVEL Trailer. 2 owner trailer, sleeps 6, BR. on one end (queen size), new water pump, electric ton jack. Excellent Condition. \$6,200 obo (734) 635-6045 4/05

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2008 FOCUS 55K, 31-MPG in city. Ex. Condition. Very well maintained. Asking Kelly Blue Book price of good condition. \$9,900 obo (734) 770-1013 or (734) 777-1462 4/05

1998 FORD F-150, long bed, V-6 engine, 144,000 miles, 5 sp. manual, extended cab. Runs and Drives Great. \$2800 obo. (734) 306-3433 Don 3/29

2005 CHEVY IMPALA. 106,180 miles, recent rebuilt transmission, new muffler. As Is \$3,000 obo. Needs repair, front right fender. (734) 699-6648 4/05

PETS/LIVESTOCK

AKC YELLOW LAB RETRIEVER Pups. Champion blood line. Sire & Dam OFA certified. 1st. Shots, 7 weeks. \$500 each. (517) 423-8920 4/05

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ST.VINCENT DePAUL is in need of your CLEAN in Working Condition useable stoves, refrigerators, washers & dryers. For needy families in Belleville, Van Buren & Sumpter areas. (734) 461-2763 TFN

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WANTED: JUNK CARS
Running or Not. Top \$ Paid. Call For Free Pickup. Drive In For Extra Dollars.
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WANTED - ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladex's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600 TFN

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

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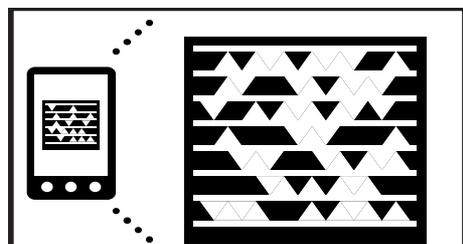
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REWARD - Lost our African Grey Parrott on March 16th from Lenmoore area. It flew toward Belleville. May have been captured by man with blanket. (734) 697-3689 4/12

REWARD for the return of Lost Lg. Gray, long hair Cat. Martinsville/ Burtrig area on 3-25-12. If seen or found please contact (734) 395-8331 before 4-09-12 or (734) 699-6867 after 4-09-12. 4/12



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One Call Does It All At the Independent 699-9020

For Classified Advertising, Display Advertising or News Tips One call does it all: 734-699-9020 - The Independent

Public will be able to give opinions on Belleville's new LED street lights

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

In a few weeks, two finalists for the contract to change the yellowish incandescent streets lights in downtown Belleville to white-ish LED lights will install demonstration models so the public can give their opinions on which ones they like best.

Signs will be placed on the lamp posts asking people to let the Downtown Development Authority know their thoughts before the vendor is selected.

The DDA especially wants to hear from the neighbors to the lights.

Four lamp posts with the LED demonstration lights are expected to be located on High Street, beyond the Veterans Monument and Johnny's Grill lights, and also three more on North Liberty at Doane's Landing.

Three manufacturers of LED lights will be represented.

Four contractors submitted bids for 146 LED lights and the bids were opened at the Feb. 15 DDA meeting. They were: Airport Lighting, \$110,140; Conti Electric, \$83,125; Motor City Electric, \$130,725; and Rauhorn Electric, \$111,831.60.

The bids were turned over to the DDA's engineering consultants Spicer Group and at the DDA's March 21 meeting, Evan Pratt of Spicer reported.

Pratt said after study they eliminated the high bidder for being too high and the low bidder for not meeting specifications.

Following Pratt's recommendation, the DDA voted to authorize allocating \$450 to Rauhorn Electric for installation of three demonstration lights and \$1,200 to Airport Lighting for four demonstration lights, two each by two different manufacturers.

"We're trying to save some energy here," Pratt said, recommending that the 18 lamp posts that have two arms be changed to just one globe by lifting off the arms. Studies will be made to assure there are no dark corners.

Several DDA members went to Grosse Ile to view the LED lights there, and reported those lights were dimmer than

what Belleville residents are used to.

Steve Jones said vendors who came to ArtAffair on Main last summer appreciated the brightness of Belleville's lights at night.

In other business at the 32-minute meeting on March 21, Mayor Kerreen Conley, who is a voting member of the DDA, asked about the benches.

DDA member Jim Higerson said he saw the pictures of the benches in the *Independent* and noted the DDA paid \$650 apiece for 11 benches, while other benches were priced at \$1,500.

He said he did not select the benches and they were selected by a committee. He confirmed he did recommend the benches.

He said he went to Harrison where the benches were constructed and carved and found the worn wood could be replaced with vinyl. He will get prices for the DDA.

"The town of Harrison has them [vinyl versions]," Higerson said. "Wood won't last forever facing the water."

DDA member Ken Voigt and others suggested, tongue in cheek, that the benches be turned around so they don't face the water to put the sides that are still good toward the lake.

Higerson said the carvings on the bench backs were hand done, but the woman who did that is no longer available for such carving, which is time consuming.

The DDA indicated it would look into alternatives for the benches.

In other comments, DDA chairman John Hoops announced Police Chief Gene Taylor's plan to have every place in Belleville flying a flag on Flag Day. Since Flag Day is during Strawberry Festival, the city flag flying will be delayed until after the festival.

Chief Taylor has house mounts, poles, and flag available for \$15. He also has sponsors who will help provide flags free for those who cannot afford them.

March Birthday

March 28 - Shames Delahaye
Do you have a birthday in April? Does anyone you know have an April birthday? 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.

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School	Grade Level	Vacancies
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	1	1
	2	5
	3	1
	4	5
Miller Elementary	5	5
	K	5
	1	5
	2	5
	3	5
Renton Junior High	4	5
	5	5
	6	10
	7	5
	8	5
Huron High School	9	5
	10	5
	11	5
	12	5

Applications are available at the Huron School District Administration Building

Applications will be accepted between the dates listed below.

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected runs for VBT Police. For more detailed police logs, see www.bellevilleareaindependent.com.

Sunday, March 18:

0043 – noise complaint, 50521 W. Huron River Dr., Pine Creek
0104 – private property accident, 11000 Belleville
0205 – assault & battery, 41460 W. Archwood Dr.
0245 – assault & battery, 24 Oak Blvd.
0313 – disturbance, 45501 N. I-94 Service Dr.
0331 – disorderly conduct, Maple/Maple
0512 – assault & battery, Tyler/Haggerty
0649 – assault & battery, 41460 W. Archwood
1046 – hospice, 46695 Ayres
1259 – private property accident, 42350 Van Born
1408 – assault & battery, 10371 Endicott
1510 – fight, 51341 W. Huron River Dr.
1555 – shots fired, 41234 Savage
1617 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Meijer
1624 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1802 – fraud all, 2095 Rawsonville, Kmart
1807 – assault & battery, 11 Brandi
1839 – dumping complaint, 863 Savage
2318 – property damage accident, 35 N. Ponderosa
2333 – personal injury accident, WB I-94 / Hannan

Monday, March 19:

0048 – assault & battery, 9270 Parkwood
1057 – larceny from auto, 11275 Oak Lane
1103 – larceny, 43855 Crowley Ave.
1144 – breaking & entering, 6216 Denton
1235 – breaking & entering, 44905 Lindsey Dr.
1235 – malicious destruction of property, 48551 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1321 – breaking & entering, 7007 Amanda Dr.
1409 – narcotics crime, 48821 Denton Rd.
1527 – property damage accident, Belleville / Denton
1534 – suspicious person, 49608 Cross St.
1552 – property damage accident, 2169 Rawsonville
1613 – private property accident, 1 Village Center
1631 – personal injury accident, Ecorse/Beck
1640 – fraud all, Meijer
1844 – assault & battery, 120 Richard Run
1912 – property damage accident, Belleville / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1922 – missing person, 5968 Victoria St.
1943 – assault & battery, 271 Henry
2013 – juvenile complaint, Clayton/Ayres
2019 – malicious destruction of property, 41452 E. Archwood Dr.
2321 – assault & battery, 56 Maple
2329 – violation of public health code / violation controlled substance act, 46425 Tyler Rd.

Tuesday, March 20:

0258 – operating while intoxicated, Valero
0831 – larceny, 86 N. Ponderosa Trl.
0845 – marine violation, Belleville Lake
0946 – marine violation, 47500 W. Huron River
1239 – juvenile complaint, CVS Belleville Rd.
1253 – mental, 6730 Rogers Ave.
1308 – property damage accident, 42450 E. Huron River Dr.
1335 – intimidation threat, 11650 Belleville
1337 – personal injury accident, 2035 Rawsonville
1441 – larceny, 9 Maple
1505 – sexual assault, 51000 Mott Lot #4
1512 – personal injury accident, EB I-94/Denton
1523 – larceny, 49350 N. I-94 Service Dr.
1541 – larceny, 15105 Westlake
1552 – malicious destruction of property, 41196 Lakeview Ct.
1638 – property damage accident, 44725 Lake Crest Dr.
1648 – private property accident, 10865 Belleville
1808 – malicious destruction of property, Ecorse/Haggerty
1834 – narcotics crime, Village Green
1850 – larceny, 9113 Parkwood
1913 – ATV/ORV complaint, 42009 Fret Rd.
1942 – intimidation threat, 45473 Harmony Lane
1947 – narcotics crime, 45945 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1948 – shots fired, Beck/Tyler
2226 – operating while intoxicated, 10760 Belleville Rd.

Wednesday, March 21:

0526 – property damage accident, 10633 Van Buren St.
0701 – private property accident, Haggerty/Ecorse
1329 – malicious destruction of property, 6300 W. Adams
1450 – larceny, 41415 Savage
1722 – trespassing, 84 Park Estates
1731 – water leak found, Beck Fields
1744 – assault & battery, 84 Park Estates
2007 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Denton Rd.
2010 – property damage accident, 12391 Lake Pointe Pass
Thursday, March 22:
0005 – malicious destruction of property, 6588 Parkside Dr.
0012 – fight, 6546 Maurice Dr.
0011 – fight, 6577 Maurice Dr.
0112 – assault & battery, 6634 Outer Dr.
0153 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler
0802 – juvenile complaint, 9681 Rolan Meadows
0815 – trespassing, 10950 Belleville
0947 – malicious destruction of property, 6300 W. Adams
0957 – malicious destruction of property, 6300 W. Adams
1107 – larceny, 10788 Belleville
1328 – suspicious person, 49635 Cross St.
1503 – shots fired, 42645 Riggs
1626 – suspicious person, Michigan Ave./Denton
1648 – suspicious person, 6445 Denton
1656 – fraud all, 10894 Oak Ln.
1922 – breaking & entering, 46075 Tallgrass Ct.
1930 – narcotics crime, 9185 Parkwood
2002 – suspicious person, Cross/Western
2052 – shots fired, 220 S. Ponderosa Trl.
2110 – suspicious person, Cross/Western
2311 – breaking & entering, 6015 Victoria St.

Friday, March 23:

0105 – disturbance, 49070 Denton Rd.
0304 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler
0759 – malicious destruction of property, 41001 E. Huron River Dr.
1314 – private property accident, Walmart
1623 – suspicious person, 5894 Dellor
1632 – retail fraud, Meijer
1721 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 14774 Elwell
1735 – private property accident, 46020 Lake Villa
1754 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr./Haggerty
1801 – missing person, 13079 Cumberland Ct.
1853 – private property accident, 10320 Endicott
1902 – intimidation threat, 45893 N. Purple Sage
1914 – fireworks, Quirk Park
1940 – operating while intoxicated, WB Michigan / Denton
2308 – personal injury accident, NB I-275/Ecorse

Saturday, March 24:

0018 – operating while intoxicated, Tyler / Belleville
0038 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr./Jackson St.
0047 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Belleville
0138 – fight, WB I-94/Belleville
0530 – malicious destruction of property, 11520 Beckley
1017 – assault & battery, 48041 S. I-94 Service
1048 – private property accident, 45525 N. I-94 Service Dr.
1057 – mental, 5964 Vernon
1122 – Be on the Lookout, Michigan/Denton
1335 – larceny, 57 Maple Dr.
1405 – disturbance, 10788 Belleville
1433 – weapons violation, Jackson/Buchanan
1437 – assault & battery, 48551 Denton
1514 – trespassing, 14051 Cobblestone Ct.
1545 – dumping complaint, W. Huron River Dr. / Cobblestone
1620 – personal injury accident, SB I-275/Ecorse
1700 – shots fired, Michigan Service Dr./cemetery
1724 – fraud all, Kmart
1816 – fraud all, 6388 E. Sadie Lane
1818 – assault & battery, 48551 Denton
1950 – harassment call, 13878 Basswood Cir.
2058 – assault & battery, 41512 Coolidge St.
2207 – narcotics crime, 10832 Jackson St.
2231 – assault & battery, 61 Park Estates
Also on this week's log are 216 traffic stops, 47 of which were on the freeways: I-94 and I-275.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 18:

0026 – suspicious person, 25 Main, minimart
0158 – property damage accident, 25 Main
0206 – welfare check, 381 Harbour Pointe Dr.
0304 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 9 Capistrano
0629 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 4 Santa Clara
1248 – larceny from auto, 398 Robbe St.
1249 – vehicle lockout, 405 W. Columbia
1721 – vehicle lockout, 8 Loza Lane
1751 – narcotics crime, 501 W. Columbia, BHS
2037 – assist fire dept., 167 Main
2202 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia, Columbia Court

Monday, March 19:

0719 – parking complaint, Columbia Court
1551 – agency assist, BHS
1558 – narcotics crime, Victory Park
1641 – suspicious person, 510 Savage
1718 – parking complaint, 554 W. Thornhill Ct.
1820 – assist citizen, Columbia Court
1853 – follow-up, 271 Henry St.
1930 – fight, Victory Park
2029 – PPO violation, Columbia Court
2214 – juvenile complaint, 3 Belle Villa Blvd.

Tuesday, March 20:

0245 – suspicious situation, 574 W. Columbia
1028 – traffic complaint, 327 W. Davis St.
1032 – misc. complaint, 409 W. Columbia, St. Anthony
1212 – intrusion alarm, 575 Sumpter, Co-op apts.
1225 – suspicious person, 309 Main
1225 – suspicious situation, 369 Main
1257 – assault & battery, BHS
1611 – background investigation, 307 Brain
1622 – misc. complaint, 6 Main
1701 – juvenile complaint, 6 Main
1702 – juvenile complaint, S. Liberty/E. Huron River Dr.
1723 – assist citizen, 407 W. Columbia Ave.
1750 – property damage accident, South St. / W. Wabash

1802 – operating while intoxicated, Main/South
1834 – private property accident, A&W
2140 – disturbance, Tornado's Pizza
2307 – parking complaint, Columbia Court
2324 – abandoned auto, Columbia Court

Wednesday, March 21:

0107 – suspicious person, 879 Sumpter Rd.
0509 – assist fire dept., Columbia Court
0912 – suspicious person, 506 Harbour Pointe
0931 – suicide or attempt, 35 Loza Lane
1109 – juvenile complaint, 251 Henry St.
1241 – fraud all, Citgo
1247 – property damage accident, Huron River Dr. / Main
1247 – E-911 cellular, Huron River Dr./Main
1310 – civil matter, Church/W. Columbia
1635 – juvenile complaint, 444 Main, Andrew's
1705 – malicious destruction of property, 143 Carmell
2041 – E-911 hang up/investigation, 508 W. Columbia Ave.
2055 – intrusion alarm, 420 Sumpter

Thursday, March 22:

0042 – abandoned auto, Henry/Church
1148 – domestic assault, 42 Carmell
1532 – fight, Victory Park
1533 – fight, Victory Park
1549 – assist fire dept., Skate Park parking lot
1624 – intimidation threat, 206 Main
1703 – fight, Victory Park
1720 – assist fire dept., Columbia Court
2042 – larceny, 167 Fourth St., library
2112 – agency assist, 18200 Sumpter
2222 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 216 Belle Villa Blvd.
2358 – welfare check, 222 Belle Villa Blvd.

Friday, March 23:

0957 – assist fire dept., 176 W. Columbia Ave.
1949 – traffic complaint, Sumpter/Industrial Pk.

Saturday, March 24:

0532 – assist fire dept., 37 Madelon
0541 – parking complaint, Columbia Court
0628 – assist fire dept., 35 Carmell
1136 – animal complaint, W. Wabash/South St.
1535 – trespassing, 310 N. Liberty St.
1831 – assault & battery, 106 Wexford Ave.
1925 – E-911 cellular, 111 Potter Dr.

1956 – found property, S. Liberty/E. Huron River
2038 – fight, Main St./South St.
2308 – suspicious person, Waterbury
2315 – suspicious person, 351 Victorian Lane
Also on this week's log are 39 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 18:

0032 – ORV complaint, 44000 bl. Clay
0216 – flee & elude, 4800 bl. Willis
0405 – noise complaint, 40000 bl. Harris
1014 – warrant arrest, Judd/Clark
1628 – larceny report, 48000 bl. Willow
1708 – larceny report, 43000 bl. Arkona
1802 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Elwell
1851 – suspicious incident, 19000 bl. Martinsville
2121 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear

Monday, March 19:

0632 – fire dept. assist, Walnut
0707 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Karr
0916 – ordinance violation, 26000 bl. Sumpter
1338 – alarm, 24000 bl. Sumpter
1414 – ordinance violation, 46000 bl. Willis
1419 – civil dispute, 48000 bl. Bemis
1429 – fraud complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1902 – breaking & entering report, 19000 bl. Haggerty

1904 – property damage accident, 13000 bl. Rawsonville
1923 – runaway juvenile report, 23000 bl. Bohn
2043 – suicide, 51000 bl. Judd
2133 – family trouble, Virginia
2307 – runaway juvenile report, Greenmeadow

Tuesday, March 20:

0010 – 911 hangup investigation, Creekside
0148 – suspicious incident, 8300 bl. Rawsonville
0855 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Bemis
0929 – civil dispute, 50000 bl. Willis
1157 – ordinance violation, 44000 bl. Willow
1203 – ordinance violation, 43000 bl. Willow
1209 – civil dispute, 50000 bl. Willis
1216 – larceny report, 11000 bl. Rawsonville
1317 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Bemis
1333 – ordinance violation, 19000 bl. Lohr
1346 – ordinance violation, 46000 bl. Bemis
1402 – ordinance violation, 20000 bl. Wilmot
1449 – well-being check, 51000 bl. Willis
1553 – malicious destruction of property report, Butternut

1739 – family trouble, 28000 bl. Sumpter
1749 – suspicious vehicle, 45000 bl. Willow
1754 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1809 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Sumpter / Willis
1921 – warrant arrest, Sumpter/Bemis
2011 – assault & battery report, 10000 bl. Rawsonville

Wednesday, March 21:

0049 – suspicious person, Willow/Carleton West
0433 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville
0613 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Sully Dr.
0931 – animal complaint, 48000 bl. Wear
0952 – suspicious incident, Knollwood
1311 – harassment complaint, 47000 bl. Bemis
1510 – assist other agency, 42000 bl. Riggs
1534 – trespassing complaint, Sumpter/Bemis
1647 – neighbor dispute, 40000 bl. Willis
1735 – reckless driving complaint, Willis/Sumpter
1821 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Executive Dr.
1917 – suspicious incident, 28000 bl. Sumpter
1951 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Willow
2001 – animal complaint, Willow/Sumpter
2027 – shots fired investigation, 20000 bl. Elwell

Thursday, March 22:

0004 – suspicious incident, 19000 bl. Sumpter
0147 – family trouble, 48000 bl. Willow
0503 – well-being check, Rawsonville/Willow
0907 – suspicious incident, 20000 bl. Sherwood
1114 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1134 – ordinance violation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1137 – suspicious vehicle, 51000 bl. Willis
1250 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1310 – suspicious vehicle, 43000 bl. Judd
1400 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Bohn
1420 – ordinance violation, 45000 bl. Harris
1519 – traffic hazard, 11000 bl. Rawsonville

(continued on page 22)

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 21)

1524 – citizen assist, 11000 bl. Rawsonville
 1604 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Harris
 1757 – threats complaint, 23000 bl. Haggerty
 1838 – parking complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter
 1935 – animal complaint, 28000 bl. Sumpter
 2007 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 4700 bl. Willis
 2050 – disorderly person, 18000 bl. Sumpter
 2133 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Willis
 2144 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 47000 bl. Willis

Friday, March 23:

0037 – assist other agency, Bemis/Martinsville
 1019 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willis
 1113 – ordinance violation, 50000 bl. Judd
 1120 – ordinance violation, 21000 bl. Sherwood
 1256 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter
 1323 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Judd
 1412 – well-being check, 43000 bl. Wear
 1525 – breaking & entering report, Delaware
 1621 – larceny report, 45000 bl. Harris
 1714 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Willow
 1743 – civil dispute, 23000 bl. Carleton West
 2011 – well-being check, 6700 bl. Oakville Waltz

Saturday, March 24:

0129 – noise complaint, Pecan
 0254 – malicious destruction of property report, Willow / Haggerty
 1114 – suspicious incident, 43000 bl. Willow
 1136 – larceny report, 48000 bl. Willow
 1501 – ordinance violation, 21000 bl. Elwell
 1506 – ordinance violation, 20000 bl. Elwell
 1654 – breaking & entering report, Utah
 1709 – civil dispute, 13000 bl. Rawsonville
 1758 – suspicious vehicle, 46000 bl. Bemis
 2047 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Elwell
 2226 – warrant arrest, out of township
 2244 – suspicious person, 20000 bl. Sumpter

Also on this week's log are 22 misc. details, 67 patrol checks, 64 traffic stops, and 26 follow-up investigations.

Rep. Slavens announces April coffee hours in Canton, Belleville

State Representative Dian Slavens, D-Canton, invites residents to join her for a cup of coffee and conversation at one of her upcoming coffee hours.

Slavens will host the following April coffee hours:

- Monday, April 2, from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Belleville Charhouse, 524 Main St. in Belleville;
- Monday, April 2, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Daydream Café, 47192 Michigan Ave. in Canton;
- Monday, April 16, from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Belleville Charhouse, 524 Main St. in Belleville; and
- Monday, April 16 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Daydream Café, 47192 Michigan Ave.

in Canton.

Slavens hosts regular coffee hours and town hall meetings throughout Canton Township, Belleville and Van Buren Township. Contact the Representative toll free at (888) 347-8021 or send an email to DianSlavens@house.mi.gov with any questions or concerns. Residents also can sign up for Slavens' e-newsletter and take a brief community survey by visiting her website at www.slavens.housedems.com.



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Easter Brunch

Sunday, April 8th: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

French Toast Bake • Eggs Benedict • Omelets Made to Order
Waffles • Corned Beef Hash • Crispy Bacon • Sausage Links
Hash Browns • Grits • Fresh Fruit • Tossed Salad • Potato Salad
Spiral Sliced Ham with Pineapple Glaze • Roast Leg of Lamb
Fresh Garden Vegetable Blend • Basmati Rice Pilaf
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FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 7AM - 11PM





Ask Angela

By Angela Nettro

I am here to answer questions pertaining to buying or selling real estate. Send your questions to "Ask Angela", c/o *Belleville-Area Independent*, 152 Main Street, Ste. 9, Belleville 48111 or send me an email at nettroandco@comcast.net. I'll answer questions each week in this column.

Question from Dan in Romulus: I have had a bankruptcy almost two years ago, but still can't get financing to buy a home yet. I have a homeowner who is agreeable to sell his home to me on a land contract, but he wants only a two-year term with a balloon note. How does the balloon note work?

Answer: A balloon note means that after you make monthly payments on the land contract for two years, the full balance that is owed on the land contract at that time is due in full to the seller. And, if you cannot come up with the balance after two years by paying in cash or refinancing your home to pay the seller off, you will lose the home and any money you have invested in the home during your land contract term.

I would suggest trying to get at least a three-to-five-year balloon term, so that your bankruptcy will be completely discharged and that you have more time to establish good credit history and more equity in your land contract home, for refinancing of your balloon note.

Please make sure that the price you are now paying for the home is a reasonable price to similar homes so that you can get a refinance loan on the future balance's value at that time.

--Angela

ANGELA NETTRO/Broker
 Angela Nettro & Co.
 (734)697-6655; Fax: (734)697-3531
 Email: nettroandco@comcast.net

Curious About The Meaning Of Easter? What Were Jesus' Disciples Thinking? How Would This Affect Your Life?



Join Us For A Live Reenactment Of Jesus' Last Supper!
Sunday, April 1, Thursday, April 5, Friday, April 6 at 8:00 p.m. each day.
Join Us Easter Sunday Service @ 9:00 am & 10:45 a.m.
First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., Belleville

Public invited to tour old Belleville High School before demolition

The public is invited to attend an April 28 open house to take a walk down memory lane and reminisce about times at old Belleville High School, before the school's demolition.

Plans are for the old high school to be demolished as soon as school is out for the summer. A drainage pond and parking lot will be constructed on the present high school site.

From 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 28, people will be able to visit the office, classrooms, gymnasiums, cafeteria, auditorium, and the music wing while getting a peek at the NEW Belleville High School through the hallway windows.

Call (734) 697-9133 with questions.

COME JOIN US AT OPEN ARMS!

Easter SERVICES AND EVENTS

Palm Sunday
April 1st • 10am

Maundy Thursday
April 5th • 7pm

Good Friday
April 6th • Noon & 7pm

Annual Egg Hunt
Saturday • April 7th 10am
All ages welcome

Easter Worship Service
Sunday • April 8th 10am

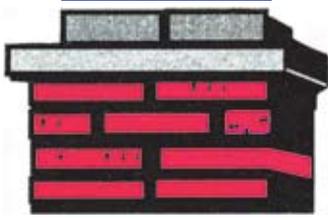
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Belleville

Celebrate Spring

DOWNTOWN ON THE LAKE

Belleville Area Council for the Arts presents
Bunnies on Main Street April 2 - 9

CBC (Central Business Community) presents
Flop-E-Bunny Easter Candy Hunt
Saturday, April 7 12 - 2pm
Victory Park at Five Points

Family Fun

Good Times

Neighbors & Friends

Belleville Area Museum presents
Civil War Sesquicentennial Exhibit
Starting April 12

Enter to WIN a Kindle Fire during
National Library Week April 8-14
Belleville Area District Library

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