



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 20.4 Thursday, January 23, 2014 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

Disbarred attorney White agrees to 'pay to stay' in house on Savage

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

Disbarred attorney Thomas A. White, who stopped making land contract payments on his family's home in Van Buren Township last summer and is facing eviction, has agreed to a proposal to "pay to stay" in the house.

The agreement was put on the record Thursday before 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley.

White has a 90-day redemption period -- until April 14 -- to come up with \$36,355.18. If he fails to pay, he will be evicted.

Robert Coppock of Van Buren Township built the \$360,000 home for White and his wife.

Coppock and White, White's wife Heather and Coppock's wife Gloria all signed the Oct. 10, 2006 land contract agreement that White had drawn up.

Last fall the Coppocks filed a land contract forfeiture complaint to recover missed payments, interest and back taxes on the home.

According to Wayne County records, the home is now in forfeiture because the Whites didn't pay the taxes.

White, 46, filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy last July, a few days after being disbarred for inappropriately taking money from clients.

After Coppock filed a request with the Bankruptcy Court to get his house back, Bankruptcy Judge Thomas J. Tucker removed the house from White's automatic bankruptcy stay on creditors which allowed Coppock to go after White for back payments and unpaid taxes. The house is at 41305 Savage Road, Van Buren Township.

Judge Tucker's order said the approximate market value of the property now is \$260,000 and the current debt owing is about \$306,688, which includes unpaid property taxes, the Coppocks' attorney fee, and costs for filing the motion.

On Jan. 16, Coppock's attorney Steven P. Robinson met with White in a private conference room at 34th District Court in Romulus. White, who came to court without an attorney or members of his family, agreed to the figures in a "pay-to-stay" agreement.

A consent default was filed with the court since White's estranged wife Heather failed to appear after receiving a summons to the Jan. 16 court session.

And, Judge Oakley ordered a motion to set aside the 10-day statutory provision to file an appeal.

White is also facing 20 felony charges including one count of conducting a Criminal Enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity.

Thirty-five instances were cited on this charge in the warrant for a total of more than \$940,000. On this charge alone, if convicted, White could be sentenced to 20 years in prison and/or a \$100,000 fine.

White is scheduled to appear at 34th District Court on Feb. 26 for preliminary examinations in all the felony cases to see if there is probable cause that felony crimes occurred and the defendant committed them. If the judge finds there is probable cause, the cases are bound over to circuit court for arraignment on the information and possible trial.

White is currently free on a personal recognizance bond of \$100,000 set by Judge Oakley.

White also is scheduled to appear at a Divorce Settlement Conference/Trial set for 9 a.m. Feb. 6 before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Arthur J. Lombard. White's wife Heather Lea White filed for divorce Nov. 1.

White was an attorney with offices at 35 Main Street, Belleville, for 20 years until he was disbarred July 15 for stealing from his clients. He declared Chapter 7 bankruptcy a few days later.



Independent photo by James Otzman

The walls have begun to rise at the Davenport strip mall being constructed on East Columbia/Savage Road in Belleville. Over the Jan. 12 week end, after the severe low temperatures abated, workers were out in the 42-degree weather laying the cement blocks. They have been out building the walls since then whenever the weather warms up enough.

District Library Board selects preferred layout for proposed library

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

It took about three hours of discussion before the Belleville Area District Board agreed the floor plan they liked best of all for the proposed new library was option C1, the same one the architect pushed for all evening.

Architect Dan Whisler had provided options A, B, and C at the December meeting and came up with his favorite, C1, for the Building Committee meeting Dec. 30 and the regular board meeting on Jan. 14.

After hours of discussion at the regular board meeting, just before 10 p.m., Board Chairwoman Mary Jane Dawson said, "If I had to tell you which one I would like you to build tomorrow, I'd pick C1," and Whisler replied, with relief, "OK."

"One more thing," Whisler said, pulling out yet another drawing, this time of the possible outside look of the building.

He had designed a clerestory that let in the natural light, a dome on top, and a butterfly roof. He said these are possibilities.

In other business at the Jan. 14 meeting, the board:

- Decided the Building Committee should look into who to hire for bond counsel and discuss it at their Jan. 23 or Feb. 4 meetings in order to make a recommendation to the full board for its Feb. 11 meeting. Architect Whisler said, "My instinct is you can't go by your February meeting" to make the decision. A 7 p.m., Jan. 28 special board meeting was set to consider the committee's bond counsel recommendation;

- Discussed an agenda item "Consideration to Videotape Meetings in 2014," suggested many times over the years by resident Barbara Miller. Chairman Dawson listed all the reasons it isn't being done. Board members Christina Brasil and Joseph Monte volunteered to look into the issue and talk to school students about them possibly helping with the project;

- Agreed to ask financial consultant Ron Traskos to come to the next meeting to discuss the budget audit which they just obtained. In December Traskos said about

(continued on page 13)

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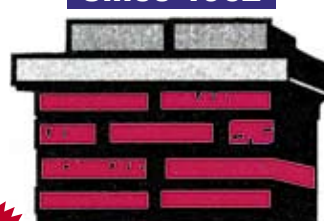
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Belleville DDA votes to support Soup Project, considers ‘Booville’

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Sometime in late February, the Belleville Downtown Development Authority, in conjunction with New Tech at Belleville High School, will put on a special Belleville Soup Project.

At its regular meeting Jan. 15, the Belleville DDA voted unanimously to guarantee \$1,000 (from its fund balance) to support the project.

DDA member Denise Baker explained the project which will include members of the community paying to eat together and listen to four business proposals by the BHS New Tech students.

Then the diners will vote to select the best proposal and that proposal will win a grant of at least \$500 to get started.

This is a new project and so it is unclear

how many people will come to participate. That’s why the DDA chipped in to make sure it will succeed.

If more than 100 people participate, the DDA’s financial participation would be less than minimal, Baker said.

“But, the first time around is tough and we need support from the DDA,” she said.

The Soup Committee would like to use the BHS cafeteria, but the details are still in the preliminary stages.

She said the meal would be catered and would include soup, salad, dessert, and beverage.

The committee estimated cost would be \$10 per person, including \$8 worth of food and room rental of \$200.

So, admission will be \$15 for one person or \$25 for two. The committee will invite a potential guest list of 250, plus ticket sales

to the public. Advance tickets will be sold.

The committee was formed at the Nov. 20 DDA meeting after DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson provided copies to DDA members and the audience of an article in the July/August issue of The Michigan Municipal League’s magazine, *The Review*, that tells of Jonesville Soup, which was based on Detroit Soup.

It amounted to local people cooperating by paying for a light lunch of soup and salad that has been donated. The proceeds of the lunch tabs go to fund a group effort to improve the community. The lunchers vote on the proposals after brief presentations and then give the winners the money to follow their plan.

Booville

In discussion on another new event, DDA member Rosemary Loria explained the idea of turning Belleville into “Booville” during the month of October each year.

She said back in October she met up with Bill Wolters, president of the Belleville Central Business Community (CBC), in the Fourth Street Square when 50 witches met at Eagan’s Pub.

Others came to see the witches, all in costume, and it was a fun-filled time.

Loria said she and Wolters talked about expanding the Halloween theme and, “Belleville would become Booville for the month of October.”

She said there could be activities, contests, fund raisers and other events and the CBC is interested in getting involved.

She said this would not infringe on Harvest Fest or the Scarecrow Contest or the Trick or Treating on Halloween, but would expand it all into the month.

“A big part of Belleville’s charm is the events that go on in the city,” said DDA member Brian Copsey in support of the idea.

Loria said they would encourage people to be in costume throughout the month and more than on Halloween.

DDA chairman John Hoops said he would put it on the DDA follow-up list and discuss it again after a committee meeting.

Economic Impact Study

Barbara Miller was present in the audience to ask the DDA to get an Economic Impact study on what would be the results of moving the library building out of the city onto the selected site across the Belleville Bridge.

Miller, an attorney in Belleville, said she is extremely disappointed that the library plans to move out of town and she recalled when this DDA passed a resolution in support of keeping the library in Belleville.

She asked the DDA to support and fund an Economic Impact Study that could offer information for the citizens on the impact

of the move when they are asked to vote on the bond issue for construction.

She said the study would consider the impact on the city. She said some 25,000 cars a month come to the city and park so people can go to the library. Then, they do other shopping while in town.

She said without a library to draw the people to town, in the future she sees no drugstore, no hardware store, and other stores would be gone.

(Apologizing for digressing, Miller said an exception would be the antique shop which draws people from all over the area and has active business, especially on weekends.)

She recalled when she, Belleville Mayor Glenn Silvenis, and City Manager Bob Herron went to see an attorney when the county wanted to close the Belleville Bridge for a year to rebuild it. The attorney told them they needed an Economic Impact Study which they got and the bridge stayed open during construction.

She told the DDA, “The city depends on your leadership.”

DDA Chairman Hoops said he would put the issue of an Economic Impact Study on the agenda of the next DDA meeting on Feb. 19.

In other business at the 35-minute Jan. 15 meeting, the DDA:

- Heard a report on Winter Fest from Randy Brown of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce. He said it is estimated that 10,000 to 15,000 people turned out to enjoy it and he thanked the DDA for their contribution. He said the Chamber made \$891 in profit. He said the Chamber is open to any suggestions for improving the event for next year and, around October, if anyone has a parade theme to suggest, it would be welcome;
- Accepted the trophy the city won for Best Float for a Municipality in the Winter Fest parade. Brown said there was a mistake in judging at first, but the city did win;
- Re-elected the same officers for the coming year: John Hoops, chairman; Gary Snarski, vice chairman; Jim Higerson, secretary; and Sabrina Richardson Williams, treasurer. The DDA will continue to meet at 6 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month;
- Heard Thompson report that in March a committee will review and select seven outdoor sculptures for display in the downtown area for a year. She said she had two more sponsors; and
- Heard Miller suggest the Mural Committee meet with Hubert Massey, a renowned muralist she serves with on the Wayne County Art Authority. She said Massey sets up discussion groups to find out how the community feels before doing public murals.

City of Belleville Employee Costs 1/1/13 - 12/31/13

Employee Name	Total Wages	Employer FICA Pension/	MERS	LTD/STD	Net Medical Ins/Payout	Total Cost
City Council						
B.Blackburn	1,000.00	76.50	-	-	-	1,076.50
K. Conley	1,500.00	114.75	-	-	-	1,614.75
J. Loria	1,000.00	76.50	-	-	-	1,076.50
T. Smith	1,000.00	76.50	-	-	-	1,076.50
K.Tindall	1,000.00	76.50	-	-	-	1,076.50
City Manager						
D.Kollmeyer	68,004.80	5,202.37	6,800.48	658.80	16,685.33	97,351.78
Clerk/Treasurer						
L.Long	51,477.42	3,938.02	20,492.97	658.80	18,921.94	95,489.15
Account Clerks						
M.Bellingham	41,276.80	3,157.68	7,184.12	415.80	6,000.00	58,034.40
T.McGlynn	36,028.80	2,756.20	7,342.00	415.80	7,245.36	53,788.17
S.Moore	37,740.51	2,887.15	7,681.95	415.80	7,245.36	55,970.77
M.Sayo	36,871.37	2,820.66	7,506.00	415.80	7,245.36	54,859.19
C.Smith	7,130.70	545.50				7,676.20
Department of Public Services						
K.Boc, Director	68,839.70	5,266.24	27,961.66	658.80	12,633.89	115,360.29
S.Adams	49,368.98	3,776.73	9,753.54	415.80	16,873.33	80,188.37
S.Demond	50,403.12	3,855.84	10,261.29	415.80	18,921.94	83,857.98
L.Prybyla	52,662.49	4,028.68	9,507.18	415.80	6,000.00	72,614.15
R.Akans	15,386.00	1,177.03				16,563.03
S. Jones	3,380.00	258.57				3,638.57
L. Pustelak	149.50	11.44				160.94
Police Officers						
G.Taylor, Chief	64,869.80	4,962.54	26,353.92	658.80	18,809.76	115,654.82
K.Fault-Schlund	68,149.20	5,213.41	18,518.40	658.80	10,022.06	102,561.88
J.Hiemstra	23,685.39	1,811.93	5,393.93	109.80	3,134.96	34,136.02
T.Schrecengost	67,739.46	5,182.07	16,736.46	658.80	17,785.46	108,102.24
M.VanDeweghe	60,898.10	4,658.70	17,909.50	658.80	7,207.97	91,333.07
J. Wickham	55,919.91	4,277.87	15,257.12	658.80	15,629.81	91,743.51
J. Wolfe	56,883.76	4,351.61	15,494.35	658.80	14,309.11	91,697.62
K. Rose	35,691.52	2,730.40		658.80	586.27	39,666.99
M. King	8,364.00	639.85				9,003.85
G. Beach	10,230.00	782.60				11,012.60
Crossig Guards						
M.Taiga	3,708.00	283.66				3,991.66
Fire Department						
B.Blackburn	7,446.41	569.65				8,016.06
S. Greening	2,695.17	206.18				2,901.35
L. Griffin	3,618.00	276.78				3,894.78
S. Griggs	1,942.00	148.56				2,090.56
B.Loranger	10,789.25	825.38				11,614.63
M. Loveland	5,304.34	405.78				5,710.12
J. Martin	2,768.00	211.75				2,979.75
C.McClinton	2,842.17	217.43				3,059.60
K.Rix	5,692.17	435.45				6,127.62
A.Simons	3,762.84	287.86				4,050.70
G. Smith	3,002.33	229.68				3,232.01
A.Zehel	3,474.16	265.77				3,739.93
W.Zehel	1,144.00	87.52				1,231.52
C.Zweng	7,322.76	560.19				7,882.95
Senior Transportation Drivers						
J.Akans	8,544.25	653.64				9,197.89

OPINIONS

Editorial

Here's what taxpayers are paying their help

This is the sixth year of the *Independent's* Open Records project. This is where we request salaries of municipal and school employees through the Freedom of Information Act and then print them for all to study.

It's a big job, but our readers tell us they look forward to the annual reports and show them to their friends in other communities for comparison.

This year we are starting with the City of Belleville on page 3 of today's paper. Actually, Van Buren Township got their FOIA response back to us first, but it takes a lot of work to get their information prepared for publication.

The City of Belleville got their information to us second, but it was ready to go, as is, so we are printing Belleville first. VBT will be printed next week or in two weeks, depending on logistics.

The huge report from the Van Buren Public Schools will follow. Sumpter Township is still working on its report and, for the first time, we also will have a report from Keystone Charter Academy, also still working on its figures.

We always submit our FOIAs for wages in January, following the closing of the books for the year. This time we will be printing the 2013 figures.

So, here we go. Hope you find it interesting. After all, it's your money at work. Everyone has to remember that we can have a say in how it is spent. Knowing how it's spent is the first step.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

We received a call last Thursday from Linda Burger Raynor, who used to live here but now reads her *Independent* in Florida. She said she read about Kay Atkins' experience with the scam that used Walmart and Target names to offer her a \$100 gift card if she'd give them her credit card number. Then something happened to Linda that made her call me.

She said she was thinking about identity theft and decided to call her identity theft insurance company to ask some questions. When she called, someone in "an offshore account in India" answered and part of the spiel was that she could get a \$100 gift card to Walmart or Target by giving them her credit card number to pay the shipping.

Whoa! She thought of Kay and, of course, rejected the offer.

Linda called them back later and when the lady that answered claimed she was in the U.S., but couldn't answer simple questions about America that Linda posed to her, Linda determined the lady on the other end of the line was actually out of the country.

After a series of calls, Linda realized she had written down the phone number of her identity theft insurance company wrong, flipping the last two numbers. She said if seniors made that mistake and dialed the wrong number, too, they might think that Indian scam offer was from their insurance company and fall for it. She alerted the insurance company about how close their phone number was to a scam number.

After she told me her story, we talked about various recent stories in the paper and what she thought about them. Fun.



On Friday, another one of our readers brought in a scam email he received from a "devout Christian" lady in the United Kingdom who wanted to donate to him money left by her late husband. Her attorney will need some bank information from him so she can transfer the funds.

He deleted the letter.

A while back there was a classified ad where a lady whose son had died wanted to give away his motorcycle. That was a scam, we found out, but this reader said he had replied and feels that's how "they" got his email address.

Are there more scams these days or are we just getting more information from the smart people who read our paper and want to warn others of the dangers?

We've had several calls from our readers complaining that the Van Buren Township Police Department dispatch logs for VBT and Belleville no longer have addresses on them, which is a problem. VBT stopped providing the addresses in December after a woman complained to them when her address was printed after she called police about a "shots fired" complaint. I was told they would be putting in the block numbers instead when they figure out how to do that on their computer program, but so far there are no numbers at all.

The problem? People can't tell if the problem reported on their street is next door or across town. That's important to

them. And, it's scary.

For years VBT has been providing the exact addresses of the calls for service and people got used to knowing what's going on in their neighborhoods. Now, some of the calls even have no street names. How useless is that?

Sumpter has been using block numbers for years and although the full address is more exact the block number gets us in the neighborhood.

Calling me to complain doesn't help. Telephone or email VBT Police brass if you want more exact logs in the *Independent*. We'll print them if we get them.

We're told VBT police Officer Fred Yono (35 years) and Lt. Ernie Thornsby (30.5 years) are retiring from the VBT Police Department at the end of this month. Word has it Yono will be serving as a reserve police officer in Huron Township. Should we warn drivers in that township about how good he is at writing traffic tickets? Last spring Yono carried the rank of sergeant. According to Supervisor Combs, he chose to take a voluntary demotion that would enable him to remain in the traffic bureau.

A big St. Patrick's Day party will be held at the 4th Street Square by Eagan's Pub. March 17. Bar opens at 7 a.m.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Letters

Wanted: Witnesses to Cowardly Assault

To the Editor:

Wanted: Witnesses to the COWARDLY ASSAULT that occurred at 11 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014 outside of Rollers Skate Rink in Sumpter that disfigured my son's face and gave him multiple concussions.

Anyone who knows anything about the assault that occurred outside or the actions taken inside Rollers afterward by the mother of the perpetrator as she was yelling and physically removed the mistaken coat, please call and report to the Sumpter Police Department as soon as possible.

A Responsible Mother who teaches her children to use their words, not violence.
Sumpter Township

You're invited to join Greektown Casino trip

To the Editor:

Tired of being cooped up for the winter? CAF5 is sponsoring a casino trip to Greektown Casino on March 15!

Let us do the driving. Buses will leave the 34th District Court parking lot at 2 p.m. and return at 10 p.m. on March 15. You will have door-to-door service. Tickets are \$25 and Greektown will give every person on the bus a \$20 gambling bonus play. We will have beverages for sale and fun on the bus all the way to and from Greektown. ALL proceeds will go to CAF5.

CAF5 is a 503c charity that helps families with children in the Van Buren, Romulus, and New Boston schools. We have provided prescription medicine, eyeglasses, help with utility bills, help with funeral costs, and many other needs for families that require assistance. If you know of a family that needs assistance, please call (734) 941-3510 and ask for Keith.

Get your tickets before they are gone! Tickets are available at the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce office, (734) 697-7151; Johnston Lithograph in Romulus, (734) 941-3510; or by calling (734) 697-6046. We will deliver the tickets to you.

Help support a good cause while you are having a great time at Greektown!
Karen Mida, CAF5 secretary
Van Buren Township

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Thanks for carrying out my bags of ice melters

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the young cashier at Belleville Pro Hardware on Saturday morning. I purchased 200 lbs. of ice melter and he carried it, 100 lbs. at a time, to my car. I had my gall bladder removed just before Christmas and one of my wounds hasn't healed yet (there's still a 1.5" deep hole in my belly), so lifting anything over 10 lbs. is out of the question. Once at home, my brother can unload the car, if you wondered how I got the stuff out of the car at home.

You can't get that type of service from Meijer's or Walmart. If you do find someone there, it's either not their department or they're too busy texting to help. Also, most of them there probably couldn't lift 100 lbs.

James Otzman
Van Buren Township

Come toss bean bags to help send kids to camp

To the Editor:

Belleville Young Life, a local Christian youth ministry for high-school and middle-school students, is hosting their 3rd Annual Bean Bag (Cornhole) Tournament on Saturday, Jan. 25 at Wayne County Community College - 9555 Haggerty Rd. in Belleville.

The tournament will begin at 1 p.m., and registration will be available beginning at 12:30. All proceeds of the tournament will go towards sending local kids to summer camp, so grab a partner and come on out! (If you don't have a partner, they would love to find one for you!)

The cost is \$20 per player (\$40 per team), and you can pre-register online at www.bellevillyounglife.org (day-of-event registration will be limited). And for anyone who doesn't love playing bean bag toss, there will be lots of raffle items to buy tickets for, as well as a free cooking demonstration from the head chef of Belleville's own Angel Food Catering from 2-4 p.m.

So, come and enjoy your Saturday afternoon with food, prizes, and some friendly competition, while supporting a great, local cause!

For more information, please contact me at bellevillyounglife@gmail.com or (734)252-9395.

Greg Sivi, Young Life Staff Associate I
Belleville

"I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots."
— Albert Einstein

VBT Police investigate series of auto entries last Thursday/Friday

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Van Buren Township police were dispatched to two different residences on East Huron River Drive, between the Belleville city limits and Martinsville Road last Friday morning concerning suspicious activity related to parked vehicles.

VBT Police Lt. Ken Floro said officers determined that at some time during the night an unknown suspect was walking eastbound in this area checking for unlocked parked vehicles that could be easily entered and quickly assessed for valuable personal property.

Lt. Floro said as of Friday afternoon, when he responded to the *Independent's* request for information, there were about three to five vehicles entered with nothing of significant value stolen.

"The unknown suspect checked numerous other vehicles in the area, but did not gain entry into any locked vehicles," Lt. Floro said.

"The Van Buren Township Police Department is encouraging residents to always lock your vehicle, avoid leaving personal property in your vehicle, use caution when warming up your vehicle during these cold winter months and please be diligent in contacting the police department if you observe suspicious activity in your neighborhood," Lt. Floro said.

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Obituaries



Scott David Carey
Chief of Police,
Huron Township

SCOTT DAVID CAREY

(July 31, 1975 – January 9, 2014)

Scott David Carey passed away January 9, 2014 at the age of 38 after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was born July 31, 1975 to Daryl and Mary Ann (Dilts) Carey. He was deeply loved by his wife Kelly and their 4-year-old daughter Ashlyn.

Scott is survived by his parents, brother Brad (Kristen) Carey and sister Brenda (John) Boyd. He also is survived by his father- and mother-in-law James and Deborah Forbes, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Scott was made Chief of Police this past February for the Huron Township, MI, Police Department. Eight months after being named chief, he took medical leave as he battled cancer. He has been with the department since 1998 having been a Patrolman and Lt.-Detective prior to Chief.

Scott grew up in Plymouth and graduated from Plymouth-Canton High School. He received his Bachelor of Criminal Justice from Michigan State University. Scott loved hunting duck and deer, both bow and rifle. He also loved fast cars and had raced at various drag strips in the area. Most of all, Scott loved his family and spending time with them.

A Memorial Service was held Friday, January 17, 2014, at Plymouth First United Methodist church, 45201 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth. Memorials may be made to the "Ashlyn Carey Fund" at any PNC branch or The American Melanoma Foundation, 4150 Regents Park Row, Suite 300, LaJolla, CA 92037, www.melanomafoundation.org or Great Lakes Hospice Foundation, 900 Cooper St., Jackson, 49202 www.greatlakeshospicefoundation.com

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Larry Francis Bitnar

LARRY FRANCIS BITNAR

(May 30, 1945 - January 7, 2014)

Larry Francis Bitnar, 68, of Paradise, MI, died January 7, 2014 in Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

He was born May 30, 1945 in Romulus, MI, the son of Oldrich Bitnar and Frances (Whichello) Bitnar of Paradise, MI.

Larry attended Belleville High School, Class of 1963, and worked at Belleville Tool & Die.

He is survived by his sons Timothy Carl (Patty) Bitnar of Tucson, AZ, and Larry Vance Bitnar of Sault Ste. Marie, MI; a brother Don (Linda) Bitnar of Paradise, MI; three sisters, Janet (John) Oliver of Belleville, MI, Sue Leming of South Lyon, MI, and Marti Forsyth of Westland, MI; grandchildren Rayna Bitnar and Alexis Bitnar of Tucson, AZ, and Rachel Bitnar and Christopher Bitnar of Sault Ste. Marie, MI; and many nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Jerry Bitnar of Granbury, TX.

A Memorial Service will take place in the spring of 2014 in Paradise, MI.



Harold Bruce Belanger

HAROLD BRUCE BELANGER

Harold Bruce Belanger of Belleville, 65, passed away Tuesday, January 7, 2014.

1967 BHS Graduate. His two passions were coaching and kids. Belanger was a volunteer Cougar Football coach, Belleville Area Little League coach, played on and coached numerous slow-pitch softball teams, and was a BHS basketball and softball coach.

To cherish his memory, Belanger is survived by his wife Cynthia of Belleville; two sons Daniel Belanger and Brian Shepherd, both of Belleville; four grandchildren Alyssa, John, Brian, and Logan; sisters Fay Kenrick, Dorothy Kirpach, Margaret Manning, Linda Kenyon, and Loretta Yocum; brothers Edmond Belanger, Fred Belanger, and Dennis Belanger.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held January 25 at the Belleville High School Cafeteria. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m. with the memorial beginning at 1 p.m. officiated by Pastor Joseph Kennedy. A pancake supper fundraiser will be held in Coach Belanger's memory on February 16 from 2-4 p.m. at the Belleville Yacht Club. The cost is \$10. Condolences, donations, and memorial contributions may be sent to the family at P.O. Box 1, Belleville, MI 48112.



Glenn A. Tayler

GLENN A. TAYLER

Glenn A. Tayler, 58 of Belleville, MI, residing in Cocoa Beach, FL went home to our Lord, December 7, 2013. A Loving and devoted husband to Jacquelyn Tayler, a loving father to Nicole (Tayler) Cox, son-in-law Ryan Cox, grandfather to Mateo Joseph and Augustino Ryan Cox.

Also a loving brother to sisters Julie (Tayler) Sell, Michelle (Tayler) Atkins, Robin (Sala) Augst, Sherry Sala, and brother Eddie Sala and loving son to his father Edward Sala (of Belleville) residing now in Cocoa Beach, FL.

Glenn graduated from Belleville High School in 1973 and continued his education at Eastern Michigan University where he earned a degree in Business in 1977.

Glenn retired from General Motors in 2009 after 27 years of service. During his vast career he took many directions from Sales to Marketing Director of NASCAR and the Indy Racing League.

Glenn enjoyed spending time with his family, golf, golf, and more golf; with great interest in boating and outdoor activities.

We will truly miss Glenn in our hearts and mind forever! We Love you so much!

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Obituaries



Martha Joyce Seay

MARTHA J. SEAY

(February 21, 1940 - January 19, 2014)

Martha Joyce Seay, age 73, of Belleville, MI, passed away Sunday, January 19, 2014 at her home. She was born February 21, 1940 in Camden, Tennessee, daughter of Herman & Sarah Alean (Ward) Harrison.

She was a member of the Lincoln Community United Methodist Church, Ypsilanti, MI. She enjoyed Bible Study and loved to learn and understand. She was very active in the Right to Life and she was the Right to Life Mother of the Year 1997. She had a deep love for people and loved to play with children.

Mrs. Seay is survived by her husband, Bob Seay; five children, Cynthia (Dean) Leathers of Northville, MI, Catherine (Robert Jr.) Ostrowski of Canton, MI, Robert (Patricia) Seay of Belleville, MI, Kirsten (Robert) Slagle of Allen Park, MI, and Kimberly (Reynaldo) Martell of Belleville; 14 grandchildren, Crystal Donaldson, David Donaldson, Derek Leathers, Clarire Ostrowski, Christopher Ostrowski, Connor Ostrowski, Robin Seay, Megan Seay, Alyssa Slagle, Tyler Slagle, Hunter Slagle, Reynaldo Evan Martell, Sabrina Martell, and Amelia Martell; three great-grandchildren Noah Pardy, Kalyn Leathers and Anya Harris; a sister Mary Etta Gibson of Warren, MI; a brother John Harrison of Warren, MI; also, numerous nieces, nephews and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, also three brothers Herman, Robert and Thomas Harrison.

Visitation will be 5-8 PM Thursday and 2-8 PM Friday at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing & Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Funeral Services will be 11:00 AM Saturday, January 25, 2014 at Lincoln Community United Methodist Church, 9074 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Rev. Beverly L. Marr will officiate. Interment will be in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.

Memorial contributions to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen would be greatly appreciated by the family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to cherish.

Group discusses library site, plans to oppose DNR location in election

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On Sunday afternoon about 15 people met at the home of Belleville attorney Barbara Rogalle Miller to discuss information on the proposed library site.

On Oct. 8, the Belleville Area District Library Board, on a 6-1 vote, agreed to select lakeside property owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Spencer family as the site for a new library building.

The library board is now moving forward with plans to put a bond issue on the Aug. 5 Primary Election ballot.

On Sunday, after discussing details of the site, the group agreed that it would be a better idea to lease the site from the DNR for a municipal marina for seasonal use, than it would be to try to build a library there with 1,400 feet of shoreline.

Those present agreed to form a Political Action Committee (PAC) to handle donations for mailings, signs, and other expenses to oppose the bond election for this site.

The bond sought for the construction is expected to be from \$18-20 million, but the library board said it will not announce the figure until its April 8 meeting.

On Sunday it was announced that the terms of four members of the library board are expiring this year and those four-year terms will be filled in the Nov. 4 election. The seats that are expiring presently belong to: Christina Brasil, Mary Jane Dawson, Elaine Gutierrez, and Joseph Monte.

On Sunday plans were made to recruit candidates in the tri-community to run against the incumbents to get fresh ideas on the board.

Residents from Van Buren and Sumpter townships who discussed the site on Sunday stressed they were not against building a new library, but were just against this DNR site.

Many said they will get out their "Keep the Library Downtown" signs to display before the August election, as well as order up some new signs.

Miller said after her letter to the editor on the site ran in the *Independent*, she spoke to more than 50 people on the issue. She said some told her they were also against the DNR site, but they couldn't come out in the open to say so because this might impact their political or business interests.

VBPS is looking for More Distinguished Graduates to honor

The Van Buren Public Schools is now accepting nominations for deserving graduates of Belleville High School for the Distinguished Graduates Hall of Fame.

Enacted by the Board of Education in 1998, the mission of this program is to recognize honorable and worthy graduates who have brought distinction to the community.

The district is looking for qualified nominees who have graduated from Belleville High School prior to 2003 and have distinguished themselves in either or both of the following categories:

- Contributed to their chosen profession through outstanding individual performance, leadership or recognized success in a particular field of work; and/or

- Contributed or volunteered leadership, time, effort and/or resources to benefit the greater Belleville area or other communities.

Graduates of Belleville High School who

are deceased, but meet the aforementioned criteria, can be nominated for the posthumous category.

Nominations can be made by contacting the Van Buren Public Schools, Belleville High School at 734-697-9133 or by writing to: Belleville High School Nomination - Distinguished Graduate Program, c/o Melissa Lloyd, Assistant Principal, 501 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville 48111.

Nomination forms are also available online at www.vanburenschools.net.

Deadline for entries is Feb. 7.

Winners will be honored in conjunction with the Belleville High School National Honor Society Induction this spring.

Donald Currier of VBT recovering at Regency

Donald Currier of Van Buren Township is recovering from a broken femur at Room #151, Regency at Canton, 45900 Geddes Road, Canton 48188.

He fell on ice and broke his leg Jan. 15 while on his job that took him to Rochester and was operated on Jan. 16 at Crittenton Hospital.

Michael Tuer named to Dean's List at Mich. Tech

Michael Tuer of Belleville has been named to the Dean's List for fall semester 2013 at Michigan Technological University in Houghton. Michael is majoring in Software Engineering.

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Saturday, 11 a.m. to midnight; and Sunday, noon to 9 p.m. They're located at the corner of Sumpter and Bemis roads. Catering is available and delivery, too. Call (734) 697-7999.

The food pantry at the **Belleville Church of God** on Hull Road is once again offering free food and non-perishables next Thursday, Jan. 30, and every last Thursday of the month. To sign up, call Joanne at (734) 697-1142.

The Van Buren Area Little League is

holding its next two open registrations for summer baseball. Softball and T-ball is this Saturday, Jan. 25, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Municipal Center on Tyler Road, then on Jan. 29 at McBride Middle School, from 6 to 8 p.m. To register online or for more information on fees and upcoming dates, call (734) 260-6017 or go to www.vanburenarealittleleague.org. Open registration will be accepted through the month of February.

You have until Jan. 31 to register for the spring season of the **Van Buren Soccer Association**. For information, email vanburensoccer@comcast.net or call (734) 732 8649.

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



**In memory of
Nathen Estermyer
5/23/83-1/20/96.**

The only thing more precious than our son Nathen is how the community shared along with us during our loss. God Bless you all.
The Estermyer Family

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Saturday, Jan. 25** -- Architect Dan Whisler will be at the general meeting of the Belleville Area District Friends of the Library at 2 p.m. to show the public his latest sketches and site plans for a proposed new library. The session is called: "New Year -- New Library!" You're invited. Refreshments will be served.

• **Saturday, Jan. 25** -- Belleville Wyldlife is hosting its Third-Annual Bean Bag Tournament beginning at 1 p.m. at Wayne County Community College on Haggerty Road. Grab a partner and toss some bean bags to help send kids to camp. Cost is \$20 person. There will be prizes, a basket raffle and a free cooking demonstration by the head chef at Angel Food Catering.

• **Monday, Jan. 27** -- State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, and his district manager Penny Crider will be at the September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, from 10 to 11 a.m. to talk to the public. He will respond to concerns anyone may have.

• **Thursday, Jan. 30** -- The African American Book Group meets at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library to discuss "Dopefiend" by Donald Goines.

• **Friday, Jan. 31** -- There's a Potato Pancake Supper from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 28320 Waltz Rd., New Boston. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12, children 5 and under free. Carry-out dinners available after 5:30 p.m.

• **Saturday, Feb. 1** -- Lots of bargains await you at the Used Book Sale at the Belleville Area District Library. The sale starts at 11 a.m. for Friends of the Library and runs from noon to 3 p.m. for the general public.

• **Sunday, Feb. 2** -- Bugles Across America is held at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial on High Street in Belleville to honor military people serving and at rest with a brief ceremony.

• **Thursday, Feb. 6** -- Join the Evening Book Group at the Belleville Area District Library at 7 p.m. to discuss "The Roots of the Olive Tree" by Courtney Miller Santo.

• **Thursday, Feb. 13** -- "Historical Barns" with Keith Bruder will begin at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library as part of the free Homegrown Knowledge Series.

Upcoming Meetings

• **Tuesday, Jan. 28** -- Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Water & Sewer Commission, 7 p.m.

• **Monday, Feb. 3** -- Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• **Tuesday, Feb. 4** -- Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, regular meeting, 7 p.m.

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41573 TOMPKINS, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

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42560 WILLIS, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

BANK OWNED! ONE HUGE HOME FOR THE MONEY! Septic system needs to be replaced at approximately \$15,000. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths and 3,865 SQFT includes indoor pool, pool room and whirlpool. This home is located on more than an acre with larger 2-1/2 car attached garage. Home being sold "as-is" with purchaser responsible for township, county septic certification and responsible for any survey or lot measurements. Red barn not included. \$90,000. CASH!

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New Activity Night!

Friday January 24th 2014

7:00pm - 11:00pm

On Skates - New Activities every 30 Minutes!
Games and Prizes! Admission \$7.00 Skate Rentals \$3.00

Saturday January 25th 2014

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Friday February 14th 2014

Admission \$7.00 Skate Rental \$3.00



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EGGS, HASH BROWNS, BACON OR SAUSAGE/TOAST
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Mon-Fri 6am-11am. Not valid on specials. With coupon only. Coupon may not be combined. Dine-in only. Expires 2/28/2014



Mini Breakfast – \$1.99
EGGS, HASH BROWNS, BACON OR SAUSAGE/TOAST
With purchase of beverage per person
Mon-Fri 6am-11am. Not valid on specials. With coupon only. Coupon may not be combined. Dine-in only. Expires 2/28/2014

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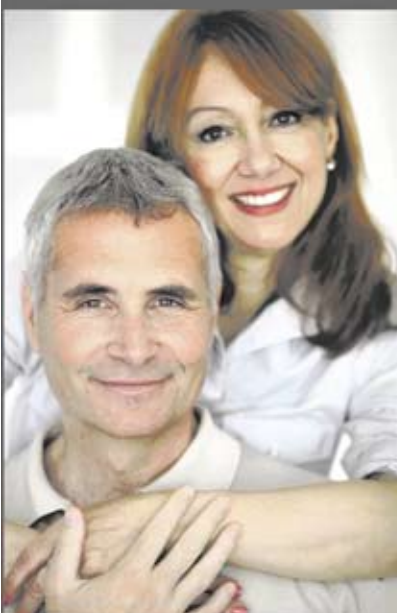
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Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year 2013



Tara Baker Genstil and her dad James Baker do the daddy/daughter dance at her wedding.

Tara Baker weds Michael Genstil in Calif.

Tara Baker and Michael Genstil were married Nov. 23 at the Church of the Wayfarer, Carmel-by-the-sea in Carmel, California.

Tara lives in Oakland, Calif., and is the daughter of James and Linda Baker of Frankenmuth, MI, and the granddaughter of Millie Baker of Belleville.

Michael is the son of Stephen and Mary Genstil of California.

Tara had a matron of honor and four bridesmaids, all friends from high school, college, and places where she had worked. Michael had a best man and four groomsmen. One of the groomsmen was Tara's brother, Marcus, of Frankenmuth. There also were two ushers.

The reception dinner and dance took place at the Quail Lodge in Carmel.



Welcome, Nina Katherine Jacobson

Nina Katherine Jacobson, daughter of Scott and Stephanie Jacobson, was born Aug. 27, 2013. She is the granddaughter of Robert and Sharon Baker of California and great-granddaughter of Mildred Baker of Belleville. She is pictured at her baptism on Dec. 22. Mildred Baker went to California carrying the dress that has been worn by her three children, eight grandchildren, and now her eighth great-grandchild. That makes Nina the 19th baby to be baptized in the dress. She was baptized at Mount of Olives church in Mission Viejo, Calif. The dress was given to Bob and Mildred Baker 69 years ago by Mildred's parents, Lambert and Elizabeth Mida, for the Baker's first born.

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Van Buren Public Schools (District) will receive sealed bids for:

OWEN ELEMENTARY MECHANICAL AND CONTROL UPGRADE PROJECT

Bids must be delivered no later than 2:00 p.m. EST on February 6, 2014, at the Administration Building located at 555 West Columbia Avenue, Belleville, Michigan 48111. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:15 p.m. Bids received after the above stipulated date and time will not be opened, considered, or accepted.

Beginning Wednesday, January 23, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. bid documents can be obtained by accessing the following email: <https://app.e-builder.net/public/publicLanding.aspx?QS=398a704e2817481a9489ccbb7de0d745>

Please contact LaMerra Hobbs at lamerra.hobbs@plantemoran.com with any questions you may have with regard to retrieving the RFP information.

All bidders are invited to attend a non-mandatory pre-bid meeting with the District on January 27, starting at 3:00 p.m. at the Administration Building located at 555 West Columbia Avenue, Belleville, Michigan.

Prospective bidders must meet the following minimum standards in order to submit a proposal:

- Must be an established Contractor in Michigan for a minimum of five years
- Has successfully completed a minimum of 3 comparable mechanical system and control upgrade projects each with contract values in excess of \$500,000 within the last five (3) years.
- Must be technically and financially capable to execute a project of size and complexity described in the Bid Documents
- Must be able to provide business and liability insurance, performance and payment bond for work required by the Bid Documents

All bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the District and must be accompanied by a bidder's bond or a certified or cashier's check payable to the District for the sum of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid amount. All bids must be accompanied by a familial disclosure statement. Bids received without a bidder's bond, certified or cashier's check, and a familial disclosure statement WILL BE REJECTED.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to waive any irregularities therein and accept that bid, which best serves the District's interest.

Publish: January 23, 2014

Pet of the Week

Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue

"PEPPER"



You'll absolutely love the way our **Pepper** will enhance your life with her upbeat personality and lovable doggie charms. She's a smaller sized 7 year and 8 month old Labrador Retriever mix very eager to find her way back into a home setting. There's no doubt in our minds that **Pepper** would much rather be on a good walk or in the company of people than in her kennel alone since she's very vocal about letting us know this. She can have a smidge of hesitation with new people but is quickly won over with pets and yummy treats. Being older she's pretty laid-back but still really enjoys taking walks and being outside. **Pepper** is extremely sweet natured with a typical friendly lab affection for people and having fun. She also appears to do well with other dogs from the interactions we have seen. Her short black coat is shiny and soft and won't need more than a few baths a year and some regular brushing to maintain. Her personality and smaller size make it a good bet she'll fit nicely into a home with kids without any fuss. She's already spayed, vaccinated and micro-chipped and ready to come home today. **734-461-9458**

District Library

(continued from page 1)

\$65,000 has been spent to date for the new building project. This money is to be recouped by the bond and go back into the library's operating budget;

- Approved a \$40,640 contract for architectural services from Whisler and the

landscape architect for fees per base tasks;

- Heard board member John Juriga report he is getting bids to repair the leaks in the library building roof that have swamped the offices and caused the ceilings to fall in;

- Heard Whisler give a lengthy report on his ongoing design changes, saying they have to develop a strategy of design and

then develop a budget to see if people will support it. He said he has talked with VBT Director Arthur Mullen of Planning and Economic Development and found no big issues with the library's plans. "I'm feeling much better based on our meeting today," Whisler said of the session with Mullen;

- Heard Bernard Grant, an architect who lives in VBT, ask about the cost of the building. Whisler and board members were reluctant to give a figure, saying that would come in April. "I gave a range once and I was skewered for it," Whisler said. "I won't go there again." Building committee chairwoman Joy Cichewicz finally conceded that the board has been looking at bonds in the area of \$15 to \$20 million. Whisler said if the cost determined is too high for the voters in August, they could try again at the November election;

- Heard Grant ask Whisler how long he has been working on this project and

Whisler replied he has been working with the library board since 2005;

- Heard Whisler suggest meeting with the neighbors next door to the Spencer property, who will be next-door neighbors to the new library, in an effort to "be neighborly";

- Heard Whisler say the café planned for the proposed library could end up being vending machines;

- Heard Whisler report they are working to set up another conversation with the DNR on grants. There is an April 1 application deadline for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, but to qualify the project needs to be a part of the VBT Recreation Master Plan, unless the state can override the township; and

- Heard board attorney John Day report that the library site is not to be fully funded by the bond since the DNR has to find funding for the fishing area. "We told the DNR from Day 1 we are not building fishing piers," Day said, adding the library is getting the concept together and then going out and pitching it. He said the library and the DNR are partners in the joint operation. The state encourages intergovernmental cooperation and this will be two or three levels of government. He said the Belleville and VBT Downtown Development Authorities are interested in helping.



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Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Van Buren Public Schools (District) will receive sealed bids for:

GLASS AND GLAZING REPLACEMENT PROJECTS

Bids must be delivered no later than 2:00 p.m. EST on February 5, 2014, at the Administration Building located at 555 West Columbia Avenue, Belleville, Michigan 48111. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:15 p.m. Bids received after the above stipulated date and time will not be opened, considered, or accepted.

Beginning Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. bid documents can be obtained by accessing the following: <https://app.e-builder.net/public/publicLanding.aspx?QS=c8564088098349d2afcdb25c930d3ccf>

Please contact LaMerra Hobbs at lamerra.hobbs@plantemorran.com with any questions you may have with regard to retrieving the RFP information.

All bidders are invited to attend a non-mandatory pre-bid meeting with the District on January 24, starting at 3:00 p.m. at the Administration Building located at 555 West Columbia Avenue, Belleville, Michigan.

Prospective bidders must meet the following minimum standards in order to submit a proposal:

- Must be an established Contractor in Michigan for a minimum of five years
- Has successfully completed a minimum of 3 comparable glass and glazing replacement projects each with contract values in excess of \$100,000 within the last five (3) years.
- Must be technically and financially capable to execute a project of size and complexity described in the Bid Documents as a Special Lite contractor
- Must be able to provide business and liability insurance, performance and payment bond for work required by the Bid Documents

All bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the District and must be accompanied by a bidder's bond or a certified or cashier's check payable to the District for the sum of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid amount. All bids must be accompanied by a familial disclosure statement. Bids received without a bidder's bond, certified or cashier's check, and a familial disclosure statement WILL BE REJECTED.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to waive any irregularities therein and accept that bid, which best serves the District's interest.

Publish: January 23, 2014

District Library Board sets special meeting to consider bond counsel

The Belleville Area District Library Board has set a special meeting for 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 28, to consider the recommendation of the Building Committee concerning bond counsel.

The District Library Building Committee has scheduled a meeting at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 23, to evaluate law firms that provide bond counsel and to prepare a recommendation to the full board.

Both meetings are at the Belleville Area District Library, 167 Fourth Street, Belleville, and are open to the public.

Four district library board seats up for election in November

Four, four-year terms on the Belleville Area District Library Board will be voted on at the General Election Nov. 4.

Expiring are the terms currently filled by Christina Brasil, Mary Jane Dawson, Elaine Gutierrez, and Joseph Monte.

"Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you ARE, you AREN'T."

-- Margaret Thatcher
British Prime Minister, 1925-2013

Sumpter board approves new Code of Conduct for Fire Department

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

A new Code of Conduct for the Fire Department was unanimously approved, without discussion, by the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees at its Jan. 14 meeting.

Absent and excused were Supervisor Johnny Vawters and Treasurer John Morgan.

Township attorney Rob Young said the 30-page document “came in” and he and the fire chief and fire officers looked it over before presenting it to the board for approval by way of Trustee Peggy Morgan, the board’s liaison to the fire department.

In March and April of 2012 the board tabled consideration of a new Standards of Conduct for the Fire Department put together and presented by a committee of Trustee Peggy Morgan, Treasurer John Morgan, and Clerk Hoffman.

Previously, in February, Fire Chief Les Powell was directed to bring the document to the board. He disagreed with some of the provisions and publicly announced he was told there would be no discussion.

All this was during a move to get rid of the longtime Fire Chief Powell, bring in a new board liaison to the fire department, and move in a new direction. Clerk Hoffman had been the board liaison.

In April Chief Powell was suspended for 30 days for locking horns with Trustee Peggy Morgan, the new fire department liaison, after she came to a fire department meeting to answer any questions about the code being presented and Powell objected to her presence.

On Sept. 10, 2012, Chief Powell, who was on the Sept. 11, 2012 agenda to have his contract extended with other employees, instead was pressured into resigning and agreed to a small retirement package. The board changed the agenda and accepted his resignation Sept. 11.

At the Jan. 14 township board meeting more than a year later when the Standards of Conduct finally were approved, a related problem in the fire department cropped up.

Don LaPorte, president of the fire fighters union local, got up to verbally attack Township Clerk Hoffman for being vocally critical of the way two recent fires were fought.

An angry LaPorte demanded an apology from Clerk Hoffman, but didn’t get one. Hoffman did agree to sit down and talk with fire fighters about the issue.

Liaison Peggy Morgan joined the fray, saying she went in to demand an apology from Hoffman and when she didn’t get one slammed his office door so hard on her way out that an alarm went off.

She said she asked Hoffman what he had been telling others and he said it was, “You lost two in a row now.” Trustee Morgan said Hoffman “almost insinuated” if Chief

(continued on page 15)



Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes December 10, 2013

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm with the pledge. Members present: Trustees: Bates, Hamm, P. Morgan & Swinson. Excused absence Supervisor Vawters, Clerk Hoffman, & Treasurer J. Morgan. Also present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk Hurst and approximately 22 residents.

Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hamm to have Deputy Clerk Esther Hurst chair the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Agenda: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comments only on Agenda items.

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by Swinson, supported by Bates to approve the regular board meeting minutes of November 12, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to accept minutes of Parks & Recreation October 16, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by Hamm, supported by Bates to accept minutes of Planning Commission September 4, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by Swinson, supported by P. Morgan to accept minutes of Zoning Board of Appeals January 16, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the warrants till the end of the year totaling \$437,276.92. Roll call: Yes: Bates, Hamm, P. Morgan, Swinson. Nay: None. Absent: Vawters, Hoffman, & J. Morgan. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Water & Sewer: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the water & sewer report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Police: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the police report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Building/Ordinance: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the building/ordinance report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Fire: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve the fire report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Treasurer: Motion by Swinson, supported by Hamm to approve the treasurers report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Attorney: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the Moose Lodge to move their liquor license to 45476 Harris Road and to approve the attorneys report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Board Response

14. New Business:

A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hamm to approve the resignation of part time police officer Dave McKeon. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by Bates, supported by Swinson to approve to accept and sign agreement with Wayne County Parks Grant for \$20,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve the Senior Center advisory Board Members to be Karen Mickens, Margaret Rochon, Barbara Tomason, Ken Stewart and Clarence J. Hoffman Jr. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by Hamm, supported by Swinson to approve to purchase Smeal Fire Truck from R & R Services for \$402,158.00. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the first reading of Ordinance 43B amendment to Floodplain management FEMA Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Motion by Hamm, supported by Bates to approve the cost of 6 sirens for \$116,700.00. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Announcements:

16. Open Floor

17. Adjournment: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to adjourn at 6:55 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of

minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on December 10, 2013 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Publish: January 23, 2014

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Sumpter Township Public Notice



Upon Motion by: P. Morgan

Support by Hamm

Ayes: Hoffman, Bates, Hamm, Swinson, & P. Morgan

Nays: None

January 14, 2014

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF WAYNE
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP**

ORDINANCE ADDRESSING FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS OF THE STATE CONSTRUCTION CODE

ORDINANCE NUMBER 43B

An Ordinance to designate an enforcing agency to discharge the responsibility of Sumpter Township located in Wayne County, and to designate regulated flood hazard areas under the provisions of the State Construction Code Act, Act No. 230 of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended.

Sumpter Township ordains:

Section 1. AGENCY DESIGNATED. Pursuant to the provisions of the state construction code, in accordance with Section 8b (6) of Act 230, of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, the **Building Official** of Sumpter Township is hereby designated as the enforcing agency to discharge the responsibility of Sumpter Township under Act 230, of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, State of Michigan. Sumpter Township assumes responsibility for the administration and enforcement of said Act through out the corporate limits of the community adopting this ordinance.

Section 2. CODE APPENDIX ENFORCED. Pursuant to the provisions of the state construction code, in accordance with Section 8b (6) of Act 230, of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, Appendix G of the Michigan Building Code shall be enforced by the enforcing agency within Sumpter Township.

Section 3. DESIGNATION OF REGULATED FLOOD PRONE HAZARD AREAS. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Entitled Wayne County, Michigan (All Jurisdictions) and dated December 3, 2013 and the Flood Insurance Rate

Map(s) (FIRMS) panel number(s) of **26163C, 0342E, 0345E, 0361E, 0362E, 0363E, 0364E, 0460E, 0480E and 0485E** dated February 2, 2012; and **26163C; 0370F** dated December 3, 2013 are adopted by reference for the purposes of administration of the Michigan Construction Code, and declared to be a part of Section 1612.3 of the Michigan Building Code, and to provide the content of the “Flood Hazards” section of Table R301.2(1) of the Michigan Residential Code.

Section 4. REPEALS. All ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 5. PUBLICATION. This ordinance shall be effective after legal publication and in accordance with the provisions of the Act governing same.

ADOPTED, APPROVED AND PASSED by the Township Board of Trustees of Sumpter Township this 14th day of January 2014.

This ordinance duly adopted on January 14, 2014 at a regular meeting of Sumpter Township Board of Trustees and will become effective February 15, 2014.

Signed on January 15, 2014 by _____
Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr., Clerk
Sumpter Township

Attested on January 15, 2014 by _____
Johnny Vawters, Supervisor
Sumpter Township

Publish: January 23, 2014

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 14, 2014

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Linda Combs, Clerk Leon Wright, Treasurer Sharry Budd, Trustee Phillip Hart, Trustee Jeffrey Jahr, Trustee Brenda McClanahan and Trustee Reggie Miller. Absent: None. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Arthur Mullen, Assessing Coordinator Linda Stevenson, Secretary Kathleen Cline and an audience of ten (10).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Jahr moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Minutes December 16, 2013; Closed Session Minutes December 16, 2013; Regular Board Meeting Minutes December 17, 2013; Adoption of Resolution 2014-01, 2014 Board of Review Poverty Exemption Guidelines; Treasurer's request to extend without penalty the collection of the 2013 Winter property taxes through Friday, February 28, 2014; Adoption of Resolution 2014-02, Revocation of General Electric (GE) Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate 324-2011; Reappointments of Vera Ireland, Mary Korgal, Stephanie Soja, Margaret Thompson and Helen Wylie to the September Days Senior Center Endowment Committee with terms to expire January 15, 2016; Voucher List of January 14, 2014.] as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Hart moved, Wright seconded to open the public hearing to hear public comment on the use of fiscal year 2014-15 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Combs, Wright, Budd, Hart, Jahr, McClanahan and Miller. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

Supervisor Combs opened the public hearing at 7:13 p.m. Supervisor Combs went to Director Mullen for an overview of the CDBG plan. Director Mullen stated the Township is seeking comments from the public for potential projects that would meet the CDBG funding guidelines. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) objectives of the CDBG program are for the development of viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities. The three national objectives for projects are: to benefit low/moderate income persons, prevent or eliminate slum and/or blight and to meet urgent community development needs. The estimated funding level for 2014-2015 CDBG Budget year is \$125,000. This is the first of two public hearing to be held to hear public input and the second public hearing will be held at the end of February. The township's application is due to Wayne County by March 17th and Wayne County will hold their public hearing in March. Director Mullen stated there are four census tracts within the township which qualify for CDBG funds to be used for projects. Clerk Wright inquired what qualifies for meeting urgent community development needs and Director Mullen stated a disaster such as a tornado, flood or earthquake. Trustee Jahr requested Director Mullen list some of the township's past projects. Director Mullen stated Senior and Youth programs, housing rehabilitation, improvements to Beck ball fields and handicap ramps are some of the recent projects the township has used CDBG

funding for. Residents can contact Planning and Economic Director Mullen at 734-699-8913 if they have a project to submit. Trustee Jahr inquired about the status of the sidewalks for Belleville Road. Director Mullen stated the sidewalk project is being completed by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) due to Wayne County's informing the township the sidewalk project may not be eligible for CDBG funds. Trustee Miller inquired if the township has ever given back in CDBG funds. Director Mullen stated yes the township recently gave back money from housing rehabilitation funding due to the township inability to meet the criteria for the use. Treasurer Budd stated it is rare that the township gives back any CDBG funds. Supervisor Combs reiterated that residents who may qualify for housing rehabilitation funding to check with the township Developmental Services Department to see if they are eligible for the funds.

Mr. Delaney, a resident stated the sidewalks for Belleville Road should be a CDBG project since it is a Public Safety issue and it is in the CDBG district and the township needs to have sidewalks on Belleville Road however it is accomplished. Supervisor Combs stated the DDA is working on the Belleville Road sidewalk project. There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing at 7:29 p.m. Jahr moved Hart seconded to close the public hearing. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Combs, Wright, Budd, Hart, Jahr, McClanahan and Miller. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to hear public comment on reprogramming a portion of the Township's fiscal year 2011 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Combs, Wright, Budd, Hart, Jahr, McClanahan and Miller. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

Supervisor Combs opened the public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Supervisor Combs went to Director Mullen for an explanation. Director Mullen stated over the past several years the Township has been programming a portion of CDBG allocation into the Belleville Road sidewalk project. The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has raised some concerns about the cost benefit of the acquisition of the required easements versus the construction costs. To avoid losing the money previously allocated in 2011 it is recommended that the funds be reprogrammed into funding for improvements to the Beck Road ball field project. Trustee McClanahan inquired how much time the township has to spend these funds. Director Mullen stated in general two years from the date funds are available; however, the township has the Beck Road ball field improvement project available to use these reprogramed funds. Mr. Delaney, a resident inquired if a walking/bike path could be installed for pedestrian use from the Service Drive to the Beck ball fields. Trustee Jahr stated this could be a possible future project for CDBG funding.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing at 7:36 p.m. Budd moved Miller seconded to close the public hearing. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Combs, Wright, Budd, Hart, Jahr, McClanahan and Miller. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Combs read a letter addressed to the Van Buren Police and Fire Departments on behalf of Rawsonville Elementary School staff and students expressing their gratitude for adopting eight of their students for shop with a Hero.

Service awards were given to the following employees Sally Donaldson, Lacey Marcotte, Michael Rini, Ryan Barry and David Champagne for 5 years of service; Elizabeth McCormick,

Amy Smith, Teri Rea and David Champagne for 10 years of service; John Hayden, Michael Papin and David McNally for 20 years of service; Terri Brooks for 25 years of service and Fred Yono for 35 years of service.

On Wednesday January 15th Van Buren Area Little League (VBALL) registration will take place at McBride Middle School from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Registrations can also be mailed to VBALL P.O. Box 95 Belleville, MI 48111 or online at www.VanBurenAreaLittleLeague.org.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Wright moved, Jahr seconded to approve reprogramming fiscal year 2011 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds [\$83,474] for the Beck ball field project. Carried.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the agreement with Van Buren Area Little League and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Carried.

Hart moved, Budd seconded to approve the agreement with Michigan Nationals and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Carried.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor Combs made the following announcements: Township Administrative Offices will be closed on Monday, January 20th in honor of Martin Luther King Day; Report road problems to Wayne County at 1-888-ROADCREW (762-3273) to speak with a road maintenance employee who will process your request; housing rehabilitation applications and/or questions contact Developmental Services Department at 734-699-8913.

A memorial service for Harold Belanger who was involved with Van Buren Little League for many years passed away last week. The memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. at Belleville High School cafeteria on Saturday January 25th.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Comments were made from 8:07 p.m. to 8:16 p.m. by the Board and audience regarding the following topics: Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) meeting and attendance policy; marketing development in LDFA district; Natalie Mosher introduced herself stating as a candidate for State Representative in the 21st House District.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Wright seconded to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor

Published: January 23, 2014

Belleville High School pool hosting 'Tiger Invite' this Saturday

The Belleville High School pool is hosting a large swim meet this Saturday, Jan. 25, called "Tiger Invite." Ten swim teams from the greater Detroit area are coming.

"Once swim teams visit our pool, they always want to return to swim again," said Pool Manager John Cast.

Diving competition will start at 10 a.m. and swim events will start at about 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person with proceeds going to Belleville swim teams.

Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 14)

Powell was still here, it wouldn't have happened.

Trustee Morgan said the houses that burned on Wear and Rawsonville roads were fully involved before fire fighters arrived and couldn't be saved. She said one was being investigated for arson.

Trustee Bill Hamm, who is also a paid-per-call fire fighter, added that what Hoffma believes is not what the rest of the board believes. He said with the new liaison and fire chief, "I've never been prouder of our fire department ... We are finally at the point that we are second to none."

LaPorte said he is going to come down to talk to the board every time he hears a complaint from any of them about the department.

In other business at the Jan. 14 meeting, the board:

- Approved the second reading and adoption of the 43B Amendment to the Flood Plain Management FEMA Ordinance, which are amendments to the map;

- Approved the request of A2Mac1 at 8393 Rawsonville Road to construct a driveway around the back of the building, pending approval by the township engineer concerning setbacks, flooding, and other drainage issues. At its Dec. 12 meeting, the planning commission recommended approval of the site plan pending the items that need to be worked out with the engineer;

- Approved resolutions covering County Permits for Special Events and County Maintenance, as required every year;

- Approved getting a key and code to enter the township hall when it is closed for Building Ordinance Officer Randy Lynch. During the holiday vacation, Lynch was working on a number of blight issues at 34th District Court and had a problem getting into the township hall for documents. Lynch already has access to the police department and building department, but his office is in township hall; and

- Discussed the situation of people in the FEMA floodplain area without mortgages who might like to be informed that their property is in the floodplain because it could influence the value of their property if they decide to sell. Those with houses in the floodplain with mortgages were threatened with having to buy costly flood insurance, so the township helped them with surveys that proved that 99 out of the 100 they helped shouldn't be in that area. Nothing was done for those without mortgages. Those wishing to see if their property is in FEMA's floodplain can get information at township hall.

"Reality leaves a lot to the imagination."

— John Lennon

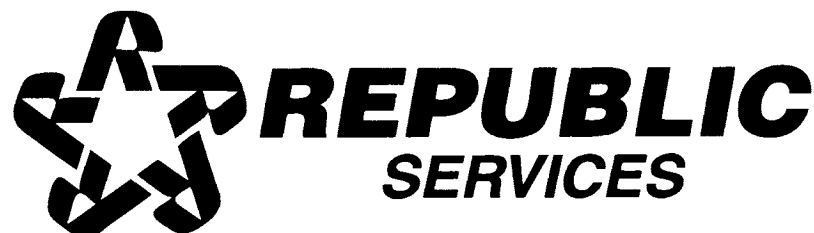
"Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising."

Mark Twain

Carleton Farms landfill has new policy for Sumpter

There's a new policy at the Carleton Farms Landfill in Sumpter Township. At the Jan. 14 meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees it was announced that effective immediately residents who want to dump their trash at the landfill will not

be let in without a landfill card that needs to be picked up at the township hall. The card then can be taken to the landfill where residents can dump trash twice a month. For more information, call the clerk's office at township hall, (734) 461-6201.



Permit for Carleton Farms Landfill Disposal Sumpter Township Residents

Permit issued to: _____

Address: _____

Drivers License Number: _____

The user of this permit agrees to the following terms and conditions:

1. This permit is issued only for the disposal of nonhazardous RESIDENTIAL solid waste.
No commercial, industrial or non-township generated residential waste.
2. Each resident is allotted 5 yds max per month-2.5 yds per punch
3. Acceptable materials include:
 - Household refuse/Garbage
 - Building and demolition debris
 - Trees and stumps up to 2" in diameter and less than 4' long
4. The following items are NOT acceptable:
 - Paints, Liquids, Chemicals or Hazardous Materials, Oils of any kind.
 - Drums (neither full or empty), Car Batteries, Tires, Propane Tanks
 - Appliances that contain (ed) Freon not accepted w/o certification of removal by a certified technician as evidenced by tag affixed.
5. All loads must be tarped.
6. All vehicles must stop at the scale house and show proof of residency with picture ID and this punch card below.
7. You must stop for all landfill personnel when flagged down.
8. All loads are subject to inspection prior to acceptance.
9. All children under 12 must remain in the vehicle at all times.
10. You dump at your own risk.
11. You certify that no prohibited items are included with your load. In the event that you dispose of materials prohibited by law you will be responsible for remitting any and all fines due to as a direct result of your actions.
12. If you violate the law and/or our rules/regulations at any time, your privileges will be suspended indefinitely.
13. Carleton Farms Landfill reserves the right to refuse entry at any time for any number of reasons, including but not limited to safety violations, weather conditions, non-compliance to State laws, company rules and/or policies.
14. I agree, and shall cause any person accompanying you, to hold Carleton Farms Landfill, its parent company, subsidiaries and all of their respective directors, employees and agents, harmless from all injuries and damages arising out of the landfill facilities.

2014 CARLETON FARMS LANDFILL
28800 CLARK ROAD, NEW BOSTON, MI • 734.654.0001



SUMPTER RESIDENT FREE DUMPING HOURS: WEDNESDAY 2:30-4:30 PM, SATURDAYS 7:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

Permit issued to: _____

Address: _____

Drivers License Number: _____

Residents Signature: _____

PUNCH CARD FOR DISPOSAL

JANUARY	MARCH	MAY	JULY	SEPTEMBER	NOVEMBER
JANUARY	MARCH	MAY	JULY	SEPTEMBER	NOVEMBER
FEBRUARY	APRIL	JUNE	AUGUST	OCTOBER	DECEMBER
FEBRUARY	APRIL	JUNE	AUGUST	OCTOBER	DECEMBER

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

MANUFACTURED HOME FOR SALE

UNBELIEVABLE SAVINGS!

3 bed/2 bath, 1450 s/f home for only \$14,995? Yes! All appliances including washer, dryer, a/c, shed and deck. Located at Lakeview in Ypsilanti with incredible amenities. Reserve this home today!

888-205-6379

www.4lakeview.com

*WAC. EHO. Financed: \$14,995 @ 10.5% APR, 36 months. Discount lot rent for 3 years. Financing arranged through Sun Home Services, Inc. NMLS # 33675 Expires January 31, 2014

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE

RAWSONVILLE WOODS

Bankruptcy, Foreclosures and bad credit ok.

Handyman Homes starting at \$1.

Rental homes available

Ask about our specials

734-461-6700

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.

Library architect to present latest plans to Friends of Library

At 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 25, the Friends of the Library will hold their annual general membership meeting and architect Dan Whisler will present his latest sketches, site plans, and other plans for the proposed new library on the DNR/Spencer site.

The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

The library is at 167 Fourth Street, Belleville, (734) 699-3291.

SERVICES

Gerry's Small Engine Repair

CALL 734-461-0158

Take Advantage Of Early Bird Rates!

Call FIRST CLASS LANDSCAPING

(734) 699-4711

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Weekly Mowing, Aerations, De-Thatching, Seed & Sod, Tree, Bush & Stump Removal And Much More!

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A&L SERVICES

Home Improvement & Handyman Service

Painting, Drywall, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Ceramic Tile, Kitchens & Bath. Serving Belleville Since 1995. Call Aaron Schultz @ **734-740-0628**

JNG Auction Services

881 Sumpter Rd.

February (Live) Estate Auctions:
February 1st

January Online Auctions:
January 24th – January 29th

Accepting quality items & new clients
www.JNGAUCTIONS.com

734-489-4636

THE Q OPENING SOON!

LOCAL HANDYMAN – SOME Jobs too LARGE – NO JOB too SMALL. Residential Snow Removal LICENSED & REFERENCES. (734) 765-9224

C.T.S. AUTO Engines, Transmissions Discount Prices - Guaranteed! (734) 282-1700

MATURE & RELIABLE woman looking to provide help for the elderly with chores, shopping, laundry, appointments, etc. Reasonable Rates. (734) 231-3289

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

HAY FOR SALE
Round Bales Only.
Leave Message.
734-587-2344

FIREWOOD FOR SALE.
 (734) 672-0931 2/27

OPTREL WELDING Helmet, \$80.
 SPRINT Galaxy III, \$100. Redwing Embroidered Jacket, \$80. Ski boots 27.5, Skies & Poles, \$100. (734) 732-1054 1/23

VEHICLE FOR SALE

C.T.S. AUTO Engines, Transmissions
 Discount Prices - Guaranteed!
 (734) 282-1700 TFN

1993 FORD RANGER, Splash Edition.
 4 Wheel Dr., 187K miles, Power windows & locks. Runs Good. \$900
 (734) 502-0243 1/30

WANTED

WE BUY JUNK CARS

7 Days A Week For \$300 & Up!
Cash Paid!
(734) 787-1444

WANTED: JUNK CARS

Running or Not. Top \$ Paid. Call For Free Pickup. Drive In For Extra Dollars.

734-282-1700

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

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

THE BELLEVILLE INDEPENDENT NOW ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS!
 (Minimum \$5 Purchase, Classified Ads Excluded)

FREE

CAROL SOBECKI SAWGRASS CT. You've won a dozen free roses. Pick them up at Main St. Flower's downtown, Belleville. (734) 697-7400 or www.mainstreetflowersbelleville.com TFN

FOR RENT

\$289*
MOVES YOU IN!

ACT FAST! LIMITED TIME ONLY!

Lease from only
\$759* PER MONTH!

- 3 Bedroom / 2 Bath!
- Over 1,100 Sq. Ft.!
- ALL Appliances Including Washer/Dryer & A/C!
- Wonderful Amenities!
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SUN HOMES AT

LAKEVIEW

1-888-235-4695

*Conditions apply.

EXPIRES 1/31/14. EHO. WAC.

www.4lakeview.com

EFFICIENCY - \$385/mo. includes water. 105 Wexford, Belleville. Close to I-94 & 275. 5 miles from airport. (734) 730-8286 1/23

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.



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HELP WANTED

Drivers CDL-A: Lots of Miles. Great Pay/Benefits & Bonuses. Home Weekly. No Slip Seat. No Touch. Newer Equipment. (855) 219-4838 1/23

CNA ASSISTANT with at least 2 yrs. experience. (734) 308-4337 or (734) 259-8620 1/23

Drivers: Home DAILY, Dedicated Runs! No Touch Freight, Insurance, 401K, PAID Vacation, CDL-A, 1 yr. OTR Apply: mtstrans.com or (800) 748-0192 x2 2/06

HELP WANTED

There's a good chance we're right in your neighborhood. We're looking for **Direct Care Assistants** to support persons we serve in their homes in the Belleville & Romulus communities.

\$8.25 total per hr. plus good benefits.

Call (734) 699-3808 or (734) 699-6543

Email resume to: recruiter@questserv.org

DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT

Feel great about the work that you do helping people we serve in residential settings. Country home. Training provided. \$8.40 total per hr. plus good benefits.

Call (734) 753-4804 New Boston

Email resume to: recruiter@questserv.org

Equal Opportunity Employer Located At 36000 Earl Street In Wayne, Michigan Needs Full Time Truck Driver. Straight Truck. 26 Foot Bed. Home Every Night. CDL-B Required. Must Help Load Your Truck. Some Warehouse Work. Email unitedpvf@comcast.net

HELP WANTED

HIRING IMMEDIATELY

Dedicated & Reliable Bus Drivers for Permanent Positions for Van Buren Public Schools. Starting Pay: \$11.50/hour. Call 734-699-5100

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

EXPERIENCED Bartender Wanted. Van Buren Eagles. Apply in Person. 9961 Beck Rd. TFN

HELP WANTED

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, Jan. 12:
0945 – disorderly conduct, Southport Apts.
1204 – property damage accident, Belleville/Rent
A Center
1252 – fraud, Tyler Rd.
1405 – larceny, Rawsonville
1952 – mental, Meadows Circle
2023 – disturbance, Denton Rd.
2214 – assault & battery, Maple Dr.

Monday, Jan. 13:
0438 – trespassing, Parkwood Dr.
0609 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service
Dr./Denton Rd.
1028 – private property accident, Dover Ct.
1241 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service
Dr./Belleville Rd.
1531 – fraud, Old Rawsonville
1544 – animal complaint, McBride Middle
1649 – sexual assault, Aspen Ln.
1652 – malicious destruction of property, Denton
1839 – private property accident, Hickory Woods
1900 – disorderly conduct, Meadows Ln.
2011 – assault & battery, Arthur St.
2028 – operating while intoxicated, Bemis/Bak
2044 – intimidation threat, Freedom Way
2357 – suspicious situation, Milton Dr.
2358 – property damage accident, W. Huron River

Tuesday, Jan. 14:
0632 – malicious destruction of property, Brookside
Dr.
0901 – personal injury accident, N. I-94 Service
Dr./Haggerty Rd.
0906 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. /
N. I-94 Service Dr.
0930 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0932 – juvenile complaint, Winchester St.
1000 – private property accident, Belleville
1101 – disorderly conduct, I-94/Haggerty
1114 – fraud, Sumpter Rd.
1136 – assault & battery, Anna Dr.
1216 – larceny, Rogers Ave.
1337 – private property accident, Van Born Rd.
1417 – private property accident, Parkwood Dr. /
Tyler Rd.
1533 – private property accident, Green Meadows
1653 – fraud, Sunset Pond Circle
2328 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. /
N. I-94 Service Dr.

Wednesday, Jan. 15:
0223 – suspicious situation, Renton Rd.
0707 – hospice, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0953 – larceny, Village Green Lane
1010 – larceny, Ecorse Rd.
1020 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1207 – property damage accident, E. Huron River
Dr./Haggerty Rd.
1631 – private property accident, Haggerty Center
1906 – intimidation threat, Oak Ln.
2017 – agency assist, Oak Ln.
2032 – noise complaint, Village Green Ln.
2223 – noise complaint, E. Sadie Ln.
2258 – assault & battery, Landmark

Thursday, Jan. 16:
0035 – disturbance, Arthur St.
0230 – noise complaint, N. Bellridge Dr.
0634 – larceny from auto, Milton
1125 – private property accident, S. I-94 Service
1128 – malicious destruction of property, Village
Green Ln.
1250 – property damage accident, WB I-94 /
Belleville
1256 – property damage accident, Sumpter/NAPA
1300 – property damage accident, EB I-94 /
Belleville
1333 – fire investigation, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1544 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service
Dr./EQ
1949 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. /
Denton Rd.
2156 – property damage accident, W. Huron River
Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
2234 – suspicious person, Village Green Ln.
2331 – suspicious person, Rawsonville/Bridge
Friday, Jan. 17:
0007 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd. / N.
I-94 Service Dr.

0635 – suspicious person, E. Huron River Dr.
0709 – property damage accident, I-94/Haggerty
0813 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Westlake
Circle
0853 – suspicious person, E. Huron River Dr.
0933 – traffic hazard, WB I-94/Rawsonville
0940 – larceny, E. Huron River Dr.
1155 – suicide or attempt, Rawsonville Rd.
1512 – juvenile complaint, Rawsonville Rd.
1835 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. /
I-94 Service Dr.
1908 – assault & battery, Oak Ln.
1940 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Hull
1943 – assault & battery, Western St.
2045 – suspicious person, North Shore Dr.
2130 – armed robbery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2317 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.

Saturday, Jan. 18:
0109 – fight, W. Huron River Dr.
0120 – fight, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0151 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0922 – malicious destruction of property, Briarwood
Ct.
1119 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Jackson
1632 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94
Service Dr.
2022 – private property accident, Beck
2152 – property damage accident, I-94 WB /
Belleville
2159 – noise complaint, Westlake
Also on this week’s log are 181 traffic stops, 61 of
which are in the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 12:
0015 – suspicious vehicle, Main St.
0402 – suspicious person, Sumpter Rd. / Belle Villa
Blvd.
1120 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1249 – property damage accident, E. Huron River
1347 – civil matter, Carmell St.
1820 – warrant arrest, Belle Villa Blvd./Carmell
1908 – vehicle repossession, Harbour Pointe Dr.
2058 – suspicious vehicle, Brain St./High St.

Monday, Jan. 13:
0149 – property check, Marathon
0745 – vehicle lockout, Citgo gas
0838 – unattended death, W. Columbia Ave.
0846 – abandoned auto, Fifth St.
1011 – larceny, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1217 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1624 – narcotics crime, Main St.
1809 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
2105 – warrant arrest, Main St.
2310 – intrusion alarm, Main St.

Tuesday, Jan. 14:
0311 – property check, Belle Villa storage
0812 – assist fire dept., Sumpter/Owen
1439 – property damage accident, Main St.
2332 – intrusion alarm, S. Edgemont Ave.

Wednesday, Jan. 15:
0923 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter
1425 – civil matter, Van Buren Steel
2010 – intrusion alarm, W. Davis St.

Thursday, Jan. 16:
1015 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1051 – civil matter, Sumpter Rd.
1755 – missing person, N. Aberdeen Ct.
1756 – traffic complaint, Sumpter Rd.
1855 – private property accident, N. Liberty St.
1904 – traffic hazard, South St.

Friday, Jan. 17:
1407 – fraud, Main St.
1435 – suspicious person, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1834 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1938 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Hull
2044 – domestic assault, E. Waterbury Ct.
Saturday, Jan. 18:
1429 – welfare check, N. Liberty St.
1521 – juvenile complaint, E. Waterbury Ct.
1623 – assist fire dept., S. Edgemont Ave.
1920 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1942 – shots fired, W. Columbia Ave.
2110 – parking complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
Also on this week’s log are 25 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 12:
0003 – assist other agency, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
0620 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1111 – larceny, 50000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1127 – trespassing complaint, 48000 bl. Sherwood
Ct.
1235 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 46000
bl. Wear Rd.
1342 – suspicious incident, 49000 bl. Sherwood
Ct.
1510 – civil dispute, 49000 bl. Collyer Ct.
1611 – malicious destruction of property,
California
1721 – warrant arrest, Second
1737 – civil dispute, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1932 – alarm, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Monday, Jan. 13:
0823 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Lane
1108 – fire dept. assist, Washington
1126 – malicious destruction of property, 45000 bl.
Harris Rd.
1311 – fire dept. assist, 7800 bl. Oakville Waltz
1341 – suspicious vehicle, Willis/Karr
1345 – suspicious person, Carriage Lane
1511 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1550 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1752 – civil dispute, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1829 – traffic hazard, Oakville Waltz/Karr

Tuesday, Jan. 14:
0509 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
0859 – property damage accident, Willis /
Rawsonville
1013 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.
1358 – juvenile complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1422 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 23000
bl. Sumpter Rd.
1446 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
1630 – suspicious person, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1816 – 911 hang up, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1926 – suspicious vehicle, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1948 – civil dispute, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
2308 – fire dept. assist, Iowa
2338 – family trouble, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.

Wednesday, Jan. 15:
0217 – fire dept. assist, 29000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0346 – warrant arrest, Bemis/Elwell
0451 – suspicious incident, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0715 – mental health commitment, 18000 bl. Savage
Rd.
0921 – animal complaint, 42000 bl. Harris Rd.
1007 – fire dept. assist, Iowa
1330 – threats complaint, 22000 bl. Martinsville
1359 – larceny, 46000 bl. Traskos
1400 – larceny, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1401 – larceny, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1402 – fire dept. assist, Washington
1444 – assault, Will Carleton/Waltz
1528 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz
/ Clark
1638 – 911 hang up, 46000 bl. Kozma Rd.
1714 – threats complaint, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
1757 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1833 – civil dispute, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
2214 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

2251 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
2322 – assist other agency, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
Thursday, Jan. 16:
0947 – suspicious incident, 20000 bl. Sherwood
1305 – accidental damage report, 51000 bl. Wear
1338 – property damage accident, Judd/Sumpter
1522 – suspicious incident, 46000 bl. Willow Rd.
1540 – suspicious incident, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1729 – fire dept. assist, 9800 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2003 – civil dispute, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
Friday, Jan. 17:
0135 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Willow
0813 – well-being check, 26000 bl. Sumpter
1033 – civil dispute, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1157 – well-being check, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1304 – citizen assist, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
1305 – threats complaint, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1343 – trespassing complaint, 21000 bl. Sherwood
1519 – assault, 28000 bl. Clark Rd.
1546 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1654 – shots fired, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1755 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 45000
bl. Judd Rd.
2133 – shots fired, 19000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

Saturday, Jan. 18:
0057 – fire dept. assist, Arizona
0246 – suspicious vehicle, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0938 – fire dept. assist, 27000 bl. Clark Rd.
1211 – alarm, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1950 – suspicious vehicle, 42000 bl. Willis Ct.
1952 – suspicious incident, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
2355 – suspicious person, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
Also on this week’s log are nine follow-up
investigations, 36 miscellaneous details, 102 patrol
checks, and 24 traffic stops.

Woman reports attempted armed robbery at apartments

At about 9:30 p.m. Friday, a female was
walking from the parking lot of Providence
at Harbour Club apartments to her building
when, she says, a black male approached
her from behind and placed a pointed
object to her torso.

Van Buren Township Police Detective/
Sergeant Jeff Gueli said the victim reported
that the male asked her if she had any
money.

But the woman was uncooperative and
the male fled the area on foot, Det./Sgt.
Gueli said.

The suspect is described as a light-
skinned black male, about 5’8” tall, 155
pounds, with a short afro and a short beard,
wearing all dark clothing.

The apartment complex is located off the
I-94 South Service Drive.

Anyone with any information is asked to
call Det./Sgt. Gueli at 734-699-8930.

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VBT agrees to lease ball fields to Little League, Michigan Nationals

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Now that Van Buren Township has a 99-year lease with EQ/Wayne Disposal for the Beck Road ball fields, it was able to in turn sub-lease the fields to Van Buren Area Little League and Michigan Nationals.

At its Jan. 14 meeting the VBT Board of Trustees unanimously approved five-year agreements with the two organizations, effective Jan. 1, 2014.

The agreements state that during the times when the Little League is not using the fields, the Michigan Nationals can use them.

Marc Littleleson, president of the Van Buren Area Little League, and Ryan Taylor, of the Michigan Nationals, were present at the meeting to tell of their plans.

Littleleson said Little League is celebrating its 75th year in operation and Belleville has had Little League for 57 of those years, so this is nothing new.

Little League has been using the Beck Fields for many years, but a problem developed with one group and the national Little League hooked up with VBALL instead this year.

Littleleson has been a Little League volunteer for seven years and recently became leader of VBALL.

Taylor, who is a State Farm insurance agent in downtown Belleville, told the story of the youth organization for travel baseball that he started four years ago. He said there now are 16 to 18 teams based out of the Belleville

area, with young folks even coming from Ypsilanti and Canton to participate.

He said they have leased fields all over and are very happy now to have local fields to use.

Taylor started the Michigan Nationals Sports Center inside Davenport Center on the south side of Belleville almost two years ago. He said they have 12,000 to 13,000 square feet of space that they use as an inside ball field. The field also is used for soccer and lacrosse. He said Belleville High School baseball and lacrosse players use the field, as well as lacrosse players from Ypsilanti Lincoln.

The inside space also is available for birthday parties, he said.

Supervisor Linda Combs, who worked at getting the lease with EQ/Wayne Disposal and worked out the details of the use of the fields by a revamped Little League and the new Michigan Nationals, was happy it all worked out.

"If they're playing ball, they're not getting into trouble," she said of the youth at Beck Fields.

She said she appreciated that Littleleson stepped up to lead the youngsters.

Taylor said his group has had just male teams in the past, but they are developing an all-female travel softball team called the Michigan National Stars, which will be based in Belleville.

Supervisor Combs said the Little League will take priority at the Beck Fields and Taylor

has offered to provide some equipment to help the Little League players.

Littleleson said the Detroit Tigers has grants for protective equipment for the kids and he is applying.

In other business at the Jan. 14 meeting, the board:

- Held public hearings on the use of about \$125,000 in 2014-15 federal Community Development Block Grant funds and the reprogramming of \$83,474 the 2011 CDBG funds from sidewalks along Belleville Road to upgrades to the Beck Road ball fields;

- Approved the reprogramming of the 2011 CDBG funds to Beck Field so they wouldn't be lost;

- Approved revocation of the General Electric Industrial Facilities (Tax) Exemption Certificate at 41965 Ecorse Road as requested by GE because its plans for the facility have changed and it can't comply with the agreement. This will bring in \$13,744 more in Public Safety taxes and \$3,142 more to the general township budget;

- Approved to extend without penalty the collection of the 2013 winter property taxes through Friday, Feb. 28;

- Approved a resolution adopting standards less restrictive than federal poverty standards for the Board of Review Poverty Exemption Guidelines for 2014;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointments of Vera Ireland, Mary Korgal, Stephanie Soja, Margaret Thompson, and Helen Wylie to the September Days Senior Center

Endowment Committee with terms to expire Jan. 15, 2016;

- Heard John Delaney say the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) meeting was cancelled again on Jan. 13 because of "no agenda." He said the attendance policy and the meeting policy were supposed to be on the January agenda and there are many things to talk about. Supervisor Combs said they will be revising the bylaws of the LDFA and will be enforcing the bylaws on the attendance policy. She said several meetings were cancelled for lack of agenda before she was elected and changes don't happen overnight. Combs said once the situation with Visteon is remedied she believes the LDFA could be dissolved. Trustee Jeff Jahr, an attorney, wasn't so sure about that. He said the township needs to emphasize the space available for development in the Grace Lake area and, "I don't think we're doing a very good job in helping to market this area ... This township has to help get development;

- Learned Harold Belanger, husband of Supervisor Combs' secretary Cindy Belanger, will be honored at a memorial service at 1 p.m. Jan. 25 at the Belleville High School cafeteria. Mr. Belanger had been involved with Van Buren Little League; and

- Heard Natalie Mosher introduce herself. She is a Democratic candidate for the 21st State House District, to replace Dian Slaves, who is term limited and running for State Senate.

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