



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 20.48 Thursday, November 27, 2014 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

7% water, sewer hike in VBT to be explained Dec. 2

Van Buren Township DPW Director James Taylor will do a presentation on the township's proposed 7% fee hike in water and sewer rates at the Dec. 2 meeting of the VBT Board of Trustees.

At the board's Nov. 17 work/study session, Taylor said the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department has increased VBT's rates by 5% and "7% is pretty reasonable based on our cost."

He reminded board members that the township raised the fee by only 2% last year and absorbed the rest of the costs with the Water Department's fund equity.

"We can't keep doing that," Taylor said. Trustee Jeff Jahr said he didn't want the raise in water rates to be hidden by being approved with the rest of the township's fees at the Dec. 2 meeting.

"Some sort of presentation should be given," Trustee Jahr said and Taylor agreed.

"Van Buren Township's is still one of the lowest water rates," Taylor said.

John Delaney said from the audience that Taylor should explain what the water tower is doing to decrease the rates.

The meeting can be watched live at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 7, on Comcast cable channel 12.



Members of September Days Senior Center in Van Buren Township pose with the tree they decorated for the Festival of Trees now under way at the Belleville Area Museum. Their tree features pictures of all the programs at the senior center with lots of senior faces. From left are Lee Herrmann, Pat Sobecki, and Betty Neill. The Festival of Trees will be at the museum until the end of December. Museum hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 3-7 p.m., and Thursday and Saturday, noon-4 p.m.

VBT approves purchase of 13 emergency sirens

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The prices were due to go up on Dec. 1 for emergency sirens, and, so, on Nov. 18, just short of the deadline the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved the purchase of 13 sirens.

Actually the price of \$19,450 per pole was four years old and was the price quoted to Wayne County as a governmental bid by West Shore Services of Allendale.

After Dec. 1 they will go up to \$20,850 each -- \$1,400 more per siren.

The total for 13 sirens was \$273,128, plus a total of \$5,395 per year for maintenance of all the sites. The township will be reimbursed \$73,230 for three sirens by the VBT Downtown Development Authority and \$77,800 for four sirens by the Community Development Block Grant fund. The CDBG money can be used for sirens in the low/moderate income area in the northern part of the township.

Some of the township's cost for the six it agreed to buy, mostly for the southern side of the township, may come from its insurance company, the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, and/or from the VBT Civic Fund, which was meeting Nov. 20 to consider an allocation.

Actually, the price was due to go up on Nov. 1, but the township board asked West Shore president Jeff DuPilka for a few more weeks. He set up a final deadline of Dec. 1.

Four years ago Public Safety Committee chairman Diane Madigan had DuPilka come to the township for a meeting and he showed a map with circles he drew of what it would take to cover the township with emergency sirens. But no action was taken by the township until now.

Fire Chief Dan Besson, who is the Emergency Manager for the township, put the sirens on the VBT wish list of capital purchases and this year the township got serious.

VBT Public Safety Director Greg Laurain told the board on Nov. 18 that West Shore will order the sirens immediately and they

Library Board asked, again, to vote on taping meetings

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At the beginning of the Nov. 18 Belleville Area District Library board meeting, Barbara Miller asked board president Mary Jane Dawson about taping the library board meetings.

Miller, who has been attending the board meetings for years, regularly asks the board to tape the meetings, so those who cannot attend can watch them on their local cable

TV stations.

"Will the library put taping the meetings on the agenda and vote on it?" Miller asked Dawson and Dawson replied, "We did that."

"I'm like a Republican that keeps talking about Obamacare," Miller joked. She is an active Democrat.

"I would be happy to do that if a motion is made," Dawson said.

No motions were made.

Bernard Grant, who made an unsuccessful run for a seat on the library board in the Nov. 4 election, asked if they could move the official "Public Comment" portion of the meeting from the start of the meeting to the end.

Grant said it's hard to comment on things before they are discussed and voted on by the board.

Dawson said the public can speak on every agenda item as it comes up.

Information Chats

Since the August primary election where voters turned down millage to build a 45,000-square-foot lakeside library, board members have been meeting with people at the library for Chats to gather information

*This Space On The Front Page
Postal Regulations Require*

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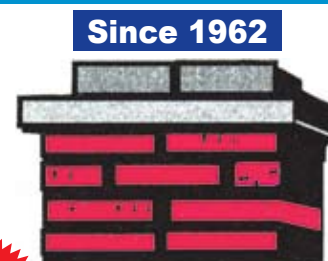
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SECOND FRONT PAGE



Independent photo by Bob Mytych

The Acho family held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 12 for their new Pizza Parlor and the 5-Star Party Store that was renovated after a fire. Among those present for the celebration on Willis Road in Sumpter Township were, from left, Jim Chudzinski, Sumpter Deputy Treasurer Karen Armatis, Chelsea Acho, Royce Acho, Randy Brown, Acting Sumpter Supervisor John Morgan, two employees, Phyllis and Richard Smith, Deborah Acho, Rick and Mary Jane Dawson, Kathie Steigerwald, Roy Acho, Sumpter Trustee Bill Hamm, Wayne County Commissioner-elect Al Haidous, representative from Fifth Third Bank, Janet Manley, and Sumpter Trustee Alan Bates.



The Mida Family was honored for making the best scarecrow in the City of Belleville's 2014 Scarecrow Contest in the Families/Individual category. The award was presented to them by Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria at the Nov. 17 city council meeting.

Scarecrow champs

At right, the City of Belleville Department of Public Services scarecrow was judged best in the Adult Groups/Organizations category. Accepting the plaque from Mayor Pro Tem Loria is Angela Tackett, wife of DPW Director Keith Tackett and Keith said she did most of the work. Angela said others in the department helped.



Century 21 Belvil Realty, Inc. won the top scarecrow award in the Business category. Accepting the plaque from Loria were, from left, Gary Snarsky, Leslie Mills, Jessica Jones Liberatti, and Debby Williams.



Savage School won the Scarecrow Contest award for the best entry in the Youth Groups/Organizations category. Principal Kelley Villa brought along several students.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Library Board to seek input from community - again

A rather lengthy survey will be sent out into the community by the Belleville Area District Library Board to find out what the people want for the library. The board now knows the voters didn't want the large lakeside building on the DNR property because they voted against it. Now, there are three new board members scheduled to be seated in January.

At the Nov. 18 library board meeting, Joy Cichewicz presented her final draft of the survey that can be completed on the internet or on paper.

The board decided to put the edited 21-question survey out to anyone who would answer anonymously. A March 31 deadline for responses has been set with an April 14 presentation of the results to the board and public.

Barbara Miller, who has attended library board meetings over the years, said the Nov. 18 meeting was a first, with board members interacting with the 12 members of the audience without rancor in an intelligent discussion.

Phil Miller, who unsuccessfully ran for the board in the November election, assisted Cichewicz in her survey presentation, offering helpful advice from his survey experience.

The three new elected board members were in the audience offering their input on what they found while campaigning. Although the meeting was more than two hours long, it was friendly and productive, a real change from past sessions.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

A reader sent us an email to comment on Sue's letter last week about people who don't use their turn signals. She told us to tell Sue she appreciated reading her letter.

"Here's another frustration I've noticed," she continued. "A driver is NEVER required to turn right on red. In fact, many intersections have signage saying NO right turn during a red light. Any impatient driver who honks behind me and my right turn signal - hoping I will turn right on red - is dreaming. When they're first in line they can decide for themselves which chances they want to take. But, when I'm first I'd rather stay safe."

Remember when Martin Luther King III came to Belleville on Jan. 26, 2008 for a MLK celebration? There were two metal detectors the school had that had come through a grant, I think. Everyone who went to the BHS cafeteria or the auditorium for Martin Luther King III's presentation had to walk through the metal scanners.

Then, they were used at rowdy basketball games. Now they are lost.

I guess when the new school was built the two metal scanners disappeared, probably put in the metal recycling pile. They were worth \$3,500 each.

At some point I heard that the metal scanners were unfriendly and the school didn't want to use them. Well, now they can't.

Van Buren Township Police Officer Carrie Traster is still working hard in rehab after her Sept. 11 on-duty, lights-and-siren-traveling traffic accident at the corner of Belleville Road and the I-94 North Service



Drive. She's hoping to get her doctor's OK to get back to her traffic duties soon.

I hear that the township already replaced her crushed patrol car with a brand-new Charger.

We received a tip last Thursday noon that there was drilling going on in the field on the former Jacobs horse farm at the corner of Quirk Road and the I-94 N. Service Drive. The farm was sold and, according to unconfirmed reports, a new, long-stay motel will be going up there. It has yet to come before the Van Buren Township Planning Commission.

It was really, really cold last week when the workers were on the roof of the museum, tearing off the old shingles and putting on the new. It was 10 degrees on Tuesday when we took a picture of the partially done roof.

The museum is owned by Van Buren Township and so that's who paid for the roof.

We're sorry to hear of the passing of Bridie Ogle of Van Buren Township, a dear lady. She and I worked together about 24 years ago at the Belleville Meijer store. I had just moved from Colorado back to Belleville to take care of my mom and I needed a job. I became a greeter at Meijer's. In those days the greeters were also part of store security. We had a card file on those

who had shoplifted in the past at any of the Meijer's in this part of the state.

When we recognized a past shoplifter entering the store, we alerted security and they kept an eye on the person. Couldn't touch them in the store, but once they took the unpaid-for merchandise outside, they were toast.

I remember seeing one lady carrying steaks out the door under her winter coat.

Things have been updated at the store, I'm sure. The surveillance cameras help a lot, especially as evidence in court.

We have some people in this area who are not convinced DTE's new smart meters are safe. They've spoken out at meetings in Belleville, Van Buren and Sumpter over the past few years.

Well, there are others in the state that agree with them. A large advocacy group against smart meters has influenced the Michigan House Oversight Committee to hold a hearing on the smart meters and any Michigan resident can testify.

It will be held Tuesday, Dec. 2, in Room 519 of the Anderson House Office Building in Lansing. It will begin at 3 p.m. or after the House session convenes.



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Letters**We learned a lot by
talking to the people**

Dear Community:

The members of the Common Cents Library Committee would like to take a few minutes to thank you for your support over the last few months. We sought to have better representation on the library board that reflects the values and understanding of library services in the community and consider the election of two of our members a modest success.

While we all were not elected, we were able to get two highly qualified individuals to bring a balanced and professional view to the board. Tanya Stoudemire and Lachelle Reed Caver will do a great job representing a balanced view of the benefits and costs of library services. Bernard Grant and I will still be working towards bringing the voices of the residents to the board through our own efforts and by attending the meetings.

We want to thank all our supporters, sign hosts, businesses and thousands of citizens that took the time to hear us and gave us votes of confidence on election day.

We learned a lot of things, including: that the DNR has reached out and is willing to partner with other local organizations to develop their property located on Belleville Road (and are under pressure to do so now); there are other ideas about where a library could be located north of town that would be better for economic development (maybe revitalizing a strip mall, or creating a civic campus ala Canton or providing a new public facility to anchor development south of town in the church along Sumpter Road) and providing services that the library offers (including hackers/makers labs, not competing with the local community college to offer redundant classes - taught by professional educators - and a reluctance

to over-capitalize resources); and that there are still overwhelmingly large numbers of residents that want to see the library stay in downtown, as it is considered vital to the sustainability of the City of Belleville and as a critical service to the children of the community that attend the high school and the three schools located within walking distance.

We hope that going forward the library board takes the time to engage the community through outreach (not just hosting coffee klatches for the library users) and meaningful discussions about the future of the library. They may learn quite a bit by getting out and talking to the residents. We sure did.

For this, we thank you,
Phil Miller

Common Cents Library Committee

**About our roads: They
paved the wrong ones**

To the Editor:

Issue #1: This summer, roads were paved in Sumpter. Unfortunately, I believe the wrong roads were paved.

Willis Road, between Sumpter and Rawsonville, along with Sumpter Road from Willis to Five Points should have been the roads to get paved. They are in worse condition and have a lot more traffic than Willow and Sumpter and Sumpter and Judd, the roads that did get paved.

Issue #2: There was a company hired to take out the dead trees and the brush that hangs over into the roads. I know they started, but never finished. I am sure they got paid.

Can anyone answer these questions without the runaround?

W. Allen

Disappointed in Sumpter Township

Editor's Note: Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara said the county got federal funds for road paving for Sumpter because Sumpter is considered "rural." Anything bordering or in Van Buren Township (like Bemis Road and Sumpter Road north of Bemis) is not eligible for rural funds because VBT has too much money, Commissioner McNamara said. He didn't say why Willis wasn't paved. We'll try to find out about the brush cutting.

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Trinity Episcopal Church welcomes new Rector on Nov. 30

For the past two years Trinity Episcopal Church in Van Buren Township has been without a full-time Rector.

During this time members of the congregation walked their transition journey with great faith in the future God had for the parish and now they are on the threshold of a great new beginning in Trinity's story.

The Rev. Ian Twiss has accepted the call to become the church's next Rector and his first day will be Nov. 30. Pastor Twiss served as the Priest-in-Charge at Holy Faith Episcopal Church in Saline. His wife Nan and their three children will also be joining church life at Trinity.

The parish is excited about this new beginning and hope that in the coming weeks members of the community will help welcome him and his family.

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-- Margaret Thatcher
British Prime Minister, 1925-2013



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Obituaries



Jim Edward Beck

JIM EDWARD BECK

(January 12, 1926 - November 18, 2014)

Jim Edward Beck, age 88, of Brighton, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI, passed away Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at Ashley Court of Brighton. He was born January 12, 1926 in Glendale, WV, son of Ernest & Kathleen (Barnhart) Beck.

Jim worked for Ford Motor Company for 30 years before retiring. He was a charter member of Belleville Presbyterian Church. He was also a member of September Days Senior Citizens. In his earlier years, he enjoyed being outdoors, building his deck and landscaping. He loved dogs and trained many, including dobermans and rescue dogs, over the years.

Mr. Beck is survived by four sons Todd A. (Mary Anna) Beck of Moundsville, WV, Michael C. (Janine) Beck of Ohio, Jeffrey L. (Judy) Beck of Brighton, MI and Scott S. (Toni) Beck of Los Angeles, CA; 8 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; a sister Betty Fryer of Maple City, MI; also numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife AnnaMary (Sterrett) Beck on April 5, 2013, an infant son Jim Edward Beck, Jr., brother Jack Beck, also a sister Jean Beck.

Visitation was 4-8 PM Friday at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Funeral Service was at 1:00 PM Saturday, November 22, 2014 at Belleville Presbyterian Church, 11900 Belleville Road, with visitation an hour prior to service. Rev. Gregory C. Zurakowski officiated. Interment was in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.

Memorial contributions to Belleville Presbyterian Church would be greatly appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

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EMILY MIDA LYALL

(January 2, 1928 - October 3, 2014)

Age 86 of St. Paul, MN. Survived by husband Scotty Lyall; daughter Joy of CO; son Kim of MN; 4 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; 3 sisters, Mildred Baker, Georgianna Frye, Betty Rowland. Graduate of BHS 1945; nursing school 1949. Memorial service Oct. 10, in MN.

KEVIN PRITCHARD

(November 12, 1985 - November 10, 2014)

Age 28. Survived by wife Nicole; stepchildren Jozie & Eldred; host of family members and friends; and very special cousin Taylor Beaty, who will host a memorial after the holidays. Predeceased by parents and brother Michael.



Bridie Teresa Ogle

BRIDIE TERESA OGLE

(September 8, 1937 - November 22, 2014)

Bridie Teresa Ogle, age 77, of Belleville, MI, passed away Saturday, November 22, 2014 at her home. She was born September 8, 1937 in Ireland, daughter of James & Bridget (Scanlon) Healy.

Bridie was a mother to some, a beacon of hope to many, and a friend to all who knew her. She loved her faith, her friends, and her country, but above all, she loved her family. Irish by birth, American by choice, she always stayed true to who she was. We will miss her, we will mourn her, and we will always love her. A wife, a mother, a sister, a grandmother, a friend, an angel we were blessed to know.

Mrs. Ogle is survived by son Thomas (Faith)

Ogle of Romulus, MI; daughter Theresa Flynn of Belleville, MI; 5 grandchildren, Ashley Flynn, John Flynn, and Staig Flynn of AZ, Jessica Ogle and Bridget Ogle of MI, and 1 great-grandchild Rosemary Cruz of MI; anam cara son, John Piche of Kentucky; 7 siblings John Healy of Bristol, England, Maureen (John) Armstrong and Agnes (Brian) Dooohan both of Manchester, England, Tommy (Linda) Healy and Kathleen (Desmond) Lynch, both of Bristol, England, Nancy Healy of Manchester, England and Martin (Bridie) Healy of County Cork, Ireland; sister-in-law Gail Ogle of Richland, Missouri; also numerous nieces, nephews and in-laws. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Harold Gene Ogle in 2006, son Sean Edward Ogle in 2013, also brother Michael Healy in 2013.

A Funeral Mass was held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, with a gathering from Noon until the time of service. Father Thomas H. Cusick served as Celebrant. Memorial contributions may be made to September Days Senior Citizens and would be greatly appreciated by the family.

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



Neva Jeanne Wisniewski

NEVA J. WISNIEWSKI

(September 14, 1934 - November 20, 2014)

Neva Jeanne Wisniewski, age 80, of Belleville, MI, passed away Thursday, November 20, 2014

at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born September 14, 1934 daughter of Clyde & Imogene (Rouse) Curtis.

Neva graduated from Wyandotte High School in 1952 and married Theodore Norman Wisniewski on October 24, 1953. Neva enjoyed ceramics, yard sales, camping and collecting angels. She was a long-time active member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville. Most of all she loved her family and cherished time with her grandchildren.

Neva is survived by her husband of 61 years Ted; 8 children Beverly (Frank) Whitby of Milford, MI, Norman (Nancy) Wisniewski, Paul (Becky) Wisniewski, Kathy (Dean) Ackron and Ted (Debbie) Wisniewski, all of Belleville, Christi (Bill) Birchmeier of Ann Arbor, MI, Adam (Dena) Wisniewski of Milford and Karen (Jeff) Martoia of Livonia, MI; 23 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; also numerous nieces, nephews, family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters Irene, Clydene and Pauline; also a brother Carl Curtis.

Visitation was 5-8 p.m. Saturday and 12-8 p.m. Sunday with a 6 p.m. Time for Sharing and a 7 p.m. Rosary Service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. A Funeral Mass was held at 11 a.m. Monday, November 24, 2014 with visitation 10-11 a.m. at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville. Father Thomas H. Cusick served as Celebrant. Entombment was in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

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Library Board

(continued from page 1)

on what they would like to see for their library.

Dawson said she met with the Belleville Area Garden Club and talked to them about what they think a library should have and where it should be located.

Dawson said they thought the library that was proposed was too large and out of place. She said half thought it should stay in Belleville and half liked the DNR property. They bemoaned the fact that Belleville is not what it was 40 years ago and they were concerned about the tax payments for the high school that was built and the looming problem with Visteon bonds.

“I don’t think it’s fair to say that was the general opinion of the garden club,” said Kathleen Walsh, pointing out that special meeting was held during the daytime and some of the members work.

Dawson told of other people she talked to and what they thought about the library and its services.

Joy Cichewicz said two-thirds of the people she talked to wanted the library in the central area of the district and the other third wanted the DNR site.

There were a lot of people who said there was no need for a café in the library.

Cichewicz said two people from Sumpter said they didn’t think Sumpter needed a library. She added that two people said they thought, “Libraries are just for poor people.”

Newly elected board member Sharon Peters said, “We need help from people” to get their opinions. “Some read the paper and some don’t,” she said, adding some said they didn’t know there was an August ballot question on the library.

LaChelle Reed Caver, also newly elected to the board, said she spoke to a lot of people in Sumpter while campaigning. “A lot of people did not like the concept of the satellite there. The seniors felt disrespected.”

Phillip Miller said he got a call from a supporter in Sumpter and of 50 talked to only one supported a library in the space proposed. He said the seniors didn’t want to give up their space in the community center to hold a library.

“There was a feeling that the way the

library board approached the township board was, ‘This is where we’re going to put it’ instead of having the township come up with a place,” Miller said.

The library agreement that includes a satellite library can be amended by the three communities involved, “But it would be another huge process,” said board member Joe Monte.

“Maybe down the line they’ll find the satellite is not necessary,” suggested Grant, an architect.

Mary Ban of Sumpter said she asked the township attorney if the library agreement is null and void because of certain things that weren’t done. “Dates and times are not completely met, in my opinion,” Ban said. She said the attorney has yet to get back to her.

Board member Elaine Gutierrez said they need to look at the library agreement. “It needs to be revisited, but not tonight,” she said.

Walsh, a retired trust attorney, asked the definition of a library and Dawson said, “That depends.”

Walsh said her neighbors on Harmony Lane see the library that was proposed as a large, glass-face building with a café, when they think it should be a building with books. She said well-educated professionals don’t go to the library. They order their books.

“You’ve said, ‘We need a building.’ You need to say what it is to be used for,” she said.

“Maybe you tried to do too much,” suggested Tonya Stoudemire, another newly elected board member.

Phillip Miller said the book marks that were being given out before the election had a statement in the corner that said, “So much more for everyone.” Then, that corner of the bookmark was blacked out to hide that statement.

Library Director Deb Green said the bond attorney said that statement was more than information and needed to be removed.

The Friends of the Library, who paid for the bookmarks, didn’t want to waste their money by throwing out the bookmarks, so they blacked out the offending verbiage.

Public Survey

The main topic of the Nov. 18 meeting was the final draft of the public survey put together by board secretary Cichewicz.

The survey, which can be completed in 10-15 minutes on the internet, was projected onto a screen in the meeting room, as she went through her questions.

Phil Miller, who has experience with putting together surveys, offered to run the computer, while she stepped back and explained questions to the board and the dozen people in the audience. He gave her suggestions on what to have on the survey and everyone looked for typos.

The board plans to disseminate the survey in many ways and will try to get as many people as possible to fill it out. It’s expected to go out in December.

The deadline for completed surveys is March 31 and Cichewicz will present the results to the board at its April 14 meeting.

The survey hopes to get information from the public that will give direction to the library board on what to do about the district’s library needs.

New Windows

Board member John Juriga said the library needs 22 new windows and the lowest price so far is from Wallside Windows for \$8,290. He has to get one more quote before he has the necessary three required. He said when the fascia is being done they were afraid the old single-pane windows would break.

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Menards hopes to present plans at Dec. 10 VBT Planning meeting

About 50 people attended Menards’ meeting on Monday to discuss plans for its proposed store on Belleville Road, north of Walmart.

Sally Hodges, Van Buren Township’s planning consultant, said Menards has presented a revised site plan and hopes to get it before the VBT Planning Commission at its Dec. 10 meeting.

Rosemary K. Otzman, Editor

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VBT sirens

(continued from page 1)

should be here by the first of the year.

He said, weather permitting, all 13 will be installed in January or February and West Shore will invoice the township after completion.

Police Lt. Charles Bazy, who last summer was given the responsibility for working on the sirens, said the government rate of \$19,450 per pole is a four-year-old price that is being honored through Dec. 1. He said since other communities in Wayne County have the same kind of sirens – Federal Warning systems -- there will be interoperability with the communities and the county and they will be able to set off each other's sirens in emergencies.

Director Laurain said the sirens are not

just for tornados and bad weather, but for emergencies at the landfills, the airports, and the freeways.

There is a plan to have Dispatch turn on the sirens when an emergency occurs and also have Dispatch send out a Nixle alert on the details of the emergency, as well as a message on the bottom of the cable TV transmission. The idea is when residents hear the sirens, they should go inside and learn the details of the emergency.

Laurain said he will give the board monthly updates on the siren installation.

Three of the sirens would be installed on property owned by the township. The other 10 would be on county rights of way. Locations are:

- Belleville Road and Lake Villa Drive;
- Haggerty Road and Independence;
- Belleville Road and Ecorse Road;
- Cedar Street and Denton Road;
- Tyler Road east of Belleville Road;
- Hoeft Road and Hull Road;
- Hull Road and Bak Road;
- Martinsville Road south of Hull Road;
- Haggerty Road south of Savage Road;
- Martinsville Road south of Huron River Drive.

Van Buren Township is the only community in Wayne County that does not have emergency warning sirens, Lt. Bazy said.

In other business at the 42-minute meeting on Nov. 18, the board:

- Approved the job description and personal services agreement with Murray J. Knowles III as Planning and Economic Development Director starting Dec. 10. He will be paid \$75,000. This position has been vacant since May. Knowles, who is called "Jack," has worked in the private

sector, where he has 25 years of experience with land planning, project entitlements, construction and project management, land use and feasibility studies, master plans, planned unit developments, mixed-use planning, commercial and residential site plans, plats, and condominium documents. He has served as a trustee on the Scio Township Board since 2008 and has been on that township's zoning board of appeals and planning commission. He holds a bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from the University of Michigan;

- Pulled from the agenda was approval of the job description for the executive assistant to the supervisor with a \$64,933 salary. "I do plan to take some time to fill this position," said Supervisor Combs at the Nov. 17 work/study session. "I want to make sure we get the right person";

• Approved a six-month personal leave of absence from the date of board approval until March 15, as outlined in the fire department union agreement, for Stephen Jones, who is a paid-on-call fire fighter. Jones began work full time on Sept. 15 at the Ypsilanti Township Fire Department. The request requires the approval of the Director of Public Safety and the Board of Trustees;

- Approved the 2015 Board of Trustees meeting schedule and the 2015 township holiday schedule, as outlined in the Salaried Employees Benefit Manual, AFSCME Local 236, and POLC contracts. There are 13 holidays;

• Heard Jakleen Ochalek say the house and parcel of land next door to her at the corner of Savage and Haggerty is up for sale and coded as commercial. The neighbors don't want a business in the middle of a residential neighborhood, she said. Supervisor Combs said she talked to the assessor and found that property has "dual zoning." Combs said they would have to go to the planning commission to have the zoning changed. Combs said she would have someone from the planning department contact Ochalek and explain the steps that need to be taken; and

• Heard Alan Babish ask when items are being rushed onto the board agenda that the board will allow members of the audience to ask questions before the board votes. He said when things are discussed at the work/study session and then not voted on for two weeks, he can get his questions answered by email. When an issue goes from the work/study on Monday to the regular meeting

the next day there is no time for questions. Babish said he can't always get to the work/study meeting in the afternoon. "Don't take the audience and voters completely out," Babish said. He said since the executive assistant decision got taken off that night's agenda he will have time to do an email.

More Letters

Romulus Rotary reports successful lights parade

To the Editor:

On Saturday, Sept. 19, the Parade of Lights marked its 17th consecutive year in the City of Romulus. In spite of road construction, the trains and last-minute route changes, the Romulus Rotary presented another successful Parade of Lights. The weather could not have been better for this community favorite!

The winners of this year's event were as follows:

1. Motorized - Scout Troop 872 and Cub Pack 872
2. Non-motorized - The Michigan Youth ChalleNGe Academy (MYCA)
3. Farm tractor - Tony Martinez and Friends
4. Schools - Barth Elementary
5. Classic Cars - Ron Kasperski
6. Commercial - Romulus Fire Dept.

We want to thank the local businesses and organizations for donating prize money or otherwise assisting in this year's parade. Romulus Rotary would like to acknowledge that assistance and support.

If you enjoy the parade, please support our partners: JT Crova Towing, Romulus Auto Supply, City of Romulus Cable Dept., United Brass, Inc., Kuder Kakes, Gateway Golf Course, Romulus Hardware, Romulus Progressive Club and Civil Air Patrol. We would also like to thank the City of Romulus for the excellent coverage from our police department. It was great to have the canine unit and motorcycles involved.

One issue which continues to be a problem with the Parade of Lights is a serious one. Every year a few individuals refuse to comply with parade rules which prohibit the distribution of candy, pamphlets, or any other items. This is a major safety issue. A number of years ago, a very young child ran into the street after a piece of candy and into the path of a parade vehicle. Because of the child's size and the fact that it was dark, the child was not easily seen. A quick-thinking spectator was able to get the attention of the driver in time to avoid a very serious tragedy. The purpose of the parade is to offer a safe, fun evening for our parade participants and spectators to enjoy.

This is the reason we ask for everyone's cooperation. Safety must be first and foremost at all times. This means avoiding anything which could compromise safety.

Romulus Rotary President Don Morris made this plea, "Folks, please follow our rules! Safety must come first if we are going to avoid a tragedy. A night parade presents a number of safety challenges that a daytime parade does not."

We hope to have many more successful and enjoyable Parades of Lights. See you next year!

Romulus Rotary Club

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More Letters

Manager: Customer gave false information

To the Editor:

My name is Sam and I manage the Gulf Auto Lube located at the 5 Points in downtown Belleville. Last week a column was published about our business and an unhappy customer. I would like to clarify that most of what was published in your paper was false.

There was no damage caused to the customer's vehicle and we refunded her all costs related to her inconvenience and we offered her 2 free future oil changes, as well.

We did not put the WRONG oil filter on. Her oil filter cap was stripped upon arrival and we ordered her a new one (as a convenience) from the auto parts store which turned out to be the wrong size cap. The auto parts store sent us the wrong cap and she later came in and showed us a receipt that she had it replaced and we refunded her that cost immediately and apologized to her and offered her 2 free oil changes for her inconvenience.

She seemed satisfied and happy when she left. We are dedicated to making sure that every customer is treated with respect and we thrive ourselves on our outstanding customer service.

This ad can cause a negative effect on our business and I wanted to give our side of the story and again offer our apologies for any inconvenience and would love to do whatever we can to satisfy this customer and any other customer in the future. Thank you.

Sam Beydoun
Gulf Auto Lube, 5 Points, Belleville

Editor's Note: This letter refers to a letter to the editor published Nov. 13, written by a man who came out to help the senior citizen widow who had oil leaking all over her driveway.

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Belleville Museum offers lots of Christmas gifts

To the Editor:

The 19th-annual Belleville Area Museum Festival of Holiday Trees will run through Dec. 27.

In addition to the beautiful trees, to view and bid on, as well as our two Children's Ornament Workshops, we offer great gifts for that history buff on your list!

Available in the museum's gift shop for the holiday season are Christmas ornaments, museum t-shirts (and hoodies), vintage postcards, stocking stuffers, and our annual Belleville Area Historical Society calendar featuring "Tri-community Lake Life." The third edition of "Water Under the Bridge: A History of Van Buren Township," is also on sale for \$35, regularly \$45. Come in and get your shopping done today.

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

We will be closed Dec. 23-26 and Dec. 30-Jan. 3. For additional information, please call the museum at (734) 697-1944.

Christmas Tree Silent Auction bidding ends Dec. 16. Proceeds from the auction will support the projects and programs of the Belleville Area Museum.

Katie Dallos, Director
Belleville Area Museum



Zoe Szweczyk, age 4, got her face painted at the Booville event "Scaring up Some Fun," put on by the Belleville Central Business Community. Zoe's mother Rona Szweczyk keeps watch while Cindy Fontana of Curlie's Face Art does her magic.

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8731 Lilly, Ypsilanti Twp
\$249,900-4 bdrm, 3 1/2 bath
brick home! 2 stry foyer, brick pvr
patio overlooks pond, mstr ste +!



2726 Radcliffe, Ann Arbor
\$159,900-3 bdrm, 1 bath, adorable
ranch w/ full partially fnshd bsmnt,
fncl bckrd, loads of natural light.



48245 Bayshore, Belleville
\$159,900-2 bdrm, 1.1 bath condo on
Belleville Lake! Lakefront views from
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7935 Springwater, Ypsilanti Twp.
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45113 Lindsey, Belleville
\$199,900-3 bedroom, 3 1/2 baths, 2094 sqft,
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Independent photo by James Oztman

Van Buren Township put a new roof on its museum last week. The weather was very cold, with the temperature at 10 degrees at 8 a.m. Nov. 18 as the workmen gathered to climb up to get on with the job. The 139-year-old museum building is located at the corner of Fourth and Main streets in downtown Belleville.

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



The **Sugar Plum Candy Shoppe** is opening on Friday, Nov. 28 inside building 1 adjoining **Our Father's Child Care** at **111 South Street**. Candy samples and coffee will be offered beginning at 3 a.m. and open all night until midnight Saturday. Call (734) 697-7600.

Karen's Place Salon at **36968 Huron River Drive** in New Boston is a salon for the entire family with over 49 years of experience in haircutting, color, perms, highlights, nails, manicure, pedicures, and much more. Karen's Place welcomes Bonnie formerly of **Perfect Image Salon** in Belleville and Amy, formerly of **Amy's Hair Shop** in Romulus. They're open Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Walk-ins and appointments are available. See their ad in today's paper for a \$2-off coupon on any

salon service. Call (734) 753-9130.

Quality Home Maintenance Service of Belleville are professionals when it comes to interior and exterior home improvements and right now, save an extra 10% off all indoor work during the winter months. Owner **Rick Smith** is licensed and insured and has over 28 years of experience. To get an estimate, call (734) 968-4509 and visit www.AQHMS.com.

The **Van Buren Public Schools Great Start Readiness Program** is a free preschool program for families who qualify. Limited spaces are available at **Haggerty School** on Haggerty Road. Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 1, 2014. For an application or more information, call (734) 699-2180. Great Start is a nationally recognized Pre-K program and developed under a grant by the Michigan Department of Education.

This Saturday is **Small Business Saturday**, Nov. 29, throughout businesses in Belleville and across Michigan. It's a

day dedicated to helping small business and their communities. Look for special promotions and special saving in your travels over the weekend and buy local.

Main Street Flowers on Main Street in Belleville will be holding a **Winter Fest Open House** on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. featuring free gifts and special discounts. I listed it in last week's paper as happening next Friday. My apologies.

Advance tickets are now on sale for next year's **Thunder Over Michigan Air Show** at **Willow Run Airport Aug. 29-30** featuring the **US Navy Blue Angels**. Order online by midnight, Dec. 31, and get general admission at just \$25 and parking just \$10. Visit www.yankeeairmuseum.org or call (734) 483-4030.

Today's paper also features an ad from the **Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce** featuring a comprehensive list of activities for **Winter Fest Weekend 2014**, Dec. 5-7. There are more things to do than ever this year, folks. Santa will come to town a week from Saturday. Cool.

Today's paper features an insert by **Tractor's Supply**, which has locations in Saline, Dundee, Monroe and Trenton. To have your flyer inserted in our paper, the cost is \$50 per 1,000 papers and all 7,000 *Independents* for \$350.

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



Belleville Winter Fest Weekend

DECEMBER 5 - 7 DOWNTOWN • MAIN STREET

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2014

LIVE ICE CARVER 2 pm - 4 pm Chamber location
CAROLERS 3 pm - 5 pm

Jen Lawson,
Country Singer
will perform
5 - 6 pm



Bates Hotdog Stand
Museum area
Glow Works Merchandise
will be available all weekend!

ICE SKATING Fourth Street Square, 3 pm - 9 pm, provided by BYC ~ skates available

CONFERENCE BIKE RIDES 4 pm - 6 pm Museum area

FIREWORKS OVER THE LAKE will begin at 7 pm

Main Street Business Decorating Contest Judging will take place in evening.
Ice Sculptures Displayed on Main Street

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014

JINGLE BELL RUN Horizon Park

WINTER FEST OPEN HOUSE Main Street Flowers 9 am - 6 pm
Hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, discounts

ICE SKATING Fourth Street Square, 9 am - 9 pm, provided by BYC ~ skates available

HOLIDAY ARTS/CRAFTS SHOW Van Buren Township 9 am - 3 pm
46425 Tyler Road, West of Belleville Road

CONFERENCE BIKE RIDES 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Museum area

LIVE ICE CARVER 2 pm - 4 pm Chamber location

GINGERBREAD MAN DECORATING 3 pm Belleville Area District Library

HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE 2 pm - 4:30 pm across from Fourth Street Square

SOUP CRAWL 2 pm - 6 pm Fourth Street Square area

Soup Crawl Participants - CBC, Egan's Pub, Deb's Catering, Twisted Rooster, Woodstone Grill

KIDS FUN ZONE 12 pm - 4:30 pm Bouncy House by Chamber

Crafts/Popcorn/Cider Belleville Council for the Arts

CAROLERS 2 pm - 4 pm

LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE 4:30 pm - start off, Belleville High

Santa will draw the winning ticket for the Chamber's Car Raffle

CITY CHRISTMAS TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY

Immediately following Parade Museum Lawn

"LIVING" NATIVITY First United Methodist Church following parade

MEET WITH SANTA First United Methodist Church following parade

Ice Sculptures Displayed on Main Street

Bates Hotdog Stand will be on site, Museum area

Glow Works will be on site with Glow Merchandise

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2014

ICE SKATING Fourth Street Square, 10 am - 2 pm, provided by BYC ~ skates available

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Limit 1 coupon per customer per visit. Willow Run Liquor coupon expires 11/30/2014. BAJ



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

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

More Letters

Thanks to Marti & Dave for donations to daycare

To the Editor:

I'm convinced that there are two kinds of people in this world. They are the givers and the takers. The takers get those "immediate rewards." Those rewards are temporary and usually material. The givers receive those rewards that are long-lasting and yes, nothing you can touch. I believe if we were all even just a little "giver" we would be so much happier. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to see someone smile and say, "thank you." The feeling I get is warm and, yes, long-lasting.

Well, Mr. and Mrs. Brown of the Brown Funeral Home and Marti's Gift Shop truly fit that description of "Giver." Recently, we were given a HUGE donation from Marti's Gift shop to our daycare, Becky & Jessica's Place/Daycare. Many parents who come to our daycare are without the necessary needs of life, like enough food, warm clothing, and even diapers to put on their babies. There is no money there for the "cute stuff" we buy for ourselves and our children. They are just thankful to "get by." Mr. and Mrs. Brown provided that "cute stuff" for many of our families in need. Their donations are being given to parents in need who would like just a little bit of that "cute stuff" for their children, like a musical bear, a pretty little frame,

a doll and rocking chair. Our parents and children can't directly say, "Thank you Marti and Dave," but we can!

Thank you sooooo much! You've ALWAYS given so much to your community. You must always be feeling warm!

Becky & Jessica

Becky & Jessica's Place/Daycare
Van Buren Township

Eagles fundraiser thanks Marti's Gift Shop

To the Editor:

My name is Rich Cetnarowski, II, and I am treasurer of the Van Buren Eagles #3996 and chairman of the second-annual Autism Fund Raiser on April 11, 2015.

I would like to thank Marti's Gift Shop for their donations going towards my fundraiser in April. It means a lot to me. Thank you.

Also, would like to thank the ladies at Belleville Co-Op where I work. (Jeanie Reyer, Addie Siler, Rose Griffin, Ruth Ann Spencer, Kathy Gambrell, Corena Stabnau, Vance and Louis Cobbs and Mildred Richmond) Thank you very much for all your donations.

Richard L. Cetnarowski, II

"Whenever you have an efficient government, you have a dictatorship."
— Harry S. Truman

RAC FRIDAY 3 DAY SALE

Fri Nov 28th-Sun Nov 30th

Purchase a year membership during these three days and it won't expire until

January 1st, 2016!

(that's almost an extra 5 weeks for free!)

PLUS you will receive 6 free classes!

The RAC will be open normal business hours on these RAC Friday days
(5am-10pm on Friday and Saturday, and 7am-10pm on Sunday)

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RAC Athletic Center



Photo courtesy Henry Ford College Wrestling Team
Austin Koehler, a 2014 graduate of Belleville High School, made his collegiate debut for the Henry Ford College Hawks wrestling team in a big way. Koehler (125 pounds) pinned Saginaw Valley State University's Dylan Smith (ranked ninth in the nation). Koehler's first period takedown ended up being the deciding factor of the dual meet, breaking a tie score on the fourth criteria.

Belleville churches launch Bible Reading campaign on Jan. 4

"The Bible is central to our faith," said Pastor Jim Richter of Open Arms Lutheran Church, "but many people are intimidated by its scope and size. 'The Story' gives us a way to journey from Genesis to Revelation together in 15 weeks so everyone understands God's story and how their story intersects with it."

In a news release from Zondervan Publishers a new, nationwide Bible reading campaign is explained.

The Bible is the best-selling book in history, but how many people in Belleville are actually reading it? A Gallup survey reports the average American household has four Bibles. However, research by Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life (2008) found that only 16% of Americans read the Bible every day.

Many of the churches in Belleville are coming together and hoping to reverse this trend. The pastors believe that "The Story," a Zondervan best-seller, is a great tool to increase Biblical literacy, helping readers understand God's story from Genesis to Revelation and how their own stories intersect with God's. "The Story" consists of 31 chapters of carefully-selected scriptures sequenced in chronological order. "The Story" presents the word of God in an engaging format, reading like a novel.

"Our goal is that people in our congregations, as well as the city of Belleville, realize the incredible love God has for them and how their story is found in His story," said Pastor Richter.

"The Story Church Campaign is a unique program providing exciting ways to engage in 'The Story' for children, teens and adults. The hope of the churches is that our entire community can be literally on the same page for 16 weeks – from the beginning of

the new year until just after Christmas. Our churches plan to begin the experience on Jan. 4," he said.

With thousands of participating churches nationwide, "The Story" is becoming a movement that is bringing wide-ranging benefits to local churches and communities. Many have reported a greater understanding of how God's story reveals the reasons for the things that happen in a man's story.

The following churches in the community invite the public to join them in experiencing "The Story": Belleville Presbyterian, First United Methodist, Faith Assembly, and Open Arms Lutheran Church.

The public is advised to watch for posters and listings in local establishments and publications identifying where "The Story" discussion groups are gathering.

Those willing to host a "The Story" discussion group or those with questions are invited to contact Open Arms Lutheran Church and Daycare at (734) 699-5000.



**Jesus Is
Waiting
4 U
Meet Him
@ Church**

Message paid for by a member of the Catholic Church.

You are invited... OPEN ARMS LUTHERAN CHURCH December 3, 2014

Youth Fundraising Dinner—5:30pm
(All proceeds benefit the 2015 Youth Mission Trip)

Advent Service—7:00pm



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Keystone band to perform in Village Theater at Cherry Hill

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Keystone Academy middle school band members are planning to perform their Spring Concert on May 13 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton Township.

"It's something special for the students and parents for the end of the year," said band director Eric Zeuty during the Keystone Academy school board's regular meeting Nov. 13.

The students are in grades 5-8 and there are about 25 band members. Seating at the theater is 400 and he figured around four people per student will attend the concert.

Keystone Academy is on Bemis Road in Sumpter Township, but Zeuty said he thinks people will be willing to drive to Canton for this special treat.

He said the price is \$1,156 for a four-hour block and rather than pay for another room for warmup, they will warm up on stage.

Zeuty said last year he started looking for a different venue for his musicians to perform in. He said the Keystone gymnasium is a gym, with poor acoustics. He said he looked around the area for another place and the only other one that turned up was a church, but that "didn't happen."

He said Keystone Principal Keturah Godfrey suggested Cherry Hill. He checked it out and found a beautiful facility with amazing acoustics.

He said he learned the talented man who designed that facility, also designed a huge performing arts facility in Dearborn and the Thurston and Skyline high school auditoriums.

"We already paid the deposit," Godfrey said, noting, "It's a professional facility."

Zeuty didn't have funds in his budget, so he was at the board meeting to ask the board to use some of its discretionary funds for the project.

Board president Vesta Losen put the proposal on the agenda for the Dec. 11 meeting.

In other business at the hour-long meeting, the board:

- Accepted the 2013-14 audit report from Plante Moran for the \$6 million budget. The audit had an "unmodified opinion." Treasurer Carol Manley pointed out the board had a fund balance of \$54,586 and there was another decline in food service sales, by \$8,000. Principal Godfrey said the students do not care for the lunches mandated by the

federal government;

- Approved the amended budget for 2014-15. The budget was constructed with the assumption of 774 students for fall 2014 and there were 768. Also, per pupil funding was expected to be \$7,356 and it was \$7,415;

- Approved \$2,500 for use by the school store from the board's discretionary fund. Principal Godfrey said they can't sell candy any more, but prizes for work are motivators and students will be able to go to the store to redeem their prizes;

- Approved \$2,000 from the discretionary fund for Christmas marketing and \$2,000 for teacher appreciation;

- Made plans for Christmas presents for the Keystone staff and for the annual board Christmas breakfast for the staff on Dec. 17;

- Heard Principal Godfrey report that she signed up for the Book-it Challenge where she brought a recliner and her robe to school and sat in the hall and read from first bell to last bell. Sometimes she read to students and sometimes to herself;

- Heard Godfrey report that the national Bully Prevention Day was a success with everyone wearing orange and students tying orange ribbons on the back fence to pledge not to bully. Also, the Book Fair sold \$7,500 worth of books and the school gets back \$4,400 to buy books for the library;

- Noted the NWEA rates of growth for grades 2-8 were all over 100% for reading and math for the third year in a row, with 100% indicating one year of growth; and

- Discussed the ThinkStretch summer learning program and tests that showed the loss that comes over the summer when students are away from classes was reduced by the program.

Winterfest Open House
Saturday, December 6th.
9 a.m. til 6 p.m.
Free Gift for the first 50 people.
25% of your most expensive item.
Main Street Flowers
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(734) 697-7400
www.mainstreetflowersbelleville.com
Hors d'oeuvres and Refreshments Served

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On Nov. 13 this is how Bethany Bible Church's new construction looked, with the structure raised for the new 13,800-square-foot worship area, offices, and classrooms being built to the north of the present 14,000 square foot building at 810 East Huron River Dr.

**FROM ALL OF US HERE AT THE
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Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Monday, Dec. 1** – State Senator Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, will hold a December Senior Brigade for the 7th Senate District from 11 a.m. to noon at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. Senior Brigades are designed to inform seniors of issues that are important to them. This Senior Brigade will focus on home identity theft and other illegal scams. For more information call (517) 373-571 or see www.senatorpatrickcolbeck.com.
- **Friday, Dec. 5** – Fireworks at dusk over Belleville Lake from the Denton Road Bridge. Part of Winter Fest activities. Also, skating on the Fourth Street Square, courtesy of BYC.
- **Saturday, Dec. 6** – Holiday Arts & Crafts Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Van Buren Township Community Center, 46425 Tyler Road, 699-8921. Also, September Days Bake Sale, 9 a.m.-noon.

- **Saturday, Dec. 6** – Winter Fest activities all day. Christmas parade at 4:30 p.m. Tree lighting in front of the museum after the parade.
- **Saturday, Dec. 6** – Angel of Hope annual candlelight ceremony in Hillside Cemetery, 7 p.m.
- **Sunday, Dec. 7** – 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.
- **Saturday, Dec. 13** – Children's Christmas Ornament Workshops, 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. at the Belleville Area Museum. Cost \$2. (Pre-registration encouraged.) Pictures with Santa are free from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., courtesy of the CBC and sponsors.
- **Saturday, Dec. 13** – Please join the Belleville Community Chorus for its annual Winter Concert at 7 p.m. at Belleville United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street, Belleville. This year it's "Snowflakes & Stars." Reception to follow in the basement. Free, but donations are gratefully accepted.

City of Belleville Public Notice

City of Belleville Regular City Council Meeting Minutes November 3, 2014

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order at 7:30 P.M., at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street by Mayor Conley.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN

COMMENTS

A Proclamation was presented to the local Veterans Organizations commemorating November as "Veteran's History & Appreciation Month. Mr. Primo Gutierrez was honored as a World War II Veteran and received the Proclamation.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to approve agenda with the addition of Item 8E – Masonic Grant for sponsorship to send someone to the Police Academy. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Smith, Second by Tindall to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of October 6, 2014 as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation.

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 14-130**, to approve a request from VBPS Education Foundation to hold the annual "Jungle Bell 5K Fun Run/Walk" on December 6, 2014 from 9:45AM to approximately 11:30AM. Ty Patton was in attendance to represent the VBPS Education Foundation and stated that the race will start at Horizon Park Gazebo on High Street and proceed to Main Street to Denton Road. Mr. Patton asked for High Street to be closed between Main and Church Streets and one lane of traffic on Main Street between Denton and High Street as well as one lane of traffic on Denton Road Bridge. Mr. Patton stated that the organization will set up the road barricades and cones. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. 2012 CDBG Program Transfer of Funds – Call Public Hearing.

Motion by Fielder, Second by Tindall to approve

Resolution No. 14-131, call a public hearing for Monday, November 17, 2014 at 7:30PM to consider transferring 2012 CDBG funds from Barrier Free Improvements to a Village Park ADA assessable Park Playscape project. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. SMART 2015 Specialized Services Operating Assistance Grant.

Motion by Tindall, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 14-132** to approve application for 2015 SMART Specialized Operating Assistance Grant. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Fire Truck Repairs.

Motion by Fielder, Second by Loria to approve **Resolution No. 14-133** to approve awarding a bid to R&R Fire Truck Repair in an amount not to exceed \$6,660.00 for various repairs to Fire Trucks # 451, #453 and #461. A budget amendment will be required using fund balance. Budget amendment will be brought back to City Council at a later date. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. Belleville Masonic Lodge #89 Grant – Police Academy Candidate.

Mayor Conley explained that the local Masons have offered a grant opportunity to the City to fund sending a candidate to the Police Academy. Total amount of funds were not known stated and will be dependent on Police Chief Berriman finalizing the costs. Some discussion was held regarding who the candidate would be but Council stated that would be up to the City Administration. Motion by Tindall, Second by Smith approve **Resolution No. 14-134**, acceptance of the Masonic grant opportunity. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Tindall, Second by Loria to approve **Resolution No. 14-135** to approve accounts payable and payables over \$500.00 as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

Scarecrow Contest winners will be awarded plaques at the next meeting. GELC wage approval.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 P.M. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana J. Kollmeyer, City Manager

Approved: November 17, 2014

Published: November 27, 2014



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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS
OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The BOARD OF REVIEW of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 3:00 p.m..

The purpose of this meeting will be:

- 1) to correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact;
- 2) Homestead exemption status; and
- 3) Poverty exemptions.

Any property owner who believes they qualify should call Van Buren Township Assessing Department at 734.699.8946 prior to December 5, 2014

Leon Wright
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: November 26, 2014
December 4, 2014

Post: November 26, 2014

City of Belleville Public Notice

City of Belleville DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW



The December Board of Review will meet on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. at Belleville City Hall, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111. The Board will correct any clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact pertaining to the 2014 property assessments.

Property assessments can only be changed for:

1. Homestead exemption status.
2. Poverty exemptions.

Lisa Long
City Clerk

Publish: November 27, 2014

Una's Golden Thread Shoppe



- **SEWING**
- **ALTERING**
- **MENDING**

(734) 753-5873

Chorus to present premiere performance of commissioned piece

On Saturday, Dec. 13, the Belleville Community Chorus will present its annual winter concert, "Snowflakes and Stars," which this year will include the premiere performance of a piece commissioned for the chorus.

"Midsummer's Carol," written by Paul Friesen-Carper, has words written by chorus member Joy Burnett. The challenging work depicts the transition from summer's dreams to winter's hopes through the year.

Friesen-Carper is a renowned songwriter / musical director from Macomb County, especially commissioned to create this piece for Belleville Community Chorus.

The performance is at 7 p.m. in the Belleville United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street. Director is Sue Hiser and accompanist is Paul Bowling.

The concert will feature seasonal and holiday songs.

The concert also includes numbers by the Belleville Community Children's Chorus and Teen Ensemble.

As always, the concert is free, although donations supporting the chorus are invited and welcomed.

For more information on how to be a part of the chorus, call Geof Bush at (734) 645-0235 or email him at glbush@bellevillechorus.org.

Also, check out the BCC website at <http://www.bellevillechorus.org>.

The Belleville Community Chorus offers opportunities for performance of mixed-voice choral music in a variety of styles. The chorus strives to improve its musical quality through education and commitment to a rehearsal and performance schedule. The generosity of donors and sponsors supports its community activities including education, rehearsal, performance and entertainment. Belleville Community Chorus is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

"Human beings are the only creatures that allow their children to come back home."

— Bill Cosby

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 18, 2014

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Others in attendance: Public Safety Director Laurain, Lieutenant Bazy, Deputy Director-Fire Department Besson, Secretary Montgomery and an audience of eleven (11).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Supervisor Combs requested removal of New Business item #2 [To consider approval of the Job Description for the Executive Assistant to the Supervisor date 11-10-14]. Hart moved, Miller seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes October 20, 2014; Regular Board Meeting Minutes October 21, 2014; Work Study Session Minutes of November 3, 2014; Closed Session Minutes of November 3, 2014; Voucher List of November 4, 2014, Voucher List of November 18, 2014; 2014; Prepaid Lists of October 23, 2014, October 31, 2014, November 7, 2014 and November 13, 2014; A personal Leave of Absence for Fire Fighter Stephen Jones, The 2015 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule and The 2015 Holiday Schedule]. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Combs read a letter from the Friends of the Belleville Area District Library to Deputy Director-Fire Department Besson thanking him for his presentation during their Home Grown Knowledge Series, a letter from Visteon to Besson thanking his department for providing representation during their "Striding to End Breast Cancer" 5K Run and a letter from Van Buren Public Schools to Public Safety Director Laurain thanking both Police and Fire personnel for their quick response during the recent fire at the Mechanics Garage. Clerk Wright on behalf of himself and Deputy Clerk Montgomery thanked the residents who participated in the November 4, 2014 General Election. He acknowledged Clerk's Office staff members Nicole Sumpter, Vern Morse and Carol Towles, Township employees Kurt Jenkins, Jeff Fondaw, Chuck Esch, Karen Smith, Jessica Lampinen, and Tina Harman, Van Buren Public Schools Superintendent Van Tassel and Staff, the Precinct Workers and Public Safety personnel for their assistance with election preparations and transportation of election materials to Wayne County. Clerk Wright thanked residents Bob and Marie Krouse for placement of Veterans Flags at our Cemeteries throughout the year.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Wright moved,

Miller seconded to approve the amount of \$273,128 to purchase all of the sirens and to be reimbursed by CDBG and the DDA for their portion and to go with the option #2 as the maintenance agreement. Wright Moved, Miller seconded to amend the motion to include: and transfer the total amount from the General Fund. Carried as amended.

NEW BUSINESS: Miller moved, Wright seconded to approve the Job Description and Personal Services Agreement between Murray J. Knowles II and the Township and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Carried.

REPORTS: September 2014 Budgetary Report was received and filed as presented. Reports are available for review at the Clerk's Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Clerk Wright announced the Township will be closed on Thursday November 27 and Friday November 28, 2014 in observance of Thanksgiving. Supervisor Combs announced: The 19th Annual Festival of Holiday Trees at the Belleville Area Museum runs November 18 through December 27, 2014; Elder Law & Advocacy Center Offers Free Legal Presentation by appointment for 60+ years old residents Wednesday November 19, 2014 10:00 a.m. at the Senior Center; Yard Waste Season ends the week of November 24th, 2014 maximum 30 leaf bags/cans curbside weekly; Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows Applications for Assistance, open to Belleville and Van Buren Township residents only, are being accepted at the Public Safety Department until Friday December 5, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.; Annual Senior Center Bake Sale Saturday December 6th, 2014 9:00 a.m.-noon.; Senior Center Christmas Party, reservation required, for September Days members only Friday, December 12, 2014 doors open at 4:00 p.m. cost is \$5.00 and the Holiday Arts and Craft Show December 6, 2014 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Resident of Savage Rd. requested the Board review the zoning of a vacant parcel adjacent to her property. The parcel is located at the SE corner of Savage Rd. and Haggerty Rd. and currently has both commercial and residential zoning. Supervisor Combs advised the resident that she will have the appropriate staff member contact her. Resident requested that the Board consider allowing public questions/comment prior to a vote on items that are moved directly from the previous day's Work Study Session to the following days Board of Trustees Meeting.

CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Miller seconded to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor

Publish: November 27, 2014



City of Belleville Public Notice



2014 Holiday Decorating Contest



Light Up the Town for Christmas in Belleville 2014

Got the spirit? You don't need to sign up - just decorate the outside of your house with lights and seasonal decorations.

Then have your lights on from 6 PM to 10 PM on Wednesday and Thursday, December 10th and 11th. The contest judges will observe all areas of the City. An award will be presented for the best display in each of five areas:

- Victoria Commons
- Harbour Pointe
- The two mobile home parks
- The balance of the City
- Businesses

The winner in each area will be notified on Friday, Dec. 12th, and presentations will be made at the City Council meeting on Monday, Dec. 15th.

**Sponsored by the City of Belleville
and The Belleville Area Independent**

Publish: 11/26/2014 & 12/4/2014

Court Watching:

Darius Stirgus has string of offenses being faced in district, circuit courts

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Oct. 29 Darius Christopher Stirgus, 33, waived his preliminary exam on several charges before 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley. The judge bound him over to circuit court for a Nov. 12 arraignment on the information.

On Nov. 12, He was arraigned on the information by Circuit Court Judge Deborah A. Thomas at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice. A disposition conference was set for Nov. 19 before Judge Thomas. Then it was continued to Nov. 26.

Stirgus is facing charges of forging license documents/plate and operating while license is suspended, revoked or denied/allowing a suspended person to operate vehicle on Oct. 10 in Van Buren Township. He also has been labeled a habitual offender.

VBT Detective Ken Toney pointed out to Judge Oakley that Stirgus was also facing two Michigan State Police charges of driving while license suspended, an operating while intoxicated charge, and a stop sign charge.

Stirgus, who is out on \$5,000/10% bond, was advised to talk to the prosecutor about the charges.

He came back into the courtroom with a plea deal where he would plead guilty to a new charge of having no valid driver's license on person, and the other charges would be dismissed.

He told Judge Oakley that on July 20 at Bemis and Savage roads in Sumpter Township he drove while his driver's license was suspended. He said he lived for nine months on Haggerty Road.

Judge Oakley said he wanted to see Stirgus' driving record before he sentenced him.

Stirgus returned to the courtroom with a plea deal for his Dec. 8, 2011 charges in Belleville. He pled guilty to operating while impaired and the other charges were dismissed. His blood alcohol was .09.

He was sent to the probation department who would report to the judge before Stirgus was sentenced on that charge.

And, the judge sentenced him to six days on the work program and \$795 in fines for another file.

Stirgus had been charged with five counts of assaulting/resisting/obstructing a police officer on Christmas Eve 2010 and Jan. 21, 2011. He entered a plea deal where he pled nolo contendere to two "attempting" charges and was sentenced to a year of probation starting on Feb. 25, 2011. He had served three days in jail.

Karren Arronrobe Couch

Karren Arronrobe Couch, Jr., 22, pled

guilty to driving while his alcohol level was .17 or more in Sumpter Township on Sept. 20. Actually, he said it was .24. His driving while license suspended charge was dismissed.

Couch told Judge Oakley that he is attending Washtenaw Community College and has no job. He has lived on Rawsonville Road for five years, he said.

Bond was continued and he will be back for sentencing. Sumpter Officer Danielle Buccellato was in charge of the case.

Rajan Nagibha Sutariya

The retained attorney for defendant Rajan Nagibha Sutariya asked for an adjournment on the charges against his client. Sutariya is charged with domestic violence, operating while under the influence of liquor/UBAC, and personal watercraft charges.

His preliminary exam was adjourned for six weeks, to 9 a.m., Dec. 10. Judge Oakley pointed out this was the third adjournment – and the last. The attorney said this is the first adjournment for his law firm since they had just been hired. He said they will be picking up the discovery (evidence) the next week.

Van Buren Township Detective Mark Buxton is in charge of the case.

Defendant from Sri Lanka

Judge Oakley conferred with a defendant originally from Sri Lanka who spoke in Tamil through his interpreter. He found the defendant lost his job after the March 14 accident where he was charged with driving while license suspended.

Judge Oakley remembered the case and said he sentenced the man with days on the work program, which he completed, but he has not paid the \$485 in fines and costs.

The interpreter said the man is trying to find a job. He had worked for 10 years, but then lost his job with the accident and has had a hard time getting another job.

Judge Oakley learned the man was surviving on the goodwill of friends and is staying with the interpreter. He has no money.

Judge Oakley said, instead of the money, he will sentence the man to 50 hours of community service, with at least 20 hours per month starting in November. He said he should work for a non-profit charity picked from the court's list or find one on his own.

When the interpreter explained the change to the man, the man had tears of gratitude running down his face and a big smile.

Later on in the court session, another defendant asked if he couldn't do community service, too, instead of paying money. When the judge determined the man had been working for 20 years, he said he had to pay the money.

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

2014 Goodfellows' Assistance applications close Dec. 5

Belleville and Van Buren Township residents who would like to apply for assistance through the Goodfellows' Christmas Food and Toy Distribution Program must do so in person at the Van Buren Township Police Department (46425 Tyler Road) before 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5.

Applications may be made at any time, day or night. All applicants must provide proof of residency (valid driver's license, state ID, or current utility bill showing name and address) along with a completed form (available at the police department or at www.vanburen-mi.org) at the time of registration. Questions may be directed to Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows Coordinator Pam Fleming at 734-699-8934 any weekday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

HELP WANTED

HAIRSTYLIST WITH CLIENTELE needed for beautiful salon in Belleville. Call (734) 697-9778 or apply at Shear Envy, 990 Sumpter Road. 11/27

DRIVERS: Dedicated Home Daily! Dedicated Round Trip Runs. CDL-A, 6mos OTR, Good Background. Apply: www.mtstrans.com or (800) 305-7223 11/27

LOOKING FOR A BODY Repair Technician or someone who is mechanically inclined and would like to learn. Pay based on experience. (734) 699-3641. 12/4

HELP WANTED

DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT

Feel great about the work that you do helping people we serve in residential settings. Country home. Training provided. \$8.50 total per hr. plus good benefits.
Call (248) 437-7535 New Hudson
Email resume to: recruiter@questserv.org

DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT

Work close to home assisting persons we serve in their homes in the Wixom & Novi communities. \$8.50 total per hr. plus good benefits.
Call (248) 960-9657 or (248) 946-4425
Email resume to: recruiter@questserv.org

HELP WANTED

LAWNCARE PERSON NEEDED

Immediate Opening.
Experienced With Trimmer, Edger & Blower. Pay Based On Experience -- \$10-\$15.
27-30 Hours Minimum Per Week. Contact Jay @ (734) 323-8973

Johnny's Grill Restaurant located on Belleville Lake is looking for experienced Bartenders, Chefs, Pizza Makers, Managers, Dishwashers, Servers and Delivery Drivers. Also need a full time Maintenance Person. Must be reliable. Mail resume to: Johnny's Grill, 146 High St., Belleville, MI 48111 or fax to (734) 699-7847

MACHINIST NEEDED

HAAS experience a plus. Good pay, vacation, health, 401K. High end work.
Mail or drop off resume at:
Mountain Machine
7850 Rawsonville Rd.
Belleville, MI 48111

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

HELP WANTED

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

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

GARAGE/YARD SALE

FINAL ESTATE SALE. November 29-30, 8am-5pm. 653 Oregon - Holiday West. Washer, dryer, Christmas collectibles. Everything inside must go. Follow Signage. 11/27

FOR SALE

SEARS KENMORE upright freezer, tags still on \$300; Patio set, excellent condition \$150; 3' Hand painted Italian rooster \$100; Tall cherry CD cabinet \$50. (734) 748-7723. 11/27

FORD 302 engine, 93-94 \$200; Remanufactured alternator Napa 133 amp \$60; Ford '87, 460 remanufactured starter \$65; New starter, Ford 302, brand new \$100. Call Mark (734) 697-4578. 11/27

IRON ANTIQUE BED - over 100 years old \$100. Handicapped equipment - everything you need \$100. (734) 391-7003. 12/4

NEW RCBS ROCK Chucker reloading kit with over \$400 worth of extras. Serious inquiries only. \$450 (734) 697-5013 12/4

5' BABY GRAND PIANO. White. Like new condition. \$1,900 OBO (734) 697-2250 12/4

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE

1991 REDMAN. Two bedroom, 1½ bath. Van Buren Estates Park. \$8,900 OBO. Must Sell. Call Debby (517) 262-6560 12/4

VEHICLE FOR SALE

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

2008 LINCOLN TOWN CAR, signature edition. 23K miles, \$12,000 Call (734) 740-4287 11/27

2009 HHR LT 86000 miles. Recalls Applied. Auto PS PB PW Sunroof. \$6,000. Mark (734) 657-5962 12/11

FREE

NANCY TREDER MONTEREY DR. 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

FOUND

KNIT CHANGE PURSE found in Meijer parking lot on November 17. Call (734) 272-5585. 12/4

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: SCRAP CARS

**\$325 & Up - Every Day
True II Life Towing
(313) 268-3452**
Call for all your Towing Needs

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

WORK WANTED. I can take you to doctors, shopping, clean house/garage, shovel snow, etc. Asking \$11/hour plus mileage. (734) 697-7506 11/27

LOST

SILVER RING. Engraved with "Debbie" followed by a heart. (734) 444-7566 11/27

FOR RENT

BEAUTIFUL 2 BR. TOWNHOUSE Laundry inside, enclosed private deck/yard & pool. Free Storage. See it NOW! \$800+Security. (734) 776-1480 12/4

"Start every day off with a smile and get it over with."

— W.C. Fields



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

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.

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.



SERVICES

PARTY & WEDDING PLANNING. Linens, photobooth & more. Facebook: Once Upon A Party Planning & Rentals. Call Kelley: (734) 636-4909 12/4

CHILD CARE in my Belleville home. All ages. Contact Kim (734) 270-2246. 12/4

SERVICES

Take Advantage Of Fall Rates!

Call **FIRST CLASS LANDSCAPING**

(734) 699-4711

**FREE ESTIMATES!!!
YEAR ROUND SERVICES**

Landscaping Maintenance
Snow Removal Garage, Basement & Attic Clean-Ups*
Removal Of: Unwanted Home Items, Inside Or Outside Debris.

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**

M.D. APPLIANCE SERVICE

Refrigerators • Washers
Dryers • Ranges
\$20 House Call
Phone (734) 782-3354

PLUMBING • SEWER DRAINS • HANDYMAN FROZEN PIPES?

CALL US!
Local To The Belleville Area. Call (313) 740-6276. Ask For Bill.

LOCAL HANDYMAN - SOME Jobs too LARGE - NO JOB too SMALL. Residential Power Washing. LICENSED & REFERENCES. (734) 765-9224 TFN

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

CARPET HEADQUARTERS. Sales/Installation/Repairs/Re-stretching. Est. 1979. Ask about our carpet specials. Call Phil (734) 612-7570. TFN

ELECTRICAL WIRING & Generator Systems. Installations & repairs. Call Electro-Tech (313) 520-1212 TFN

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, Nov. 16:

0121 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0155 – disturbance, W. Huron River Dr.
0225 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
0455 – property damage accident, Brookside Dr. / Wildbrook Dr.
1104 – larceny, Wheeler St.
1207 – shots fired, Elwell Rd./Hull Rd.
1358 – larceny, Hull Rd.
1412 – suspicious situation, Belleville Rd.
1428 – harassment call, Borgman Ave.
1544 – juvenile complaint, W. Huron River Dr.
1634 – larceny, Village Green Ln.
1824 – assault & battery, Sylvia Dr.
1824 – assault & battery, Celestine Dr.
1826 – property damage accident, Quirk Rd./Ayres
2055 – property damage accident, WI-94 / Belleville Rd.
2305 – disturbance, N. Ponderosa Trl.

Monday, Nov. 17:

0543 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1539 – private property accident, Haggerty Rd.
1709 – harassment call, Greenbriar Dr.
1729 – dumping complaint, Morton Taylor Rd./ Van Born Rd.

Tuesday, Nov. 18:

0008 – larceny, Denton Rd.
0017 – motorcycle patrol, Ecorse/I-275
1036 – malicious destruction of property, N. Bellridge Dr.
1041 – malicious destruction of property, N. Bellridge Dr.
1214 – suicide or attempt, Quirk Rd.
1321 – private property accident, S. I-94 Service
1403 – mental, Holly Ln.
1407 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Alden Ave.
1549 – property damage accident, Ecorse/I-275
1653 – fraud, Van Burn St.

Wednesday, Nov. 19:

0024 – harassment call, N. Bellridge Dr.
0210 – hospice, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0402 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0828 – malicious destruction of property, Parkwood Dr.
1140 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1205 – property damage accident, Savage Rd. / Mansfield Ct.
1216 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1248 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Belleville Rd.
1334 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Hannan Rd.
1407 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1432 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1437 – property damage accident, Ecorse Service Dr. / Marlowe Ave.
1450 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1452 – property damage accident, Bemis Rd./Lohr
1550 – property damage accident, Rawsonville
1621 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Taco Bell
1625 – special detail, Haggerty Rd.
1637 – property damage accident, Hull Rd./Elwell
1736 – narcotics crime, Village Green Ln.
1908 – fraud, Rolan Meadows Dr.

Thursday, Nov. 20:

0009 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
0023 – hospice, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1454 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr.

1602 – private property accident, S. Schooner Dr.
1659 – larceny, Holly
1805 – property damage accident, Belleville/Auto Zone
2141 – assault & battery, Oak Ln.

Friday, Nov. 21:

0742 – property damage accident, Sumpter Rd. / Chaney Ave.
0846 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
1320 – assault & battery, Village Green Ln.

1412 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd./ Visteon Way
1425 – private property accident, Barnwell Dr.
1604 – juvenile complaint, Rolan Meadows Dr.
1646 – juvenile complaint, Rolan Meadows Dr.
1719 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1743 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1859 – harassment call, Hardwood Dr.
2007 – mental, Alden Dr.
2018 – assault & battery, Waters Edge Ln.
2132 – disturbance, Haggerty Rd.
2136 – operating while intoxicated, S. I-94 Service Dr./Belleville Rd.

Saturday, Nov. 22:

0201 – fight, Belleville Rd.
0242 – hospice, Edison Lake Rd.
0731 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Robson Rd.
0738 – water leak found, Rolan Meadows Dr.
0745 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Haggerty Rd.
0753 – private property accident, Station 2
0756 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Visteon Way
0832 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
0839 – property damage accident, Michigan / bypass
0840 – shots fired, Van Buren Park
0848 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Beck Rd.
1022 – private property accident, Oak Blvd./Maple Dr.
1023 – abandoned auto, Camden Rd.
1050 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
1154 – property damage accident, Belleville / McDonald’s
1205 – assault & battery, Hawthorne Ct.
1728 – private property accident, E. Schooner Dr.
2323 – noise complaint, Pine Dr.

Also on this week’s log are 110 traffic stops, eight of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 16:

0712 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
0827 – assist fire dept., Church St.
1604 – civil matter, Belle Villa Blvd.
1843 – suspicious situation, Belle Villa Blvd.
1901 – information, E. Columbia Ave.
2345 – warrant arrest, Michigan/Belleville
2353 – property damage accident, High / W. Columbia Ave.
2354 – E-911 cellular, Third/High

Monday, Nov. 17:

0741 – property damage accident, Church/High
1124 – welfare check, Andrew’s
1217 – information, W. Columbia Ave.
1225 – property check, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1554 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Denton Rd.
1557 – welfare check, Clarence St.
1840 – misc. complaint, Main St.
1952 – assist fire dept., N. Aberdeen Ct.
2033 – civil matter, Carmell St.
2037 – assist fire dept., Wexford
2244 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
2339 – suspicious situation, Sumpter Rd.

Tuesday, Nov. 18:

0244 – suspicious vehicle, St. Anthony’s
0617 – assist fire dept., S. Liberty St.
0938 – found property, Carmell St.
1314 – assist fire dept., Fourth St.
1517 – motorist assist, Main St./Denton Rd.
1541 – family trouble, Loza Ln.
1545 – fraud, Main St.
1902 – suspicious situation, Sumpter Rd.
1938 – noise complaint, Henry St.
2111 – suspicious situation, BHS
2133 – E-911 cellular, N. Aberdeen Ct.

Wednesday, Nov. 19:

0030 – vehicle lockout, Menlo Park Dr.
0139 – motorist assist, South St./Main St.
0649 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.
0917 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1043 – vehicle lockout, N. Liberty St.
1141 – suspicious vehicle, Robbe/Edgemont

1155 – larceny, McBride
1252 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.
1311 – disorderly conduct, W. Columbia Ave.
1412 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1525 – breaking & entering, Carmell St.
1537 – E-911 cellular, Huron River Dr.
1613 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.

Thursday, Nov. 20:

1046 – suspicious vehicle, Carmell St.
1340 – civil matter, Carmell St.
1349 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1510 – prisoner transfer, S. Wayne Rd.
2144 – civil matter, Menlo Park Dr.

Friday, Nov. 21:

0505 – suspicious vehicle, Owen
1345 – suspicious situation, Main St.
1748 – agency assist, Country Walk
1919 – neighbor trouble, Harbour Pointe Dr.
2058 – assist fire dept., Bedell St.

Saturday, Nov. 22:

0740 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
0841 – property damage accident, Victorian Ln.
1920 – E-911 cellular, Sumpter/RR tracks
2043 – disorderly conduct, Main St.

Also on this week’s log are 32 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 16:

0255 – suspicious vehicle, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0611 – flee & elude, 12000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1259 – larceny, 11000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1406 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
1410 – found property, Savage/Riggs
1700 – warrant arrest, Bemis/Sumpter
1712 – fire dept. assist, Martinsville/Willis
1821 – disorderly person, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
2259 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2300 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville / Bemis

Monday, Nov. 17:

0147 – property damage accident, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0322 – civil dispute, Edgewood
0707 – harassment complaint, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1547 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1640 – suspicious incident, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1715 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico
2239 – alarm, 50000 bl. Arkona Rd.

Tuesday, Nov. 18:

0018 – fire dept. assist, Delaware
0544 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0920 – parking complaint, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1019 – suspicious vehicle, Willow/Clark
1139 – alarm, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1303 – citizen assist, 19000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1617 – fire dept. assist, Vermont
1924 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Harris/Sumpter
1956 – juvenile complaint, 22000 bl. Martinsville
2333 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Dunn Rd.

Wednesday, Nov. 19:

0010 – suspicious person, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0738 – disorderly person, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
0919 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1037 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1140 – trespassing complaint, Texas
1311 – harassment complaint, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1523 – traffic hazard, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1701 – civil dispute, Vermont
1953 – property damage accident, Elwell/Willis
2126 – property damage accident, Harris/Sumpter
2313 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Wear Rd.

Thursday, Nov. 20:

0634 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0930 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0953 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1047 – fire dept. assist, Greenmeadow
1202 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1313 – fraud complaint, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1709 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1815 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.
1911 – citizen assist, Willis/Lohr
2006 – alarm, 89900 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2026 – family trouble, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.

Friday, Nov. 21:

0057 – odor investigation, 45000 bl. Arkona Rd.
0149 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.

0518 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
1001 – civil dispute, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
1426 – suspicious incident, 1st St.
1754 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Dunn Rd.

Saturday, Nov. 22:

0219 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Clark Rd.
0814 – property damage accident, 39000 bl. Judd
0823 – well-being check, Vermont
0827 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1147 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1213 – well-being check, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1228 – alarm, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1239 – ORV complaint, 21000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1648 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2048 – traffic hazard, Rawsonville/Wear
2120 – noise complaint, 45000 bl. Kozma
2149 – family trouble, Wyoming

Also on this week’s log are four follow-up investigations, 30 miscellaneous details, 194 patrol checks, and 40 traffic stops.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Dec. 1 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 2 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, regular meeting, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 3 – Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 8 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., Rawsonville Elementary School. There will be a tour of the building at 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 9 – VBT Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 10 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 11 – Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 15 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, work/study session, 7 p.m., Administration Building. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 16 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, regular meeting, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 17 – Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. Also, City of Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, VBT Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 23 – Van Buren Township Water & Sewer Commission, 7 p.m.



VBT Planners table approval for Victoria Park site plan revision

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After a lengthy discussion at its regular meeting on Nov. 12, the Van Buren Township Planning Commission voted unanimously to table a request for an amendment to the Victoria Park site plan so homes can start being built.

The commission was ready to approve the request for revised single-family architectural elevations with minor recommendations from planning consultant Sally Hodges of McKenna Associates, but the representative of the builders balked. Hodges had recommended that proposed

architectural plans be slightly changed to assure houses are substantially different from their neighbors. She suggested three plans be changed from brick to stone and one plan be changed from vertical siding to shake siding.

There were eight revised plans for different sizes of homes, with two elevations each, presented by the builder for approval.

The Victoria Park Planned Residential Community, at the northeast corner of Ecorse and Morton Taylor roads, was approved in 2006 and went into foreclosure during the recession. Its PRD agreement expired.

Various infrastructure elements and several homes were constructed on the site before the PRD expired.

In February 2014 a consent judgment was entered into between the township and the new property owner specifying terms under which residential home construction could begin.

Among the conditions of the consent judgment is planning commission approval of any proposed architectural plans that differ from the original PRD-approved plans, as is required by Section 4.54 of the zoning ordinance.

The standards of 4.54 require, among other things, that the dwellings look different from each other to avoid monotony in a development.

Jeff Gibbs said he was asked to represent Allen Edwin Homes before the planning commission. He said there are 88 developable lots in the development and Allen Edwin has half of those.

He said they have made a lot of upgrades in the last 1-1/2 years that they've owned the property and they want the plans to be accepted as presented and not with McKenna's recommendation.

"Having just half doesn't relieve you of the responsibility," Hodges said, noting the elevations presented all have the same roof pitch.

Commission vice chairman Donald Boynton read part of an Oct. 14 letter from Dan Merrivale that he felt might compromise the approval.

Gibbs said in the consent judgment there was a provision for administrative approval for changes by the planning director or his assignee if someone wants something different.

Hodges counseled the commission members that they would be voting on their motion and would not be approving the letter.

"I don't feel the changes are that substantial," Commissioner Joan Franzoi said of Hodges' recommendation. "Sally has been very generous in correcting this. If it was me, I'd say go back to the drawing board."

Township Treasurer Sharry Budd, who sits on the commission, said she agreed

with Franzoi. She said the development was supposed to have a neighborhood, walking feeling with front porches and it doesn't have that.

Gibbs insisted that there were eight plans presented and each plan had two elevations. He said the building permits won't be granted by the township unless they are different. He noted Allen Edwin has 44 sites under contract.

"There will be three different to the right, three different to the left, and three different across the street," Gibbs said. "At the time of the building permit issuance it will be determined."

He asked that the commission tell the reason in the motion to deny.

Hodges said there is no recommendation to deny. She said the eight different homes must comply with the ordinance.

Commission chairwoman Carol Thompson said the permits come back for administrative approval and the designs selected are market-driven from the eight designs the planning commission approves.

"I work with the builder who is doing this," Gibbs said. "The ordinance will be met."

"I think the planning commission should set the eight elevations," Budd said. "It should not be left to the head of the building and planning department."

"SJ Jacobson Blue Victoria owns over 200 lots in the township," Gibbs said. "Allen Edwin is the largest builder in Michigan. There is no reason we can see why they wouldn't be approved..."

"The consent judgment states the administration can approve changes," Hodges said. "We are requesting a few minor changes."

Thompson asked the commission's options and Hodges said they could keep the elevations and when the builder comes in for a permit, it could be determined if the elevation is right.

"Does that make sense?" Thompson asked of Gibbs and he said it did.

Commissioner Carl Johnson suggested the commission approve the request, based on Hodges recommendations. He said the

(Continued on page 22)

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VBT Plan

(continued from page 21)

changes are so minor and they are spending so much time on it. "Stone/brick, shake/vertical siding."

Budd said she would rather see the changes and not put the onus on the head of the building and planning department.

Dave Nummer of Wade Trim engineers was asked for his recommendation and he said they have done most of what they were supposed to do. He said pending action at that evening's meeting, he will be meeting with the township DPW chief.

Hodges said they could change her recommendations to be created as optional elevations.

"Maybe this should be brought back and ask the applicant to bring back changes," Johnson said. He made the motion to table the request and it was carried unanimously.

"I think we're very close," Thompson said.

In other business at the 56-minute meeting on Nov. 12, the commission:

- Approved a tree-removal permit for Costco Wholesale to construct a depot/truck terminal on a 71.84-acre site located behind Bayloff on Belleville Road at the north township boundary line with Canton. Because they do not have enough room on the site to plant 374 trees as required by the ordinance, Costco will pay the township \$130,900, which will be put into a tree fund for trees to be planted in places such as parks to benefit the township as a whole;

and

- Gave final site plan approval to Costco's 347,720-square-foot Warehouse / Depot project. The Costco representative Peter Kahn said, "We feel like we're very, very close to resolving the final issues ... we will comply with any changes asked for, so we can start moving dirt." Hodges said although Costco has a small frontage on Belleville Road, they will have to put in a sidewalk and handicap ramp. Engineer Nummer said Bayloff, next door, was built in the late 1990s and the developed site is

not currently up to standards, but that's a different project involving Costco and Bayloff. He said a meeting was set with the county the next day to facilitate the new traffic light and discuss the storm system.

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

— Albert Einstein

Birthdays

Nov. 25 – Lucille Gasidlo

Nov. 29 – Rich Cetnarowski, Sr.

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

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Chief Berriman describes Masons' grant offer to pay for officer

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Belleville Police Chief Hal Berriman explained the grant offer of the Masonic Lodge to pay for a new officer for the city.

Chief Berriman said the Masons will sponsor a current reserve police officer who wants to be a certified city officer by paying the city the tuition for the police academy and the officer's pay while in the academy.

Chief Berriman confirmed that the reserve officer is a member of the Masonic Lodge.

At its Nov. 3 meeting, the city council voted unanimously to accept the offer from the Masons, but information on the agreement was sparse.

Chief Berriman said the Masons will sponsor the candidate if everything works out for the person to go to the academy.

The person, who has yet to be confirmed,

is not being identified until everything is in place, Chief Berriman said.

He said he just received a packet from the academy for its next session which will begin in January. Everything has to be worked out by the deadline in the middle of December.

The person has to pass the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) requirements, he has to apply to the Schoolcraft Police Regional Academy and pass the written and physical tests, as well as a drug test, before being admitted, Chief Berriman said.

MCOLES has strengthened its guidelines because of the way the city worked to get reserve officer Joe Melville into the academy several years ago, Berriman said. He said MCOLES officials will talk to him to make sure everything is the way it should be.

Melville was ejected from the academy.

To be certified as a police officer by MCOLES a candidate must pass the academy and be employed with a law enforcement agency as a law enforcement officer. Reserves are considered volunteers even though they are paid on occasion for certain assignments.

The city does have a part-time position open in the police department.

"He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever."

Chinese Proverb

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