



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 20.50 Thursday, December 11, 2014 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**



Part of the Christmas light display on the Van Buren Township monument sign at the north end of the Belleville Bridge is new this year, sponsored by the VBT Downtown Development Authority. The new display features three LED figures skating on a lake and three LED trees, at a cost of \$12,032. Old Glory Flags put up the new figures when they were lighting the evergreens. The LED displays are warranted for five seasons and the lamps for one season.

Independent photo by Bob Mytych



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

A check for \$37,899 was presented by the Van Buren Educational Foundation at Monday's School Board meeting. Some of the 77 teachers receiving grants from the foundation gathered around the check for a photo.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Matthew Oddy is the newly appointed member of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees. On Saturday he was in the Christmas Parade in downtown Belleville handing out candy to children.

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This Space On The Front Page.*

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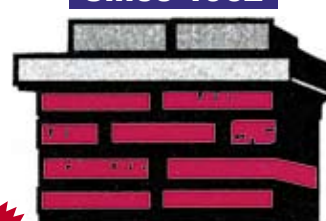
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SECOND FRONT PAGE



Independent photo by Bob Mytych
It rained earlier in the day on Friday, but when it got dark the skies were clear and the fireworks went off over the lake on schedule.



Photo by Rosemary K. Otzman
Van Buren Public Schools Trustee Scott Russell shows the plaque presented to him by the school board at Monday's meeting, as he vacates his trustee position. Russell said it had been an honor and privilege to serve the district and he said the staff and administration have done truly noteworthy work. He said he was pleased, over the last four years, to be a part of the greatest transition this district has ever faced.



Photo courtesy of Christy Desselles
At about 4 p.m. on Monday, the much-discussed 5,000-pound, 40', metal and wood foot bridge that was reported missing from Farmington Hills was carried right through Five Points in Belleville. On Thursday *The Detroit News* reported on the missing bridge and the story went out over the Associated Press news service, so people all over the country were talking about the missing bridge. But, the owner had his picture taken on the missing bridge for the *News* story, so there's more to the story than what has been reported. The story said the bridge was found in Belleville, but police from Belleville, Van Buren and Sumpter knew nothing about it. The bridge owner Robert Cortis, who filed a police report in Farmington Hills, said his father invested \$10,000 just in steel for it when he built it in the mid-1980s and it's worth from \$50,000 to \$75,000. He was going to move it to the Whitmore Lake/Brighton area.

Chamber of Commerce presents five awards for entries in Sat.'s parade

The following five trophies were presented by the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce to five entries in Saturday's Christmas Parade:

- Best Municipal Float – City of Belleville
- Best Organization Float – Lincoln United Methodist Church
- Best Business Float – CRG Electric
- Best Non-Profit Float – BYC
- Parade Marshal's Trophy, selected by Bea and Darryl Raymond – Belleville High School Productions

Also riding in the parade in seats of honor were the Chamber's Business of the Year, Twisted Rooster; Ted Kuckleman Award winner Keith Johnson; and Leona Van Buehler Award winner Craig Atchinson.

The winners of the Christmas decorating contest for Belleville businesses were announced as: Belleville Bariatrics, \$100; Barber Bob, \$50; and Lunch Box, \$25.

At the end of the parade, after climbing down from the Van Buren Township fire truck and receiving the Key to the City of Belleville from Mayor Kerreen Conley,

Santa picked out the winning entry for a new car lease for two years or \$5,000 cash, offered by the Chamber.

After Santa read the winning name, Mayor

Conley called out in surprise, "That's my mother!"

Winner of the car was Maureen Burch of Dexter.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman
Bea and Darryl Raymond, who served as Grand Marshals in Saturday's Belleville Christmas Parade, presented the Grand Marshals' trophy to Belleville High School Productions. The float featured huge books with the names of plays on their spines and the sign: "Bringing Stories to Life."

OPINIONS

Editorial

Sumpter Twp. PD ahead of the pack on body cams

While police departments across the nation are considering body cameras for their police officers because of events in Ferguson, MO and New York City, Sumpter Township PD is way ahead of them.

At Tuesday's Sumpter Township Board meeting, Virginia Belinski got up during the open-floor period to say she was proud to live in Sumpter Township for many reasons, including its proactive police department.

She said the Sumpter PD got body cameras a year or so ago and Capt. Eric Luke who worked to get the grant for the devices is now being sought out by the media to tell his experiences with the cameras.

Capt. Luke said a reporter from Channel 7 News spent two hours with him at the police department discussing the body cams. The report was expected to be on Channel 7 the next day (Wednesday) during the 6 a.m. newscast, since that reporter has the morning show.

At the end of the 6 a.m. newscast Wednesday, a picture of Capt. Luke was shown, encouraging viewers to watch the 6 p.m. news Wednesday for a full report on Sumpter's body cams.

While other Detroit area police chiefs are considering the devices, Capt. Luke knows for sure how they work to protect his officers and the people with whom they come in contact. Congratulations to Sumpter PD for being ahead of the pack.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

A lady asked me about this year's Canadian Pacific Holiday Train that is such a favorite every year with its 14 decorated cars. Last year it buzzed through Belleville in December and we knew it was coming so many watched for it.

She and I were talking after the regular Van Buren Township board meeting on Dec. 2. I told her I would try to find out when it's coming this year.

Too late. It was probably going through town while she and I were talking, since I found out later it was scheduled for Dec. 2. She lives out in the country on Hull Road, probably near the tracks. Maybe she saw it that night when she got home. I missed it.

Letters to Santa can be dropped in the box at the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce. In past years, the Post Office also put the letters they get from Santa in that box. And, Santa answers those letters.

We received a warning from the Better Business Bureau that there is a scam website that lets you purchase a reply from Santa. In the best case, you are simply out the \$19.99 you paid. In the worst-case scenario, you just shared your credit card information with scammers who can now use it for identity fraud. The BBB said there are some legitimate sites available.

All this is to say, if you have your child put his/her letter in the box at the Chamber, the child will get an answer, free of charge, from Santa.

But, be careful. In the past people have put their house payments and other important mail in the Santa box. Those payments should be put in a real mailbox to get where they need to go.



By the way, there is a drive-up U.S. Postal Service mailbox at the new Davenport Plaza on East Columbia Ave. That should be really handy for many people with their real mail.

If you'd like to use a site you found online, check it out first with the Better Business Bureau of Detroit & Eastern Michigan at www.bbb.org/detroit.

This year, for some reason, a chart wasn't given out by the Van Buren Public Schools on the number of students in the district in the fall head count. So, I asked.

The unaudited number is 5,053 students for fall 2014. Last year there were 5,141 students and the district projected a 3% loss, but not that many were lost.

During the district's audit presentation in November, the auditor said the district got 42 more students than expected for the 2014-15 school year, which brought them \$312,000 more in state aid than they thought would come.

At Monday's work/study session of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, DPW Director James Taylor gave a presentation on the proposed water/sewer rate increase as of Jan. 1. It was going to be a 7% raise, but now it is a 6% raise, about \$3 more a month.

He offered some comparisons on the cost of gallons of stuff we buy. He said a gallon of bottled water is \$1 and a gallon of

unleaded gasoline is \$2.85 and a gallon of VBT water is \$0.0033 (less than half a cent a gallon). Interesting.

He also said the monthly average cell phone bill is \$47 (single plan), a monthly average cable bill is \$115, and the monthly average VBT water bill is \$49.91 (\$52.91 per month with the 6% increase). He showed a chart that showed how much other nearby communities pay. VBT was at the bottom, even with the hike. The new quarterly bill would be about \$158.74.

At the top of the chart is the City of Belleville, at \$289.70 per quarter, followed by the City of Wayne, Huron Township at \$268, and so on down the line. It doesn't have Sumpter Township on the chart.

It wasn't determined whether Taylor would give his rate increase talk at the Dec. 16 regular meeting so it could be on cable.

At the budget discussion that followed the water/sewer rate talk on Monday, the VBT board discussed the museum, again, and whether it should be closed because the City of Belleville and Sumpter Township have broken the signed legal agreement to help support it by paying their shares. It's getting a reprieve, again, but just for a few months.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

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Letters

**Benefit at Egan's Pub to
help Amelie, her family**

To the Editor:

Generosity (of spirit and pocketbook) is the explanation for the fund-raising event scheduled for Dec. 11, starting at 4 p.m. at Egan's Pub in Belleville.

The family of a Belleville school teacher is facing the loss of a beautiful four-year-old child to an unremitting cancer attack. Both of her parents have left work in order to be with Amelie, during her battles that have been fought at U of M hospital.

Trying to keep the family, which includes a seven year old, going for the two-year battle, takes a great toll.

A local firefighter, Laura Ridenour, her husband Matt Skender, and Lacey Marcotte decided to lessen the burden by organizing a fund raiser. Egan's Pub offered to contribute 15% of the total receipts, not only the night of the event but from the 11th through the 14th.

Other businesses and individuals have also stepped up to help. Items for silent auctions run the gamut from pedicures to oil changes, from bowling to movies, and from photo shoots to work outs. So, something for everyone.

Supporting others and having a good time is a great tradition and it is nice to see the younger generation carry it on.

Kathleen J. Walsh
Van Buren Township

**Animal Magic will
perform at WCC Jan. 10**

Dear Fellow Animal Lovers,

As many of you already know, Animal Magic is a local, non-profit, no-kill exotic animal rescue/educational facility based right here in Belleville. Mark has been performing all over the United States for almost 34 years and our organization has been featured on many local national television and radio stations.

We used to draw the largest crowds at the Strawberry Festival from 1995 until 2007,

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when they ceased having entertainment. We love performing here in Belleville and decided to give back to the community by renting out the Townsley Theater at Washtenaw Community College in Ypsilanti for three performances on Jan. 10. Tickets will be extremely affordable (only \$5-\$10) and make great stocking stuffers. The shows will be at noon, 2:30 and 5 p.m.

Please see the flyer in next week's *Independent* or visit our web site at www.iwantanimalmagic.com for more information. You can also call (313) 819-5719 for advance tickets so you don't have to wait in line. We'll be bringing some of our largest, rarest animals and a few new illusions to these shows, so make sure to bring your cameras!

Thanks once again for all of your continued support.

Sincerely,
Mark & Diane Rosenthal
Animal Magic

**Thank you to man who
bought my groceries**

To the Editor:

I would like you all to know there are still lots of good people in this world, but we don't hear enough of them.

I would like to say Thank You to the nice gentleman who on Monday, Nov. 24, at Walmart surprisingly paid for my groceries.

He wanted to share his good fortune and joy with others.

I hope he had a great Thanksgiving and Good Wishes on his new employment. And, a Big Thank YOU.

Sincerely,
Pat, Belleville

**Sumpter Twp. lights go
out when tree gets wet**

A power outage in Sumpter Township on Monday night was blamed on a tree that fell across a power line in the Elwell/Willis area.

Firefighter/Trustee William Hamm said the tree fell three days earlier and when it rained the water carried the electricity.

The power interruption included three to four strong surges, according to a report by resident Mary Ban.

**Craft & Vendor
Show**

at
BELLEVILLE CONEY ISLAND
Saturday, December 20
10am - 3pm
871 Sumpter Rd., Belleville

More Letters

VBT Clerk starts first 'Coats for School Kids'

To the Editor:

The Van Buren Township Hall is devoted to keeping our children warm.

We would like to present the first-annual Coats for School Kids Drive.

We will be donating new coats to the Van Buren Public School children as our way of saying we care. Distribution will start Dec. 12.

On behalf of Van Buren Township officials, we would like to thank our employees and vendors for their contributions that help us continue in our mission and assist those in our community. Your generosity continues to make Van Buren Township a great place to live, work, and play!

Leon Wright, Clerk
Van Buren Township

'Smart' meters hearing draws 200 angry people

To the Editor:

It is not often that a legislative hearing in Lansing draws over 200 grassroots people to express their anger and disgust at the state's two largest utilities and the state agency that is supposed to be regulating them!



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On Tuesday, Dec. 2 there was a hearing of the Oversight Committee of the Michigan House of Representatives, chaired by Rep Tom McMillin. The purpose of the hearing was to let citizens (1) express their concerns and (2) submit written evidence about "smart" electric meters now being installed by DTE Electric and by Consumers Energy.

Over 200 people attended, about 70 of

them took the microphone, and about 20 submitted written documentation that included sworn testimony of world-recognized health experts and scientists, and their personal stories of health destroyed by these meters.

ALL of the citizens who participated stated firmly and, in some cases very emotionally, their opposition to the new meters and their demand they be allowed to

keep their existing analog meters without paying exorbitant "opt-out fees."

The hearing started at 5:30 p.m. and ran until 10 p.m. There appeared to be no media people in attendance.

The only coverage I have seen on this was from mLive in Grand Rapids. The entire 4-1/2-hour hearing was officially videotaped and should be available by Dec. 5.

David Sheldon

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Obituaries



Steven Michael Mills

STEVEN MICHAEL MILLS

(July 23, 1963 - November 27, 2014)
Steven Michael Mills, age 51, of Dearborn, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI, passed away Thursday, November 27, 2014 at home.

He was born July 23, 1963 in Highland Park, MI, son of the late Clifford and Sandra (Mason) Mills. Steve was a professional meat cutter for Kroger, Saturn Foods and Farmer Jack for nearly 25 years.

He played baseball in school and coached girls' softball, proudly taking them to the championships. He was a mentor and father figure to many kids along the way. His kindness and patience are a good example to us all on how to look at and live life. He loved to play golf and fantasy football. He was a sports fanatic. His knowledge about all of the teams, stats, games and players was remarkable. His favorite college team was U of M. He was a dedicated fan for many teams like the Lions and Tigers. Boxing was another favorite. He was funny, optimistic and caring, loyal and always willing to help anyone. He was a wonderful son, big brother, uncle and friend to many and will be missed by all.

Steve is survived by his loving wife of 11 years Jacqueline (Navor) Mills; father and mother-in-law Domingo (Angelita) Navor of Dearborn, MI; step mother Gloria (Jerry) Elliott of Westland, MI; brother Richard (Lynne Posegay) Mills of Bitely, MI; sisters Lisa (Art) Van DeMark, Devin, Cody and Colin of Corbin, KY; Pamela Alexander, Justin and Alyssa of Belleville, MI, Donna (Joseph) Garofalo, Anthony and Joseph of Vero Beach, FL; two nieces Brittney Mills, Taeshawn, Calderome, King and Bishop, Shanae (Bryan) Mills and Damarion. Preceded in death by his parents, sister Heidi Mills, and nephew Steven Morgan.

Visitation was Dec. 1 at the Husband Family Funeral Home, 2401 S. Wayne Rd., Westland, MI. The funeral was at the funeral home on Dec. 2, with the Rev. Robert White officiating. Luncheon followed at Grace Baptist Church in Belleville, MI.



Joseph Howard Bevard

JOSEPH H. BEVARD

(June 18, 1950 - December 6, 2014)

Joseph Howard Bevard, age 64, of Sumpter Township, MI passed away Saturday, December 6, 2014. He was born June 18, 1950 in Ypsilanti, MI, son of Joseph Clarence & Hazel (Wellwood) Bevard.

He is survived by his parents; five sisters Tina (Phil) Maly of Manchester, MI, Denise Bevard of Killeen, TX, Laura (Edward) Forshee of Billings MT, Colleen Beyer of Belleville, MI, and Dawn (Dave) Hill of Ypsilanti, MI; two brothers Ray (Colleen) Bevard of Johannesburg, MI and Jim Bevard of Belleville, MI; and many nieces and nephews.

Joseph was a graduate of Belleville High School in 1968. He was a musician who played acoustic guitar as he sang to many. He was a fan of the Detroit Tigers as well as the Detroit Lions. Most of all Joseph loved spending time with his family.

Visitation was Wednesday, December 10, 2014 from 4-8 p.m. and Thursday, December 11, 2014 from 10-11 a.m. at David C. Brown Funeral Home 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI followed by an 11 a.m. funeral service with Reverend John Losen, Sr. officiating. Cremation rites will be accorded.

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

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More Letters

Hope you let issue rest so you can find peace

To the Editor:

Re: Angel of Hope letters

I understand the Angel of Hope ceremony and wanting to have your child remembered at this time of year. But I also don't think you can expect the entire town to come to a standstill at the busiest time of year so you can mourn.

Apparently, the City of Belleville and the Belleville Chamber of Commerce have tried to compromise with David Brown Funeral Home and the Angel of Hope people. The fireworks have been moved to Friday night and the parade will start at 4:30 p.m. Saturday rather than 6 p.m. The parade has never lasted three hours so it should be finished well ahead of the start time of the Angel ceremony. What compromise did the Angel of Hope committee offer or make?

The City and the Chamber put a lot of

KATHLEEN MARY GRECA

(January 16, 1962 - October 13, 2014)

Kathleen Mary Greca, age 52, passed away at her home in Huron Township. She worked at Mel Kero's State Farm Agency on Sumpter Road for over 25 years.

She is survived by her husband Mitchell and her son Gary. She was predeceased by her son Derek. Services were Oct. 17 at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home with Father John Hedges officiating. Entombment was in Michigan Memorial Park.

time and effort into the Winter Fest weekend; they do it to promote our community and to perpetuate the tradition of the Christmas Parade on the first Saturday of December. They do not do it for thanks and that's good because they don't get a lot of thanks. As for all of the letters written to the paper criticizing the Chamber for being inconsiderate and insensitive, one is too much. This behavior seems very self-centered, almost bullying.

How sad it is to lose a child, at any age. It must be something one never gets over. I know the Brown family lost a child this year and you have my sympathy, but I hope you will let this issue rest so you can find the peace and joy of the Christmas season. Ann Jamieson
Belleville

Sumpter Twp. puts moratorium on MJ provisional centers

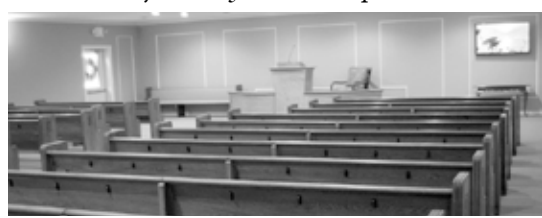
At Tuesday's regular meeting the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously for a moratorium on marijuana provisional centers and dispensaries in the township. They did not put a time limit on the moratorium.

Township attorney Rob Young said the provisional centers and dispensaries are not legal now, but this moratorium would be appropriate.

"If the state doesn't take action by the end of the year, we'll go ahead with our own ordinance," Young said. A township committee has been working on an ordinance to keep such centers in commercial areas and out of residential neighborhoods.

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Mother seeks help from School Board for epileptic son

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

A tearful mother told the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education about the hard time her son is having in a self-contained classroom at Rawsonville Elementary School.

Lisa Echols said Evan has severe epilepsy and his heart stops whenever he has a grand mal seizure.

At Monday's school board meeting, Echols told her son's story and asked the board for help.

She said her doctor said that going to the school in the present situation is harmful to her son's health, so she is keeping him home. Now, she said, she is facing truancy charges.

At the end of her remarks, School Board president Brent Mikulski turned the matter over to School Supt. Michael Van Tassel and asked him and his staff to look into the situation.

Supt. Van Tassel said he was aware of the problem, but didn't know as many details as he now knows.

"I need to, obviously, spend some more time on this," he told the board.

Mikulski also told Echols to feel free to contact board members by email at any time and don't feel she has to wait for another board meeting.

School Board treasurer Sherry Frazier said, "That mother was courageous to get up there ... As a board member, I would like to get an update on what happens to the child."

Echols began her remarks by saying she was frustrated and at her wits' end. Evan is disabled with severe epilepsy and did very well at Tyler School where he was in a regular classroom with 30 other children and teachers who knew what to do when Evan had a seizure.

She said the district moved her son to Rawsonville School this year and he changed from eager to learn to a problem student. In that self-contained classroom there are 12 students, a teacher and a paraprofessional.

"We were guaranteed teachers would be trained in how to handle seizures because when he has a grand mal seizure, his heart stops," she said.

But they weren't.

"There have been numerous behavioral changes," she said of his new class reports.

She said he was accused of head-butting a paraprofessional and she found he was in the middle of a seizure and being restrained.

She said she went to the doctor and changed his medication. Nothing worked.

On Nov. 17 she got a call at work saying there was a hands-on issue on the bus. She said she went home and her 15-year-old daughter said Evan waved to the bus driver after he got off the bus and the driver nodded to him. There didn't seem to be a problem.

When asked about his day, he said he had a great day. She looked into his backpack and found a letter from the school saying he was non-compliant, refusing to do the work, defiant, jumping on the lunchroom table, at 2:45 refused to come to the rug, his color code went from a good green to purple. It was a terrible day without a call home to tell her about it, she said.

Echols said she went to the teachers, the principal, and the superintendent, all without relief.

She said a child in Evan's class asked her if she saw the video and she didn't know what the child was talking about.

She said she learned the teacher took a video on her cell phone when Evan was having "a meltdown." She was able to see that in a meeting.

The video on any bus problem is not available for her to see because of student privacy issues, she said.

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

- Accepted a \$37,899 check from the Van Buren Educational Foundation for grants for 77 teachers from every school building in the district. Mikulski said the foundation's presentation is one of the

(continued on page 13)

SEVENTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Belleville Presbyterian Church will be holding the Seventh Annual Community Old Fashioned Christmas Service in the historic Martha-Mary Chapel on Sunday, December 14th at 5:00 in the evening. You are cordially invited to join us for a service of Lessons and Carols, and for a time of fellowship afterwards.

Special music will be offered by Seek to Be Ministries, a singing group that regularly graces worship at Belleville Presbyterian Church, along with other gifted musicians, instrumentalists and singers.

Take a step back in time and come enjoy a simple, moving worship service in an historic setting as you finalize your holiday preparations. A freewill offering will be taken to support those in our community who are experiencing need during the holidays.

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SATURDAY, DEC. 13 @ 1-3 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
19109 Craig/Eliss, New Boston

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- Photo-taking w/St. Nick (bring a camera)
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The Q by JNG Events, Belleville's newest and only venue designed solely for your wedding, shower or other special event, will be holding a grand opening this Saturday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at their banquet center at 879 Sumpter Road. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place with the Belleville Chamber of Commerce at 11:30 a.m. The public is invited. There will be tasty treats, refreshments and other giveaways. Owners **Jeff and Gina Hamilton** have been in the wedding industry for 18 years and are both ordained ministers who also conduct business as **Michigan Officiates of Belleville LLC**. Gina is also a certified planner. Special rental discounts will be offered to those attending the event. Call (734) 699-0003.

Christmas with a Twist, a community open house will take place this Saturday, Dec. 13, from 1 to 3 p.m. at **St. Paul Lutheran Church** in New Boston. The event will feature St. Nick's storytelling, photo with St. Nick, ornament making, cookie decorating, gift wrapping services by Kids by Kids, and a Goodfellows toy drive. They're located at 19109 Craig at Ellis Street.

The **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** of Sumpter Township will be

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holding their monthly pet adoption event on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the **Petco Pet Store** on Warren Road across from Westland Mall. Call (734) 461-9458.

Doug Dalton Auctioneer of Belleville will be holding his monthly Estate Antique Auction tomorrow evening, Dec. 12, at the **Romulus Progressive Hall** on Ozga Road. Previews begin at 4 p.m. Two auction times of 5 and 6 p.m. will take place with two auctions at 6 p.m. For a sample of items in the auction, see Doug's ad in today's paper. For a detailed list and lots of photos, visit www.dougdaltonauctioneer.com.

The last of the holiday craft shows at the **Belleville Coney Island** on Sumpter Road will take place on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in their banquet room.

The **Belleville Central Business Community** presents **free professional photos with Santa** this Saturday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the **Belleville Area Museum**. The last photo session will take place next Saturday, Dec. 20, from noon until 4 p.m.

Belleville Basketball at Bethany is taking registration for its upcoming children's basketball league Jan. 10-March 7 at the **Bethany Bible Church** on E. Huron River Drive in Belleville. The league is for children K-6th grade. The cost is \$30 if signed up by Jan. 8, \$40 after. For registration forms, times and other info, visit www.bethanybiblechurch.com or call (734) 697-7456.

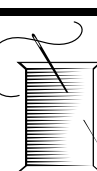
I Computers of Belleville has relocated down the street behind McDonald's. It has over 20 years in the business of buy, sell and trade, along with expert virus removal, free diagnostics, basic tune-ups, and lot of accessories. Business owners and public safety workers get an additional 25% discount, too. They sell and service all Apple products. Call (734) 699-4999.

Belleville Exchange also moved down the street on Belleville Road around the corner from **O'Reilly's Auto Parts** at Tyler Road. They pay top dollar for gold, silver and diamonds, car audio and accessories, coin and currency, musical instruments, electronics, tools and much more. See their ad in today's paper for a coupon to get 20% off any in-store purchase. DVD movies are just \$1, limit 3 with another coupon. They're open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call (734) 699-1125.

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Belleville Day in Florida set for Wed., Feb. 4 in Hernando, Florida

Those Belleville-area residents planning to go to next year's Belleville Day in Florida are advised to circle Wednesday, Feb. 4.

The gathering will be held at the Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club at the Grille Restaurant in the Garden Room, 505 E. Hartford St., Hernando, FL 34442.

Cost per person is \$20, tax and gratuity included. The meal has entrees of Roast Pork Loin Dijonaise, Swiss Chicken, or Broiled Atlantic Salmon with a Lemon Dill Sauce and a buffet.

Check-in is at noon, serving is 1:30 p.m. and it is all over at 4 p.m. Door prizes are part of the fun.

Reservations with payment can be sent to Sam/Sandy Vicchy, 4014 N. Ringwood Circle, Hernando, FL 34442 and must be received no later than Jan. 23. Last date of cancellation is Jan. 26.

Include the following information on the reservation: name, phone, email address, Florida address, Michigan address, maiden name for married women, and number of people attending.

For more information, contact Sam/Sandy Vicchy at (352) 726-9132 or (352) 400-0069 or sjvicchy@aol.com.

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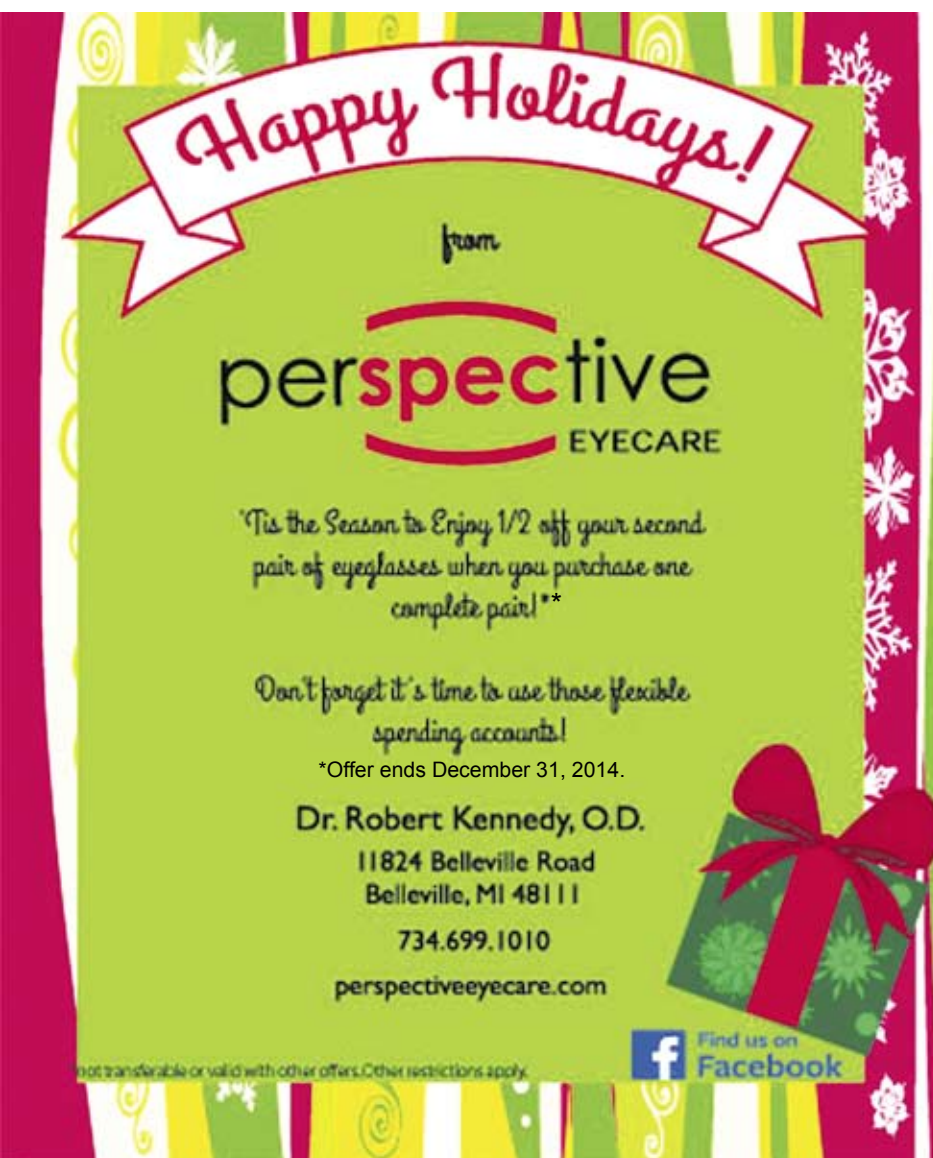
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School Board

(continued from page 8)

highlights of the year for the school board. The latest foundation fund-raising event was the Jingle Bell Run last Saturday, which attracted 300 runners;

- Presented a plaque of appreciation to Trustee Scott Russell, since it was his last meeting;

- Approved the Annual Summer Tax Collection Resolution, so all the school taxes will be collected in the summer tax bill;

- Approved the Schools of Choice program for the second semester, with a limited number of openings. Registration is Jan. 6-26. Treasurer Frazier said it is important to offer schools of choice because other districts have shown it makes a big difference in their enrollments;

- Approved the Best Practices Incentive Resolution which will qualify the district to receive \$50 per pupil in Best Practice state funds. That will total about \$252,000.



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2014 Dates:		
January 19	May 18	September 28
February 16	June 22	October 19
March 16	July 13	November 16
April 13	August 17	December 14

The district must comply with at least seven of nine criteria and it is certifying it complied with eight of the nine. The only one not being complied with is: "The district includes Teacher and Administrator job performance as a significant factor in compensation determination";

- Heard Trustee Russell give a short report on the board policy updates, as required by changes in the law. The policies were in a document 56 pages long. This is the first reading and the second reading and approval will take place at the next meeting. "All are changes in the law and we have to keep in compliance," said Supt. Van Tassel;

- Set the 2015 board organizational meeting for 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 12, followed by the regular meeting; and

- Approved the Nov. 30 retirement of Patricia Burrell, a secretary at Owen Intermediate School, after 22 years of service to the district. The board also approved the employment of LaKeisa Branhan as the new secretary at Owen as of Dec. 4.

Dec. 11: Dave, Marty Wilson to share pictures, stories on trip to Peru

Dave and Marty Wilson of Van Buren Township will present stories and pictures of their trip to the upper Amazon basin of Peru at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 11, at the Belleville Area District Library.

This travelogue is a part of the library's Homegrown Knowledge series. Admittance and refreshments are free.

The public is invited to view the Wilsons' photos of the rain forest of the area and see the fantastic trees and plants, bizarre reptiles, gorgeous birds, fascinating mammals, and delightful people of this flooded world, so remote and incredibly different from our own.

Chamber invites public to ribbon-cutting at Q Banquet & Event Ctr.

The public is invited to an Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for The Q Banquet & Event Center, 879 Sumpter Road, Belleville.

The event will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13, with the ribbon-cutting at 11:30 a.m. It is hosted by the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce.



Festival of Holiday Trees at the Belleville Area Museum
Now through December 27

Open
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday Evenings:
3:00p.m. - 7:00p.m.
Thursday and Saturday: Noon-4:00p.m.
Admission: \$2 per adult, \$1 Children (ages 6-17)

Bask in the soft glow of electric light during our favorite time of the year.
Participate in the Christmas Tree Silent Auction and take one home...

Children's Ornament Workshop - \$2 per child
December 13: 11am, 1pm, 2pm
December 20: 12pm, 1pm, 2pm
Reservations highly encouraged

The BAM is located at:
405 Main Street in Downtown Belleville.
(734)697-1944
Find us on Facebook and Twitter!



Jesus Is Waiting
4 U
Meet Him @ Church

Message paid for by a member of the Catholic Church.

Understanding the Law



By Jason Goldman, Esq.
and Bryan Suliman, Esq.

In this article we will be discussing an important but often overlooked issue: how to serve someone with your lawsuit and conversely, what to do when you are served with a lawsuit.

Under Michigan law, you have 91 days from the date that you file your lawsuit to serve it on the defendant. (This period can be extended). Typically, service is valid in one of two ways: (1) Personal Service: the defendant is served with the lawsuit in person by a process server or an individual of suitable age that is not a party to the case, or, (2) certified or registered mail with a return receipt requested. If the defendant signs the return receipt, then service under this method is complete.

However, sometimes the defendant is unable to be served through one of these methods. Sometimes the defendant is evading service. Fear not, you may still be able to serve the defendant through an order for alternate service. An order for alternate service is a document prepared by you and signed by the Judge. This order may allow you to serve the defendant by posting the lawsuit to the defendant's front door, and also sending the lawsuit in the mail through first-class, and certified mail.

If you are the defendant and you are properly served through one of the methods discussed above, then you have twenty-one (21) days to file a written answer with the court if you are served through personal service, otherwise you have twenty-eight (28) days to file your written answer. Failure to do so many results in you defaulting, and the suing party may get a judgment against you for the amount of money that they are seeking against you.

If you have further questions, we urge you to speak with your attorney.

Goldman Suliman, PLLC, is a Belleville law firm that was started by Jason Goldman and Bryan Suliman in order to serve the Belleville-area community. In this and future articles they will cover legal issues commonly faced by Belleville-area residents. Their goal is to help you better understand the law.

GOLDMAN | SULIMAN, PLLC
ATTORNEYS

287 INDUSTRIAL PARK DRIVE
BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111
TELEPHONE (734) 699-7360
FAX (734) 699-7365

Birthdays

Dec. 9 – Robert McKenna
Dec. 10 – Kathy Kulwicki
Dec. 11 – Ruth Duda
Dec. 12 – Todd Atchinson
Dec. 18 – Rhonda Dutton
Jan. 1 – Reinard Heininger

VBT Police issue alert on Stranger Danger incident by Tyler School

At about 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 3, Van Buren Township Police received a report of an attempted child abduction. The Nixle alert issued by the police department that afternoon referred to it as "Stranger Danger."

A nine-year-old female was walking from the Parkwood apartments to Tyler Elementary School when she was approached by an unknown male.

The male attempted to grab the child from behind and the child was able to get away and fled on foot toward her home.

The assailant is described as a black male, six feet tall, 200 pounds wearing a black ski mask and all black clothing. No vehicles were seen and very little information was immediately available.

The VBT Department of Public Safety and Van Buren Public Schools have issued advisory messages and are working together to keep the community informed as the police department processes investigative leads.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call VBT Police at (734) 699-8930. Those requesting information about the incident may contact Lt. Ken Floro at (734) 699-8915.

Sumpter Township Public Notice

Notice of Seizure and Intent to Forfeit

To: William Justin Ritchie

You are hereby notified that on 12-08-14 pursuant to MCL 333.7521, The Sumpter Township Police have seized the following described property: \$12,200.94.

If you claim an interest in the currency you must within twenty (20) days of the first publication of this notice you must file a written claim and post a bond in the amount of 10 percent (10%) of the value of the property or two-hundred fifty dollars (\$250), whichever is greater, with the Sumpter Township Police Department, at 23501 Sumpter Rd, Belleville MI 48111, 734-461-4833.

Failure to file a written claim and post a bond will result in the forfeiture of the seized items to the Sumpter Township Police Department.

Publish: Dec. 11, 2014
Dec. 18, 2014
Dec. 25, 2014

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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.



"Out of clutter, find simplicity."

– Albert Einstein

HELP WANTED

Belleville Pointe Apartments is looking to fill a full time Maintenance position, with fair pay, and full benefits to a Dependable, Hard working Enthusiastic person. Qualifying applicants should have basic knowledge in plumbing, electrical, carpentry, painting, and HVAC. A valid driver's license is required. If you qualify for this position please send your resume to bellevillepointe@pmaps.com or apply in person at the Belleville Pointe Apartments leasing office.

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

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

HIRING IMMEDIATELY

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

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

HELP WANTED

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

FIVE 1,000 PIECE White Mountain Puzzles. Like new - only used once. \$7 each. (734) 740-8470 12/25

VEHICLE FOR SALE

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

2000 FORD EXPLORER 4x4. Runs great. \$1,500 OBO. (734) 664-1122 12/18

WANTED

WE BUY JUNK CARS

**7 Days A Week
We'll Beat Any
Competitors Offer!
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 12/18

FREE

DONNA SIEROTA QUIRK ROAD 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. 12/11

GRAY HEAVY DUTY 8' Boat. Tag #MC6728TP. Washed ashore by Liberty. Call (734) 645-4562. 12/25

FOR RENT

BELLEVILLE AREA CONDO. 2 bd. 1 1/2 baths. Water/gas and appliances included plus washer/dryer. Pool, carport/shed, clubhouse. No pets/ smoking. \$825/mo plus security. (734) 740-1490. 12/18

BELLEVILLE CONDO. Close to expressway. 2 bd, 1 1/2 baths. Appliances, washer/dryer. New carpet/paint. Carport, pool. Water/heat. \$875/mo. (734) 223-3993. 12/11

TOYS FOR TOTS

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.

"Anyone who doesn't take truth seriously in small matters cannot be trusted in large ones either."

- Albert Einstein

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.

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Removal Of: Unwanted Home Items, Inside Or Outside Debris.

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Home Improvement & Handyman Service

Painting, Drywall, Carpentry,

Electrical, Plumbing,

Ceramic Tile, Kitchens & Bath.

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Refrigerators • Washers

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\$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 Snow Removal. 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

VBT's 2015 fee schedule adopted, without the water/sewer hikes

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

It's not that the water and sewer rates aren't going to go up by 6 or 7% in Van Buren Township at the first of the year.

It's just that board members expected a special presentation by DPW Director James Taylor explaining the 2015 rate hike and they didn't get it.

At the regular board meeting on Dec. 2, the board unanimously approved the rest of the 2015 fee schedule with the exception of the Water/Sewer Department portion.

Trustee Reggie Miller was the one that asked that the Water/Sewer section be pulled out for further discussion.

"We discussed it at the work/study, but did not go deep enough," Trustee Miller said of the Nov. 17 meeting, where Director Taylor said he would prepare a presentation on the rate hike for the Dec. 2 meeting so it could be seen by those watching at home on the cable channel.

"My understanding was that Director Taylor was putting together a presentation for tonight," agreed Trustee Jeff Jahr. "We should defer this to another meeting."

Supervisor Linda Combs said Taylor has a presentation and he could give it at the next work/study session. She asked if board members wanted it in public and they all said they did.

John Delaney said from the audience that Taylor should have been there that evening, since he said he would be. He said the residents were expecting it.

"He's not feeling well," Supervisor Combs said. "People get sick."

At the Dec. 8 special work/study on the budget, Taylor gave a presentation on the water rate hike and now it is down to 6% instead of the 7% previously announced.

Emergency Sirens

After a long discussion, the board restated the motion made at its last meeting to confirm that the township is buying 13 emergency sirens at a cost of \$252,850 including installation (instead of the \$273,128 previously stated) which comes out of the General Fund fund balance and there will be an annual cost of \$5,395.

The sirens cost \$19,450 each.

The siren purchase will be paid for through funds from the VBT Downtown Development Authority, the federal Community Development Block Grant funds, and the township.

Trustee Jahr, an attorney, said this project is really being fast-tracked and he learned it will be shipped by Dec. 15 for installation very early next year.

Public Safety Director Greg Laurain said he has been told they will be installed the second or third week in January.

"This was extremely confusing because this project was being rushed," Jahr said.

Treasurer Sharpy Budd said the money from the CDBG fund needs to be

(continued on page 18)

Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Thursday, Dec. 11** – Festival of Holiday Trees continues at the Belleville Area Museum through Dec. 27. The museum is open on Thursday and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. and on Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Fridays from 3 to 7 p.m. Admission is \$2 per adult and \$1 for children ages 6-17.
 - **Thursday, Dec. 11** – “The Peruvian Amazon” will be discussed by Dave and Marti Wilson at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library as part of the Homegrown Knowledge Series. Free. View their photos of the upper Amazon basin of Peru. See the fantastic trees and plants, bizarre reptiles, gorgeous birds, fascinating mammals, and delightful people of this flooded world, so remote and incredibly different from our own.
 - **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.) Framed Professional Photos with Santa are free from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., courtesy of the Central Business Community and sponsors Genisys Credit Union and Tucker Insurance Agency.
 - **Saturday, Dec. 13** – 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.
 - **Sunday, Dec. 14** – Off-leash playtime at 2 p.m. with other friendly Pugs and Pug owners at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Road, Van Buren Township. www.meetup.com/semichiganpugs
 - **Sunday, Dec. 14** – Bethlehem Temple of Praise, 3789 Venoy Rd., Wayne, (734-331-4481) will present A Gospel Concert at 5 p.m. featuring choirs: Bethlehem Temple of Praise, Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir, Huron Valley District Mass Choir, Rev. Isaac London and Missionary Voices of Praise. Tickets are \$10. Buy them at. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/btop-gospel-concert-tickets-14521581441>
 - **Tuesday, Dec. 16** – Senior Citizen Christmas Party at the Community Center in Sumpter Township at 1 p.m. Membership cost is \$8 for residents; \$9 non-residents. Charge for those without a dish to pass is \$5.
 - **Wednesday, Dec. 17** – Children’s Christmas Party at the Community Center in Sumpter Township at 6 p.m. Register at township hall so each child will get a gift.
- ## Upcoming Meetings

 - Thursday, Dec. 11 – Keystone Academy School Board meeting, 6 p.m.
 - Monday, Dec. 15 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study session, 4 p.m. 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.

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

- Sunday, Nov. 30:**
- 0014 – noise complaint, Lake Point Blvd.
 - 0035 – retail fraud, Belleville
 - 0056 – breaking & entering, Martinsville Rd.
 - 0059 – assault & battery, Kirkridge Park Dr.
 - 0118 – breaking & entering, Colony Ln.
 - 0208 – private property accident, The Creek
 - 0246 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
 - 0257 – disturbance, Belleville Rd.
 - 0331 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
 - 1136 – assault & battery, Village
 - 1404 – ATV/ORV complaint, Ecorse Rd.
 - 1643 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Florence Ln.
 - 1734 – disorderly conduct, Ironwood Dr.
 - 1938 – assault & battery, Denton Rd.
 - 1941 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Sumpter Rd.
- Monday, Dec. 1:**
- 0013 – intimidation threat, S. I-94 Service Dr.
 - 0110 – intimidation threat, S. I-94 Service Dr.
 - 0940 – malicious destruction of property, S. Bellridge Dr.
 - 1004 – malicious destruction of property, S. Bellridge Dr.
 - 1149 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Belleville Rd.
 - 1415 – assault & battery, Peninsular Dr.
 - 1453 – personal injury accident, WB I-94 / Belleville
 - 1511 – juvenile complaint, Laguna Dr.
 - 1549 – harassment call, Ecorse Rd.
 - 1614 – property damage accident, Ecorse/I-275
 - 1633 – property damage accident, Belleville/I-94 Service Dr.
 - 1930 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
 - 2054 – malicious destruction of property, Denton
 - 2109 – narcotics crime, Lake Villa Dr.
 - 2134 – noise complaint, S. Bellridge Dr.
 - 2208 – disorderly conduct, W. Huron River Dr.
- Tuesday, Dec. 2:**
- 0143 – suspicious situation, Sumpter Rd./Hull Rd.
 - 0258 – suspicious situation, rest area
 - 0811 – fraud, Oak Ln.
 - 1124 – private property accident, Wellington Industries
 - 1308 – fraud, Hull Rd.
 - 1339 – suicide or attempt, Tavistock Dr.
 - 1502 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Westlake
 - 1520 – suspicious person, Arthur St.
 - 1614 – larceny from auto, N. Bellridge Dr.
 - 1638 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.
 - 1820 – private property accident, Van Born Rd.
 - 1959 – missing person, Jackson St.
 - 2023 – suspicious situation, Arthur St.
 - 2057 – fraud, Ryznar Dr.
- Wednesday, Dec. 3:**
- 1038 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Sheldon Rd.
 - 1139 – suicide or attempt, Belleville/I-94
 - 1151 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Belleville Rd.
 - 1156 – fraud, Pebblebrook Dr.
 - 1532 – disturbance, Belleville
 - 1543 – juvenile complaint, Laguna Dr.
 - 1607 – vehicle lockout, Daisy
 - 1622 – personal injury accident, Haggerty/Savage
 - 1813 – assault & battery, Holly Ln.
 - 1854 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.
 - 1854 – fraud, Marlowe Ave.
 - 2055 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- Thursday, Dec. 4:**
- 0121 – property damage accident, Ashbury Dr.
 - 1133 – fraud, Chloe Ct.
 - 1136 – larceny, Country Walk Blvd.
 - 1456 – suspicious person, Walden Blvd./W. Walden Dr.
 - 1819 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr./Quirk Rd.
 - 1857 – suspicious vehicle, Tyler
 - 2041 – kidnapping, Beacon Trl. / W. Huron River Dr.
 - 2203 – agency assist, Ecorse Rd./Haggerty Rd.
 - 2354 – disorderly conduct, Belleville/I-94
- Friday, Dec. 5:**
- 0226 – overdose, Parkwood Dr.
 - 0334 – disturbance, Brandi
 - 0345 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.

- 0458 – mental, Meadows Cir.
 - 0741 – felony assault, Lake Villa Dr.
 - 0909 – private property accident, McBride
 - 1212 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Visteon Way
 - 1313 – E-911 hang up/investigation, N. I-94 Service Dr.
 - 1352 – abandoned auto, Tyler/Beck
 - 1354 – suspicious vehicle, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
 - 1727 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
 - 1856 – assault & battery, Rogers Ave.
 - 1950 – suspicious person, Daisy
 - 2001 – shots fired, S. I-94 Service Dr.
 - 2100 – operating while intoxicated, Culver’s
 - 2114 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service
 - 2201 – suspicious situation, Applebee’s
 - 2258 – suspicious situation, Taco Bell, Rawsonville
 - 2344 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.
 - 2356 – suspicious person, Arthur St.
- Saturday, Dec. 6:**
- 0026 – operating while intoxicated, Hannan/Ecorse
 - 0028 – disorderly conduct, N. Bellridge Dr.
 - 0035 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
 - 0159 – larceny, E. Huron River Dr.
 - 0211 – trespassing, Ecorse Rd./Morton Taylor Rd.
 - 0239 – disturbance, S. Bellridge Dr.
 - 0529 – family trouble, Rickman Dr.
 - 0848 – assault & battery, Rose Blvd..
 - 1022 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr./Beck Rd.
 - 1059 – private property accident, Village Green
 - 1118 – suspicious situation, Elwell Rd.
 - 1124 – suspicious person, HaggertyRd.
 - 1258 – disturbance, N. Ponderosa Trl.
 - 1258 – E-911 hang up/investigation, N. Ponderosa Trl.
 - 1302 – fraud, W. Huron River Dr.
 - 1343 – E-911 hang up/investigation, W. Huron River Dr.
 - 1425 – trespassing, Denton Rd.
 - 1603 – agency assist, Bemis Rd.
 - 1646 – private property accident, N. I-94 Service Dr./Beck Rd.
 - 1843 – retail fraud, Belleville
 - 1844 – agency assist, EB I-94/Haggerty
 - 2028 – suspicious vehicle, Kouza Ct.
 - 2028 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Kouza Ct.
 - 2034 – suspicious situation, N. Ponderosa Trl.
 - 2128 – intimidation threat, N. Ponderosa Trl.
- Also on this week’s log are 111 traffic stops, xx of which are on the I-94/I-275 freeways.
- ## Belleville Police Dispatch Log
- Sunday, Nov. 30:**
- 0303 – disorderly conduct, Church St.
 - 1207 – found property, Hayward’s
 - 1626 – suspicious situation, Harbour Pointe
- Monday, Dec. 1:**
- 1451 – private property accident, W. Columbia
 - 1558 – E-911 hang up, E. Huron River Dr.
 - 1909 – property check, Main St.
 - 2031 – warrant arrest, Main St.
 - 2158 – juvenile complaint, Carmell St.
 - 2258 – vehicle lockout, Main St.
 - 2359 – civil matter, Henry St.
- Tuesday, Dec. 2:**
- 1028 – assist fire dept., Wexford Ave.
 - 1040 – suspicious vehicle, Belle Villa Blvd. / Sumpter Rd.
 - 1109 – intrusion alarm, Third St.
 - 1221 – disorderly conduct, W. Columbia Ave.
 - 1548 – assist fire dept., S. Edgemont Ave.
 - 1608 – property damage accident, W. Columbia Ave.
 - 1821 – abandoned auto, Harbour Pointe Dr./ W. Huron River Dr.
 - 2022 – suspicious situation, Johnny’s
 - 2123 – serve warrant, Light Tower Ct.
 - 2211 – civil matter, Main St.
- Wednesday, Dec. 3:**
- 0543 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
 - 0605 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
 - 0710 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
 - 0842 – private property accident, Edgemont
 - 1812 – civil matter, Henry St.
 - 1828 – suspicious situation, Loza Ln.
 - 2255 – fraud, Main St.

- 2329 – welfare check, Church St.
- Thursday, Dec. 4:**
- 1302 – fraud, Tuscan Manor
 - 1439 – property damage accident, South St./Main
 - 1850 – suspicious person, W. Columbia Ave.
- Friday, Dec. 5:**
- 0114 – suspicious vehicle, Carmell St.
 - 0819 – vehicle lockout, South St.
 - 1102 – miscellaneous complaint, Main St.
 - 1614 – welfare check, Harbour Pointe Dr.
 - 2235 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
- Saturday, Dec. 6:**
- 0913 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
 - 0955 – miscellaneous complaint, Main St.
 - 1052 – property damage accident, Main St.
 - 1121 – larceny, W. Waterbury Ct.
 - 1145 – follow up, Potter Dr.
 - 1237 – suspicious vehicle, Main St./South St.
 - 1533 – suspicious vehicle, Sumpter Rd.
 - 1915 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
- Also on this week’s log are 43 traffic stops.
- ## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log
- Sunday, Nov. 30:**
- 0044 – alarm, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
 - 0214 – alarm, 22000 bl. Elwell Rd.
 - 1052 – trespassing complaint, Montana
 - 1352 – larceny, 46000 bl. Willow Rd.
 - 1800 – assist other agency, out of township
 - 1838 – suspicious person, 50000 bl. Bemis Rd.
 - 2137 – assault, Tulip
- Monday, Dec. 1:**
- 0743 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
 - 1048 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
 - 1410 – warrant arrest, Second St.
 - 1534 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
 - 1555 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
 - 1804 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
 - 1817 – 911 hang up, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
 - 1845 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
 - 2019 – assist other agency, out of township
- Tuesday, Dec. 2:**
- 0117 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
 - 0441 – warrant arrest, out of township
 - 1517 – ordinance violation, Judd/Karr
 - 2044 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Fenster
 - 2336 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- Wednesday, Dec. 3:**
- 0529 – animal complaint, Willis/Rawsonville
 - 0818 – traffic hazard, Haggerty/Willow
 - 0933 – citizen assist, 6400 bl. Oakville Waltz
 - 1645 – harassment complaint, 20000 bl. Sumpter
 - 2119 – fire dept. assist, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- Thursday, Dec. 4:**
- 0513 – assault, California
 - 0547 – alarm, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
 - 1357 – civil dispute, New Mexico
 - 1400 – suspicious vehicle, 40000 bl. Bemis Rd.
 - 1917 – fire dept. assist, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
 - 2015 – fire dept. assist, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
- Friday, Dec. 5:**
- 0538 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
 - 0846 – suspicious incident, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
 - 1114 – civil dispute, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
 - 1213 – well-being check, 46000 bl. Willow Rd.
 - 1311 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
 - 1327 – suspicious incident, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
 - 1459 – well-being check, Nevada
 - 1504 – assault, Tulip
 - 1509 – suspicious vehicle, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
 - 1614 – civil dispute, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
 - 1841 – warrant arrest, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
 - 2009 – well-being check, 18000 bl. Martinsville
- Saturday, Dec. 6:**
- 0446 – assault, 40000 bl. Bemis Rd.
 - 0456 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
 - 0645 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
 - 1156 – ordinance violation, 19000 bl. Clark Rd.
 - 1201 – death investigation, 19000 bl. Clark Rd.
 - 1615 – suspicious incident, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
 - 1953 – runaway juvenile, 46000 bl. Harris Rd.
 - 2031 – suspicious vehicle, 46000 bl. Traskos
 - 2043 – citizen assist, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
 - 2123 – missing recovered, 46000 bl. Harris Rd.
- Also on this week’s log are nine follow-up investigations, 35 miscellaneous details, 218 patrol checks, and 42 traffic stops.

Belleville Independent to celebrate 20 years of publication with contest

The *Belleville-Area Independent* will celebrate the completion of its 20th year of publishing in January 2015 with an open house and a contest.

The *Independent* started publishing its weekly newspaper on Jan. 5, 1995. The 20th-anniversary party will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 9, and everyone is invited.

The contest will offer a \$100 prize for the letter from a reader judged the best on any of the following subjects:

- Your favorite story in the last 20 years;
- The story you found most important in

the last 20 years;

- Why the *Independent* is important to you; or

- The story you feel the *Independent* missed in the last 20 years.

Limit your letter to 300 words or less. There will be a second prize of \$50 and third prize of \$25. All of the winning letters will be published in the *Independent*.

Mail entries to: Belleville Area Independent Contest, 152 Main St., Belleville, MI 48111. Be sure the entry is marked "Contest" or it might get published as a letter to the editor instead of being

entered in the contest.

Instead of using the U.S. Postal Service, letters also may be emailed to: [mail @ bellevilleareaindependent.com](mailto:mail@bellevilleareaindependent.com); dropped in the outside, black after-hours box on the side of the office building at 152 Main St.; or hand-carried into our office. Deadline is Dec. 30 at 4 p.m.



Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 2, 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, Deputy Director-Fire Department Besson, Secretary Montgomery and an audience of twelve (12).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Supervisor Combs requested removal of Unfinished Business item #1 and Consent Agenda item #2 [To consider adoption of Resolution 2014-29 to approve the AutoZone Storm Water System Maintenance and Repair Agreement with the property owner, notify Wayne County of this action, and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement and Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes November 18, 2014]. Jahr moved, Wright seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Jahr moved, Wright seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes November 17, 2014; Voucher List of December 2, 2014; Prepaid List of November 21, 2014; Reappointments of Angela Netto, Juanita Jensen, Harry Roesch and Loretta Speaks (alternate) to the Board of Review with terms to expire 12-31-2016; Extension of collection for the 2014 Winter Property Taxes without penalty through Friday, February 27, 2015; Automatic Mutual Aid agreement between Van Buren Township Fire Department and the Detroit Metro Airport Authority Fire Department, Fiscal Year 2015 Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) Municipal Credit Contract. Carried.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to correct the Board Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2014 by amending the motion previously adopted to now read: To approve the purchase of 13 Federal Signal 2001-130 sirens from West Shore Services, Inc. in accordance with its proposal for the total sum of \$252,850.00 including installation and authorizing the Supervisor and Clerk to execute Inspection and Annual Maintenance Agreement at an annual cost of \$5,395 total for 13 sirens and further authorizing the transfer of the necessary amounts from the General Fund Fund Balance. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Clerk Wright acknowledged resident Alan Avery owner of Alan's Hops on his recent verification as a Michigan Agriculture Environmental

Assurance Program (MAEAP) Farmstead. Tim Kwiatkowski, MAEAP Technician, from the Monroe Soil Conservation District provided a brief overview of the program.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident expressed concern regarding cancellation of the Work Study session scheduled for December 1, 2014. Clerk Wright indicated that no items were requested by Board Members to be placed on the Work Study agenda.

Wright moved, Hart seconded to hold a Work Study Session on December 8, 2014 for the sole purpose of discussing the Budget. Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Miller moved, Jahr seconded to approve the 2015 Fee Schedules with the removal of the Water and Sewer portion of the schedules. Supervisor Combs will schedule a public presentation on proposed rate increase. Carried.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor Combs announced: The Township Administrative Offices will be closed December 24, 2014 through January 2, 2015 for the Holiday Season; The 19th Annual Festival of Holiday Trees at the Belleville Area Museum runs through December 27, 2014; 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. Clerk Wright announced the Clerk's Office Coats for School Kids Drive for students in the Van Buren Public School District. Coats collected will be distributed December 12, 2014 to schools throughout the District. Wright thanked The Board, Township employees and vendors for their generous support.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): 34th District Court Judge David Parrot thanked the Board and residents for their support during the November 4, 2014 General Election.

CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Jahr moved, Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor
Publish: December 11, 2014

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VBT Board

(continued from page 15)

reapportioned and approved by Wayne County. The county handles the CDBG funds for the federal government. She said the township will have to go through the county hoops to get approval.

Budd said this year's CDBG allocation won't be available before July 12.

Clerk Leon Wright said the township needs to hold off on installing those emergency sirens paid with the CDBG funds.

"We're tap-dancing around," said Jahr. "We were told 'no problem' and now we can't enter into the contract."

Clerk Wright said it's just that CDBG can't reimburse the township until after the funds are available.

"With the problems we're having with the budget, I can't see spending a quarter of a million dollars," Jahr said. "We've received no assurances from the DDA and the county for the CDBG."

Supervisor Combs said the CDBG is paying for four sirens, \$77,400, and the DDA is paying for three, \$72,000.

Treasurer Budd reported that the Civic Fund has voted to fund the six emergency sirens the township was committed to paying for.

Wright said that the last four, paid for by the CDBG, would be put up last.

"But we will purchase them all in one fell swoop," Miller stated.

"We can purchase and install them and then get reimbursed?" Jahr asked.

Budd said no, you can't.

Trustee Phil Hart said they could add to the motion the expectations of three entities to reimburse the township, but that wasn't supported.

"The motion made by Leon at the last meeting was confusing, understandably," Jahr said, referring to Clerk Wright.

"The Civic Fund already met and passed a motion to buy six sirens," said Budd, who sits on the Civic Fund.

"And, the motion was made by the DDA and the county said the CDBG was OK," said Miller.

"We have already signed the contract for the sirens," Jahr stated. "Folks, we're only talking about a quarter of a million dollars." Then, he added, "That's sarcasm, folks."

Jahr stated: "This is academic ... the sirens are ordered and on the way."

The sirens were ordered before Dec. 1 to take advantage of the lower price before their prices went up.

AutoZone Storm Water System

A resolution to approve the AutoZone Storm Water System Maintenance and Repair Agreement with the property owner as required by Wayne County was removed from the agenda.

Board members said it was a mistake to be on the agenda since the board is working with its attorney on a way to not have to take responsibility for any private systems.

AutoZone is in the middle on this because it happened to be the business seeking permits from the county at this time when the board wanted to say no.

Wayne County is the only county in the state requiring this and the township attorney

said the county has no legal language to support this requirement.

In other business at the one-hour-and-15-minute meeting the board:

- Approved the supervisor's reappointments of Angela Netro, Juanita Jensen, Harry Roesch and Loretta Speaks (alternate) to the Board of Review with terms to expire Dec. 31, 2016;

- Approved the extension of collection of the 2014 Winter Property Taxes without penalty from Feb. 14, 2014 to Friday, Feb. 27, 2015. Since the township offices will be closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 4, those wishing their taxes stamped paid in their presence in 2014, must come to the township by Dec. 23. Deputy Treasurer Sean Bellingham said anything dropped into the drop boxes at the township before the employees' return to work on Jan. 5, will be back-stamped to Dec. 31;

- Approved an Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement between VBT Fire Department and the Detroit Metro Airport Authority Fire Department. The intent is to quickly deploy specialty resources to the scene of working fires at the Wayne Disposal/EQ facility and the Cadillac Asphalt facility, and the 19 commercial structures at the Willow Run Airport that fall under the Airport Authority's jurisdiction. VBT agrees to send one fire engine and the Airport Authority

agrees to send one vehicle equipped with 3,000 gallons of foam when appropriate conditions are met; and

- Approved the fiscal year 2015 Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) Municipal Credit

Contract. The estimated funding level for 2015 is \$28,348, of which \$20,000 will be used for recreation transportation and \$8,348 for senior transportation. A local match of \$32,597 is met by the township's general fund and in-kind services.

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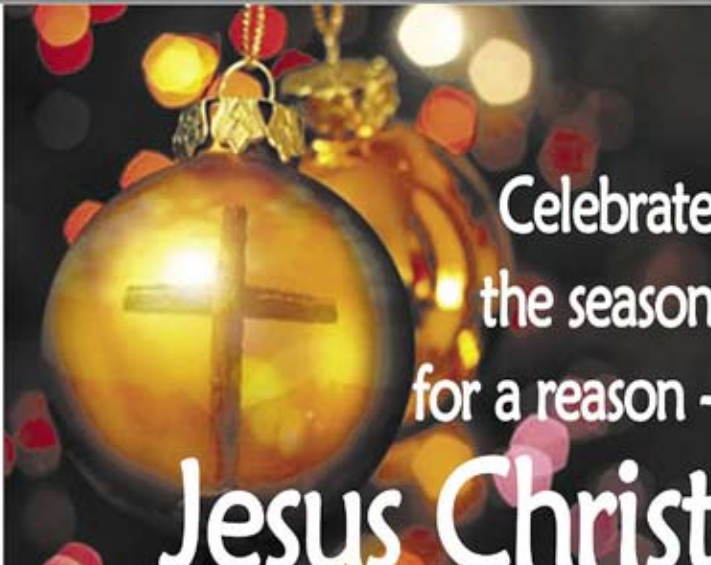


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Orphan of the Week

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue

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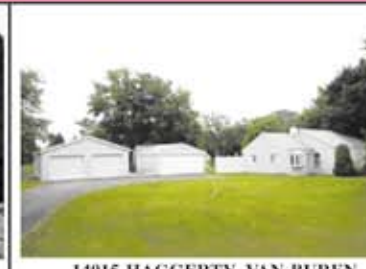
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