



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 20.52 Thursday, December 25, 2014 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

## VBT Board re-pledges 'full faith and credit' to refinance Visteon bond

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

At its Dec. 16 regular meeting, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to pledge the township's full faith and credit to help refinance the 2006 bonds sold by the Local Development Finance Authority to cut interest rates.

The LDFA would save about \$1.8 million since the interest rate would go from the present 8% to 3% or thereabouts.

The 2006 bonds are callable this spring and so they can be refinanced.

Although it had not been officially announced, the VBT board members talked about possibly "paying down" the bonds this spring to help reduce bond payments, but that has to be done at the same time the bonds are refinanced.

At a 2 p.m. special meeting on Dec. 15, the LDFA heard a brief explanation from James M. Crowley of Clark Hill law firm. He said the LDFA sold \$23 million in bonds in 2003 to help build Visteon Village. The full faith and credit of the township was pledged at that time.

In 2006, a portion of the bonds, \$20 million, was refinanced for 10 years and they were callable in April 2015. They also had the full faith and credit of the township behind them.

The \$18.5 million in bonds being refunded (refinanced) covers all of the 2006 bonds, he said.

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Kayla Crossley, 9, and Roy Wolff, Jr., 6, of Sumpter Township and Canton, were among the children that came to the Belleville Area Museum to talk with Santa on Saturday. Each child received a free, framed photo of the visit, courtesy of the Belleville Central Business Community and its sponsors Genisys Credit Union and Tucker Insurance. Santa was surrounded by the Festival of Trees which continues at the museum until the end of the month.

## Deadline is 4 p.m., Dec. 30 for *Independent* contest to win \$100

The deadline is coming up at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, in the *Independent* letter contest that will win the writer a \$100 cash prize for first place. Second place gets \$50 and third place is \$25.

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

Limit your letter to 300 words or less. 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 northwest side of the office building at 152 Main St.; or hand-carried into our office. Deadline is Dec. 30 at 4 p.m.

(continued on page 13)

## EARLY DEADLINES

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advertising deadline is Noon Monday, 12/29/14.



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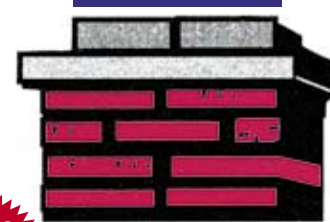
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# SECOND FRONT PAGE



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright poses with other township officials last Thursday to honor the donations that resulted in \$1,500 being available for his successful Coats for School Kids drive. Donors were Wade Trim engineering consultants; law firm Gasiorek, Morgan, Greco & McCauley; Atchinson Ford Sales; and law firm Cummings, McClorey, Davis & Acho. The coats were distributed Dec. 12 to 10 children in each of six buildings in the Van Buren Public Schools district – a total of 60 coats. Gathering to celebrate the successful drive are, from left, Clerk Wright, Fire Chief Dan Besson, Director of Public Safety Greg Laurain, Elections Clerk Nicole Sumpter; Deputy Clerk Joanne Montgomery; Treasurer Sharry Budd, Deputy Director Public Safety – Police Jason Wright; Trustee Brenda McClanahan; and Police Executive Assistant Pam Fleming.

## VBT board postpones budget hearings, votes until Dec. 30 meeting

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

After being criticized on Dec. 16 for not having published proper notice about that night's public hearing on the 2014 amended, 2015 proposed, and special revenue fund budgets, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees took all the seven budget items involved off its agenda.

Then board members agreed to hold a special session between Christmas and New Year's to hear comments from the public and take votes on the budgets.

The meeting will be held at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 30. The township must have a balanced budget approved by Dec. 31, with some saying charter townships must have had it approved by Dec. 15.

Public notice subsequently was published in the Dec. 18 edition of the *Independent*, the township's newspaper of record, giving

more than the six days' notice to the public required for the Dec. 30 meeting. Copies of the budget were announced as being available at the clerk's office, although the township offices were announced closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 4.

The general fund budget proposed for 2015 is \$14,029,375, up from the amended 2014 budget of \$13,165,269.

Landfill fund transfers amount to \$2,850,000 in 2015, up from the \$2,610,527 in the amended 2014 budget.

In other business at the Dec. 16 meeting, the board:

- Accepted the resignations of Jere Dolph (because of his health) and Pastor Jim Richter (because he is moving) from the Downtown Development Authority and appointed former VBT Supervisor Helen Foster with a term to expire March 9, 2018 and Verdeterre president Christopher

Brown with a term to expire March 9, 2017;

- Acknowledged Dolph and Richter for their years of service and also acknowledged Pastor Richter for his years of service as a Public Safety Chaplain;

- Heard a presentation by DPW Director Jim Taylor on the proposed water/sewer fee schedule, including a 6% rise in rates for water/sewer;

- Approved reprogramming CDBG funds from 2012, 2013, and 2014, in the total amount of \$24,062.57 to pay for some of the new emergency warning outdoor sirens;

- Approved the contract with McKenna Associates to provide ongoing Community Development Block Grant services at a cost of \$2,000 to \$2,500 per month, depending on the level of effort required. Patrick Sloan of McKenna presently is administering the

CDBG program;

- Confirmed the appointment of Van Buren Public Schools Finance Director Robert Carlesso to a seat on the Local Development Finance Authority with a term to expire Aug. 12, 2015. Carlesso had been appointed by the school district as a representative to the LDFA;

- Before the meeting, the proposed confirmation of Bryce Kelley as the Wayne County appointee to the LDFA was removed from the agenda. At the work/study session the day before the regular meeting, the appointment was opposed by board members and the public and Supervisor Linda Combs said she would ask the county for a different appointment;

- Approved an updated meeting rooms policy for the Municipal Center, Community Center, Multi-Purpose Room,

(continued on page 13)



# OPINIONS

## Editorial

### Voters get to decide on two tax questions in May

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education already has set an election for May 5 to see if voters will approve an extension of the Sinking Fund millage.

It would be a renewal of the 1.13 mills now being levied that will expire in 2015. The current seven-year levy was authorized by voters in 2008.

The renewal would run for seven years, from 2016 to 2022, inclusive. In 2016 the millage is expected to bring in \$1,715,961 and is subject to partial capture by the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority.

The Sinking Fund has been used for repairs and preventive maintenance on the school district buildings, so the money doesn't have to be taken out of the general fund to fix things.

The school district expected to pay from \$6,000 to \$9,000 for the election if its millage question was the only thing on the ballot. Now, at least, it can share the cost with the state.

In its lame-duck session, the state legislature agreed to ask the voters, at that same May election, to approve one more cent of sales tax, boosting the tax up from six to seven cents for each dollar spent. This money is to improve roads, we're told.

We'll see if anything else gets put on this election ballot. The library board has a survey that isn't due until March to see what voters think about a new library, so a library question won't be ready by May.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

VB T Fire Chief Dan Besson said the Water's Edge apartments' fire on Dec. 10 was an electrical fire that started when equipment shorted out in a closet in a second-floor apartment. He said the person who called in the fire said her closet was on fire.

He also said out of the 40 people displaced by the fire, 19 didn't have insurance. He said there were 56 people put out of their homes the night of the fire. Chief Besson also reported Sgt. Mike Moening is home recovering after his heart surgery. He is the officer/fire fighter who had heart problems while fighting the fire.

Chief Besson said he was handling all the police and fire announcements at the Dec. 16 VBT meeting because Public Safety Director Greg Laurain's mother died that afternoon.

\*\*\*

Sam Ruffolo, who was supposed to retire from United Parcel Service at the end of December, now must work until the end of January to get everything he needs for his retirement.

After 36 years at UPS, "What difference does a month make?" Sam asks.

Kathy Niemann, of Edgemont Street, said Sam would be honking his horn on his UPS truck at the end of December on his last day. We have to wait a month for that now.

Sam delivers within the City of Belleville and around the countryside south of the freeway.

\*\*\*

At the Dec. 15 work/study session of the Van Buren Township Board, they were discussing federal Community Development Block Grant funds, when



they started talking about the stage in Van Buren Park.

Supervisor Linda Combs said the stage has been closed and is not in use because it has been deemed dangerous.

Trustee Phil Hart said there is \$100,000 in the budget for Van Buren Park and buying a portable stage is suggested. The stage is set to be torn down and Barbara Miller suggested the fire department burn it down as a training exercise. As to the portable stage, Miller said they are not going to find a portable stage that will fit a symphonic orchestra or even the 80 people in the Belleville Community Band.

She suggested township officials talk to music people about the portable stage and Hart agreed that was a good idea.

"It was built by Dave Jacokes. Built facing the wrong way," Miller said of the park stage and Trustee Reggie Miller (no relation) added, "That's part of the problem."

"The wrong way" is west. In the evening when the musical groups have been on the stage performing, the setting sun has been blinding them.

Jacokes was VBT supervisor when the *Independent* started publishing 20 years ago. I remember one of my first assignments, when I wrote for *The View*, was to call up the Davenport Brothers and talk to them about the stage they built at the park for \$75,000.

Patrick Sloan, who is handling CDBG funds

for the township, said \$89,921 of the 2015 funds are set aside to make improvements to Van Buren Park, including demolishing a log cabin and stage and constructing new facilities. Public hearings on use of the 2015 CDBG funds will be held on Jan. 13 and Feb. 3.

As part of the discussion, it was noted that the Beck Ball Field no longer is in what is considered low/moderate income area, according to the census, so it no longer qualifies for CDBG spending.

\*\*\*

A reader in Sumpter called last week to tell me he got a phone call from someone who said he was from the IRS and our reader needed to pay money over the phone. The reader hung up. He said the number was 202-697-9183. He said that's the second such call he had received, with the first one having a different number.

I Googled the number he gave me and it has a Washington, D.C., Zone 1 location, around 14<sup>th</sup> Street. I also saw a lot of complaints from people who got threatening calls from this number. They agreed someone was trying to scare the person who answered the phone into paying them money so the police or IRS wouldn't come to their homes. Better to just hang up.





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**BELLEVILLE - AREA  
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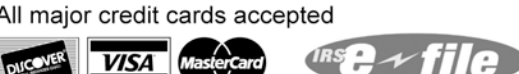
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## Letters

### VBt residents should turn out on Dec. 30

To the Editor:

In the last month I sent an email to all seven Board members with my concern about the last two Budget years, 2013 and 2014. I expected as in past years to be able to see the 2014 Amended Budget as well as the 2015 Proposed Budget before the hearing. I requested in an email that I could have a copy before the meeting which I was informed I could not until the board votes to make it official.

In my past job I made friends with other elected officials in other municipalities. I called a few of them on Tuesday 12/16 to get clarification. Around 6 p.m. on the 16th one called me back and told me the statue in the State Constitution to look at, plus the Attorney General opinion for clarification. He also told me that this late of the game the best way to proceed was to call point of order at the open of the hearing to inform them since I was unable to email them all in time, which is what I did.

Since then I have found out my friend was right for the city government he works for but since we are a Charter Township we also fall under The Charter Township Act 359 of 1947. Under this the Public Hearing must have been done by Dec 15th and the posting and the availability of the amended and proposed budgets must have been done a full week before that. Since the office will only be open 4 days during that time it is posted on the website under the Agenda for that meeting.

This is not time to split hairs or blame anyone. Yes, a mistake was made and needs to be corrected in the future and a process with firm dates needs to be formed so this does not happen again.

I also believe the Public Hearing and the vote should NOT be done in the same meeting. Because it really removes the public opinion on the budget since no changes will be made before the vote. Basically it makes the Public Hearing just a show. I also think that a 4 p.m. meeting time on the 30th of December is very bad since most people don't get off work and

home till 6 p.m. This is almost like the Board wants the smallest amount of people to show up.

The reason I have been really looking at the Budget is that the pattern of what I have seen over the past few years and what is included in 2015 proposed budget. In 2013 and 2014 the Fire and Police Department had a decrease of \$155,385 ( -2.26%) while every other department has had an increase. I know they are the biggest part of the budget but we also have a separate TAX to help supplement Police and Fire.

The Administration part of the Budget (Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and Trustees) had an increase \$95,081 (11.83%) with the Supervisor Office being the biggest part of it with an increase of \$49,661 (21.59%).

Overall the Budget is to increase in 2015 by almost 11% (\$1,309,240) since 2013. In 2015 proposed Fire and Police are supposed to get an increase of \$325,475. Of that, \$50,000 is for the wages of the Fire Inspector and \$200,000 is for Equipment Improvements in the Fire Department which is needed. Take those 2 things out, the rest of Police and Fire is getting only \$75,475 increase.

In 2015 we will see the IT Department having an increase of 81.20% (\$175,261) since January 2013 that is over \$5,000 more than Police and Fire in the same period (\$170,090). Projected in 2015 the biggest increases since January 2013 is Cable 103.61% increase, IT Department 81.20% increase, Recreation Department 64.57% increase ( that is due to a wage and fringe increase of a \$107,000 this year before in 2013 and 2014 they only had a 6.11% increase), Supervisor Office 28.57% increase. Every other department is under 10%.

I ask you don't go with what I wrote. Check for yourself, look at the last 4 budget years, and do the math. Check the department that matters to you the most and see how the money is spent. Then I hope there will be a huge turnout on Tuesday Dec. 30, 2014 at 4 p.m.

We need to voice our concerns. We all know what is coming down the road soon and even though the economy seems to be turning around and property values going up, we must still be tightening our belts to make sure we are ready for what is coming and spend for important and save where we can.

Thank you and I hope everyone has a Safe and Happy Holiday season.

Allen Babosh  
Van Buren Township



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**Clarification:****VBT Trustee Reggie Miller said she tried to tell board of problem**

In our editorial last week on page 4, we said the information leveled at the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees at its Dec. 16 meeting looked like a "gotcha" moment for cable TV viewing.

We said it would have been more professional for the board member involved to have quietly told the supervisor that there was a problem.

Trustee Reggie Miller said this is unfair because she did try to contact Supervisor Linda Combs earlier that day and Combs was not at work Dec. 16. She said she also sent emails to all the board members and none returned her communications.

She said she did not work with resident Allen Babosh, who also told the board it didn't follow the law in the required notice to the public for its public hearing on the budget, but she did receive an email from Babosh who voiced his concerns to board members. Babosh said he was not allowed to get a copy of the budget in advance of the public hearing that was planned, which also is against state law.

Trustee Miller said she has had a problem with this year's budget process since last summer. She said she told Supervisor Combs' executive assistant Karin LaMothe in August that they needed to have early budget sessions and she even put off a trip to make sure she didn't miss a session. But the budget workshop wasn't called by Combs until mid-November and there were mistakes because it was at the last minute.

Even the budget presented as final on Dec. 12 and sent to the board members needed more changes, Miller said.

All this is to say, Miller didn't try to play

"gotcha," but made efforts to alert the board in advance that their plan to approve the budget on Dec. 16 was not in compliance with state law.

We apologize for misinterpreting the situation as it evolved at the township board meeting. It looked like a game of "gotcha" to us, but it wasn't.

Rosemary K. Otzman, editor




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# Obituaries



Wilma Sheldon

## WILMA COLENE SHELTON

SHELTON, Wilma M., age 75, of Belleville, December 16, 2014. Beloved wife of William Sheldon. Loving mother of Pamela Benguian, Amber (Kirk) Redmond, Jeremy Sheldon and step-mother of Robert (Leslie) Sheldon, Steve (Ann) Sheldon, Gary (Janet) Sheldon, Wendy Dart and Alice (Jack) Drake. Dear grandmother of Robert (Christine) Benguian, Linus, and Carson Redmond, Jaden Barlow and great-grandmother of Alexander and Abigail Benguian.

She is also survived by her sisters Jacqueline McCoy, Marva McCoy and many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

She is preceded in death by her daughter Roberta Jordan, her parents Trimble and Daisy McCoy, her brother Tommie McCoy and son-in-law Vahrij (George) Benguian.

Funeral service was Saturday, 2 p.m. Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Visitation was Saturday, 1-2 p.m. Interment in Michigan Memorial Park. [www.mimemorial.com](http://www.mimemorial.com)



Bill Bradbury

## BILL BRADBURY

Bill Bradbury of Belleville. December 16, 2014. Age 65. Loving husband of Loretta. Beloved father of Lisa (Phillip) Coleman, Bill (Paula) Bradbury, Shannon (Mark) Purdy and Chris (Jenny) Bradbury. Dear brother of Linda Mulroy. Cherished son of William Bradbury and Dorothy (Gerald) Fountaine. Proud grandfather of 11 and great-grandfather of 2. Memorial Service was held Friday, December 19 at Husband Family Funeral Home in Westland, MI. Final rites through cremation.



William J. Rouster

## WILLIAM JAMES ROUSTER

(October 11, 1927 – December 18, 2014) William J. Rouster, 87, of Portage and formerly of Belleville, died December 18, 2014 at Park Place Assisted Living Center.

Bill is survived by his children: Beth (Jim) Thomas, Cheri (Dave) McCaffery, Jim Rouster and Mark (Barb) Rouster; 4 grandchildren: Jen (Tom) Dole, Cheri (Nick) Getty, Will and Kate Rouster; great-granddaughters: Alex, Gwen, Sam and Taylor; siblings: Wayne and John Rouster and Marion Olmstead, as well as many other relatives.

A funeral service was held December 23 at Life Story Funeral Homes, Portage. Visit Bill's memory page at [www.lifestorynet.com](http://www.lifestorynet.com) where you can leave a memory and sign the guest book. Memorial donations may be made to Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan or Park Place Assisted Living Center.



# More Letters

## Thank you, Goodfellow volunteers for 2014

To the Editor:

Another year has been successfully done. As program coordinator for the Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows, I personally would like to take this opportunity to send a special thank you to all the volunteers who took time out of their busy schedules to help with the program for 2014.

Over the past several months, the Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows were able to make this Christmas brighter for 83 families and 211 children.

This would not have been possible without your generous donations and support from the local residents, the business community and the Van Buren Public Schools (Belleville High School, McBride Middle, Tyler, Savage, Edgemont) and Keystone Academy for their help in collecting food and toys. A special thanks to Keith Johnston and his staff for picking up the food. To Roger Bird for use of his trailer to pick up food at Keystone Academy. Thanks to Mike Burgor and Dave Cushing for their help in unloading the food at our distribution center. A BIG thanks to Kirk Jenkins for preparing the Old Fire Station 2 building to use as our distribution center. The City of Belleville Police and Fire Department for selling candy canes. Mike Fleming for his work behind the scenes in preparing the paperwork that is used each year. The Van Buren Township Senior

Center for donating gloves and mittens on their mitten tree.

We also were able to purchase coats for the children with the donation given by Meijer's. A special thanks to the 34th District Court for allowing the community service workers once again assist with the program. Thanks to French Landing Party Store (Sinar) and Stacks Party Store for helping with the pizza and pop for the workers during this busy week.

All your help was greatly appreciated and it is friends like yourself that work together to make this program a success and help fulfill the Goodfellows promise of "NO CHILD WITHOUT A CHRISTMAS."

On behalf of the Goodfellows, may the coming New Year be a time of peace and prosperity for you and your families.

Pam Fleming, Coordinator  
Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows

## Two dogs die in Quirk Road fire on Dec. 14 in Van Buren Township

A mechanical, furnace-room fire led to the death of two dogs at a home at 10844 Quirk Road at 11:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14.

Van Buren Township Fire Chief Dan Besson said there were no other injuries.

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\*\*\*

The **Belleville Moose** is gearing up for a **New Year's Eve Bash** at their location on **Sumpter Road** on Dec. 31 from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$20 per person if bought in advance, \$25 at the door. Entertainment will be provided by **Southern Heat**, from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. Admission includes a champagne toast, munchies and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are available at the lodge.

Or, celebrate **New Year's Eve** at the **Van Buren Eagles**, 9961 Beck Road. Cocktail hour 6-7 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Music by **Second Wind**, classic rock. Tickets are \$30 which include dinner, champagne, party favors, pizza after midnight and entertainment. Call (734) 787-2255 or (810) 247-0914 for tickets.

Also on New Year's Eve, the local band **Machine Gun Kelly** will be playing at the **Bayou Grill** on Main Street, from 9 p.m. to midnight. Call (734) 697-2300.

\*\*\*

The **Wayne County Fairgrounds Association** invites everyone to its annual **Wild Game Dinner** on Saturday, Jan. 17, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with dinner starting at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are \$30 if bought in advance, \$35 at the door with the proceeds going to the upkeep and operations of the fairgrounds. Call **Mary Zellner** at (734) 942-1684 or **Tom Busenbark** at (734) 799-3692.

\*\*\*

**Belleville Basketball** at **Bethany** still has openings for its children's basketball league Jan. 10-March 7 at the **Bethany Bible Church**. The league is for children K-6th grade. The cost is \$30 if signed

up by Jan. 8, \$40 after. To register, times and other information, visit [www.bethanybiblechurch.com](http://www.bethanybiblechurch.com) or call (734) 697-7456.

\*\*\*

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

## VBT crews get car from sinkhole after accident, fix water main break

Van Buren Township Fire crews closed the I-94 North Service Drive on Monday afternoon, estimating it would take them 12 hours to remove a passenger vehicle that was stuck nose-down in a sinkhole near Borgman Road and fix a water main break.

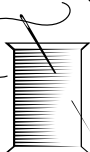
There was water everywhere, reported neighbors on Quirk Road.

VBT Police Lt. Ken Floro told the Detroit Free Press that the water main break caused the sinkhole and affected a few other utilities in the area. There were no injuries reported.

Neighbors reported a car had an accident with a fire hydrant and that started everything.

VBT Police issued a Nixle alert just after 2 a.m. Tuesday that the Service Drive had been reopened and crews had finished their work.

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# DDA Retirees

Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

At the Dec. 16 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, Carol Dolph, at right, accepted an honor for her ailing husband Jere Dolph, who resigned from the Downtown Development Authority due to health problems. At left is DDA Executive Director Susan Ireland and, center, DDA vice president Craig Atchinson. Dolph was one of the original members of the DDA, serving for 24 years. He has been president since 2001. The massive stroke he suffered will require a long recovery so he is stepping aside so a new member can be active with the group. He currently is in Superior Woods recuperating.

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At the Dec. 16 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, Pastor Jim Richter, at right, was honored after his resignation from the Downtown Development Authority was accepted. At left is DDA Executive Director Susan Ireland and, center, DDA vice president Craig Atchinson. Pastor Richter is pastor of Open Arms Lutheran Church, located just north of VBT Fire Station #2. He has been in the community for 13 years and joined the DDA in 2006. He soon will be leaving VBT to help a group of people start another church in Oswego, IL, 100 miles southwest of Chicago. VBT also honored him for his seven years of service as a Public Safety Chaplain.

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# Winners in Belleville



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman  
Evee, Elee, and Tracee Kloian of 253 Harbour Pointe Drive were presented with their award for the best house decorations in their subdivision by Mayor Kerreen Conley.



Herbert and Pat Happke of 235 Aberdeen Court were awarded top place in the Victoria Commons category. At left is Mayor Kerreen Conley.



Bob Brown earned the top award in the Business category in the Holiday Decorating Contest for his work on Barber Bob's at 151 Main Street. At left is Mayor Kerreen Conley.

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# VBT & Visteon

(continued from page 1)

The "full faith and credit" of the township means if the LDFA couldn't pay its bond payments because its tax payments from the former Visteon property are lower than originally expected, the township would have to pay.

And, paying the bond payments would be required above other township payments. That eventuality is expected to occur in 2016 or 2017. Recently, the township board has been meeting behind closed doors with attorneys figuring out how to handle that problem, but nothing has been publicly announced.

The resolution the LDFA passed gives authority to two people – LDFA Chairman Michael Dotson and VBT Supervisor Linda Combs – to be able to act quickly as individuals or together to approve the sale of the refunded bonds this spring to take advantage of a low-interest offer.

"We are taking out the old bonds and reissuing these in its place," Crowley said of the 2006 bonds.

He said they will be doing a negotiated sale, with no call for bids, and the authorized officers will make the decision.

"This is a refinancing of a refinancing," said Kari L. Blanchett, financial manager from The PFM Group.

She said the 2003 bonds are non-callable and the 2006 bonds are the only portion they can deal with.

"When we sell the bonds, the savings would be locked in," Blanchett said. "We just saw a dip down in rates the last two weeks."

She said the earliest they could sell the bonds is the first week in February.

"We're a little behind the 8 ball on Visteon and have to let them know," said LDFA member Doug Peters, referring to those who would be buying the bonds.

"The full faith and credit of the township will help a lot," Blanchett said.

"The only unknown is Visteon," said Crowley.

Peters said not to expect Visteon to come in and give them an armload of money.

Blanchett said the reason they need a delegating resolution for authorized officers is because they want to move in quicker to lock in the lower rates and don't want to have to wait to schedule it around an LDFA board meeting.

"We could lose hundreds of thousands of dollars by waiting," Blanchett said, noting she has been doing this for 30 years and saw when that happened.

She said if the bond sale offer was drastically different than what they expect, "You'd want to bring it back."

She said with a preselected underwriter, they got two bids back with similar rates and fees and they made sure they understood the situation with Visteon.

She said the underwriters are very busy right now.

She said both bids are under 4% interest: .317 or .318, but doesn't include the underwriters' and counsel fees. She said Dickenson Wright had a conflict of interest

and Miller Canfield has more experience.

When Carl Johnson asked from the audience if the end date of the bonds would be the same with the 2006 bonds, Blanchett said they would. They would be the same with an adjustment in interest rates for the 2006 bonds.

When the resolution pledging the township's full faith and credit was discussed at the board's Dec. 15 work/study session, Trustee Jeff Jahr objected to rushing into this.

Clerk Leon Wright said it was discussed for two or three hours in the recent closed-door session.

"No, it wasn't," Trustee Jahr replied. "We discussed different scenarios ... We can't talk publicly, but we've got a train coming down the track."

"I'm in full recognition of a train coming," Clerk Wright said.

"I don't think you can do this piecemeal," Jahr said, referring to the refinancing and the paying down.

"Our whole budget was not based on how much, how much it costs to pay down," said Trustee Reggie Miller.

"I still don't like the piecemeal," said Trustee Phil Hart. "Did we have a response?"

Supervisor Combs said there was no response.

"We need a response and if we don't get it then you need to reconvene this board and we'll give you direction," Trustee Hart said, referring to their confidential, closed-door talks.

"We can't not refinance the bonds," Combs said.

"Putting something down is closely related," said Trustee Miller. "You've got to know."

"The first strategy is that the bonds are recallable," said Trustee Brenda McClanahan.

"If this board needs to put something down..." Hart began and then ended his comments.

Later in the work/study session, Trustee Miller asked how much Visteon wants and Combs said they asked for \$2 million.

"If the board decides to put an amount down, it's separate ... the board can always make that decision," Wright said.

But Clark Hill attorney Crowley said at the Dec. 16 meeting that the refinancing and any pay down must be made at the same time.

"If you had extra money, or the LDFA did, at the time the refund bonds are issued you can put something down," Crowley said. "It has to happen all at once."

He said the new issue would not be callable.

"The township has to pledge the full faith and credit," said Jahr. "I'm ready to start talking about it at public meetings... We were discussing paying down."

"We don't want to lose the opportunity to pay down," said Trustee Hart.

Crowley said, "We won't do anything until everything is resolved."

Hart said it is the board's decision on how much it wants to pay down. Jahr said it's the

(Continued on page 13)

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PROFORM 460 Crosswalk Space Saver Treadmill. \$100 (734) 461-1671 1/01

## VEHICLE FOR SALE

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

1997 RANGER, 4cly, auto, 120,000. Clean inside and out. \$2,100 OBO. (734) 697-1417 call after 2 pm. 1/01

## 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

## WANTED

WANTED - POSITIVE Identification of the SCROOGE(S) who turned off the lights on our Community Christmas Tree. A.C.L.U? Atheists? City Hall? (734) 697-7805. 1/08

## FREE

LARRY BLAKE BAY POINTE DRIVE 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

TWO 27" COLOR TV'S (not flat screen). Great picture. Will deliver to seniors or disabled in area. Call Gary/Debbie (734) 461-2779 1/01

## FOUND

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

## FOR RENT

BEDROOM SUITE with attached bathroom. Garage, laundry & kitchen. Smoke free area. Pets okay. Female preferred. (734) 484-4874. 1/08

**The Belleville-Area Independent New Website is Now Online! Visit us @ [bellevilleareaindependent.com](http://bellevilleareaindependent.com) Read The Newspaper On The Web!**

## 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

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**Call FIRST CLASS LANDSCAPING**  
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**FREE ESTIMATES!!!**  
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**A&L SERVICES**  
**Home Improvement & Handyman Service**  
**Painting, Drywall, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Ceramic Tile, Kitchens & Bath.**  
**Serving Belleville Since 1995. Call Aaron Schultz @ 734-740-0628**

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\$20 House Call

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**PLUMBING • SEWER DRAINS • HANDYMAN**  
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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 & Visteon

(continued from page 12)

LDFA that has the bond and it won't come back to the township board for approval.

"I'm not going to do anything with the LDFA that you don't agree with," said Combs, one of the authorized officials who will make the decision.

"We need time," said Hart, "to decide how much money, if any, we want to throw into the mix."

Jahr said legal counsel said not to comment, but, "There is a train coming down the track and we can't just sit here smiling..."

Hart warned they just can't come back at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour for a buy-down.

## Independent

(continued from page 12)

The party to celebrate the completion of 20 years of publishing is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 9. Each guest is entitled to a free, personal, classified ad for three weeks - the regular \$10 offer.

The *Independent* started publishing its weekly newspaper on Jan. 5, 1995 and has published every Thursday since then - a total of 1,040 issues with today's edition.

## VBT Board

(continued from page 3)

and Gymnasium, including rules and regulations, application forms, and waiver of liability forms; and

• Approved the wage agreement between AFSCME Local 236 and the township, with 1.5% raises on Jan. 1, 2015 and 2016, 2.5% raises on Jan. 1, 2017 and Jan. 1, 2018; and a \$1 hour raise for custodians as of Jan. 1.

About half way through the proceedings of the 1-hour-and-45-minute meeting, Trustee Brenda McClanahan left the meeting because she said she was suffering from the flu. "I thought I'd be able to make it through the meeting, but I couldn't," she said later.

## Birthdays

Dec. 20 - Lt. Col. Tami Glascock  
Dec. 23 - Shelly Papineau  
Dec. 25 - Genevieve Riggs  
Dec. 29 - Tyler Moran  
Dec. 30 - Pam Mendis, Marc Littleton  
Dec. 31 - Josee Lee, Journy Long  
Jan. 1 - Judy Jordan

Do you have a birthday in January? 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.

"No man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar."

- Abraham Lincoln

## Court Watching

# Judge Oakley dismisses Romulus drug charge due to improper search

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

A driver who was pulled over for exiting a gas station without stopping at Wayne Road first had been charged with a possession of narcotics offense.

But after 34<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Brian Oakley heard all the evidence at her preliminary exam on Dec. 10, Courtney Marie Jordan walked out of the courtroom a free woman.

The only witness called by Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Blair Moody was Romulus Police Officer Ryan Miller, who had been on the department four years.

He testified that at 1:53 a.m. March 20 he and Officer Seth Bond were on patrol and saw a vehicle exit the Mobil gas station at the northwest corner of Wayne Road and Goddard. The vehicle pulled out of a private drive without stopping first, so her Nissan was pulled over.

Officer Miller, who had been driving the patrol car, said there was alcohol in the vehicle and the driver said she had a drink, at about 10:30 p.m. She passed the alcohol sobriety test.

Then, Officer Miller asked if he could search her car and she consented. In her purse on the front seat police found a Newport cigarette box with blue and green tablets inside. The evidence was sent to the Michigan State Police and identified as "oxycots," according to the lab report.

Retained defense attorney Jonathan Jones noted that Officer Miller did not write a traffic ticket for failing to stop when exiting a private drive.

Jones asked Miller what reason he had to search the vehicle and Miller replied, "None."

Miller said it's part of patrol operations, sometimes you do and sometimes no. You ask for permission.

"It's a routine practice in Romulus, whether you have a reason or not?" Jones asked, and Miller said it was routine.

Jones asked Miller if he saw criminal activity and he said he didn't. Was the defendant drunk? She wasn't.

Prosecutor Moody asked Miller why he asked for permission to search the car and although attorney Jones said it had been asked and answered, Judge Oakley allowed the question.

Miller said it was 3 o'clock in the morning

and she had left a bar where there are police activities for drug offenses.

"The police officer knows. It doesn't hurt to ask," Miller said.

Miller was excused from the witness stand.

"She wasn't intoxicated and she gave her consent," insisted Prosecutor Moody.

"To his credit, he was brutally honest when he said there was no reason to search the car," Jones said of Miller's testimony.

"She did consent," Moody insisted.

Jones said because a bar has a bad reputation, could every customer leaving be submitted to a search?

"With consent," Judge Oakley added, tongue in cheek.

"Did he need reasonable cause?" Judge Oakley asked.

"We are citizens of a free society, not living in a police state," Jones said. "He shouldn't have asked for consent to search."

"I agree with you," Judge Oakley said. "Case dismissed."



## KAREN'S PLACE

A Salon For Everyone

**36968 Huron River Drive  
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Appointments & Walk-ins Welcome  
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OPEN: Tues.- Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-3  
Our Salon Professionals include:  
**Karen - 49 Years Experience**  
**Amy - Formerly of Amy's Hair Shop**  
**Bonnie - Formerly of Perfect Image**

# \$2

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KAREN'S PLACE COUPON EXPIRES 12/31/2014

w/Ad

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**Cell: (734) 730-9733**

**BUDWEISER BOTTLES - \$2, WINE AVAILABLE!**

# CHINA KING

45915 S. I-94 Service Dr., Belleville  
Next to the Belleville Post Office  
**(734) 699-1550**  
See our menu online at [chinakingbelleville.com](http://chinakingbelleville.com)

**DOUBLE COMBINATION PLATES - \$9.25**  
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Any Entree (Includes Carry Out Orders)  
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**DINE-IN OR CARRY OUT  
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FRI. 11AM - 11PM  
SAT. 12PM-11PM  
SUN. 12PM-10PM

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# AT 5-POINTS

## Lonnie's Auto Repair

**STOP IN AND ASK  
ABOUT OUR SERPENTINE  
BELT SPECIAL STARTING  
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**50 South Street at 5-Points, Belleville • 734-325-7065**  
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**Cash Paid For Your Junk or**

# Wrecked Cars or Trucks!

**If You Can't Or Don't Want To**

**Donate It, call Us.**

**We Will Pick It Up Or You**

**Can Drive It In For More \$.**

**16007 Pardee, Taylor, Michigan**

# 734-282-1700



# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 16, 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: Deputy Director-Fire Department Besson, Secretary Montgomery, D D A Director Ireland, Developmental Services Consultant Sloan, Developmental Services Director Knowles, Attorney Crowley, DPW Director Taylor and an audience of seventeen. (17).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Hart moved, Wright seconded to approve the agenda titled Tentative Revised Agenda. Carried

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Hart moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. [Regular Board Meeting Minutes December 2, 2014; Work Study Session Minutes December 8, 2014; Voucher List of December 16, 2014; Prepaid Lists December 5, 2014 and December 11, 2014; Acceptance of the resignations of Jere Dolph and Pastor Jim Richter, appointment of Helen Foster with term to expire 3-9-18 and Christopher Brown with term to expire 3-9-17 to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA); Approval of the contract with McKenna Associates to provide on-going Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) administrative services and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement; Confirm the appointment of Robert Carlesso (Van Buren Public Schools Representative) with a term expiration of 8-12-15 to the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA); Approval of the Municipal Center, Community Center, Multi-Purpose Room and Gymnasium meeting rooms policy, rules and regulations and the application forms with release and waiver of liability; Approval of the Wage Agreement between AFSCME Local 236 and Van Buren Charter Township. Carried.

Treasurer Budd requested to move Correspondence before the Public Hearing.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** DDA Director Ireland presented service awards to Jere Dolph for twenty four years and Pastor Jim Richter for eight years of service to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA); Deputy Director Besson presented a service award to Pastor Jim Richter for seven years of service as a Public Safety Chaplin; Presentation by DPW Director Taylor on the proposed water and sewer rate increase.

Point of order was requested by a resident who indicated the presentation by DPW Director Taylor was not properly placed and should have been indicated under unfinished business to allow for public comment.

Supervisor Combs stated the first and second items under New Business are to consider approval of the water and sewer fee schedules and budgets and there will be an opportunity for public comment.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to open the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. No vote.

Point of order was requested by a resident who informed the Board that proper posting and procedures had not been followed regarding publication of the Notice of Public Hearing for the Budgets and copies of the budgets had not

been made available to the public in compliance with the law.

Supervisor Combs stated the Public Hearing would be postponed so proper procedures could be followed. Publication of Public Hearing notice regarding the Budgets will appear at least 7 days prior to a Public Hearing, Notice of Special Board Meeting will be posted and copies of the budgets will be available to the public at the Clerk's Office in compliance with the law. Jahr moved, Miller seconded to postpone the Public Hearing. Carried. Budd moved, Hart seconded to remove New Business items #1, #2, #5, #6 and #7. Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Residents expressed concern regarding the Budget, Landfill Fund, LDFA bonds, Museum and a Proposed Water and Sewer rate increase.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Hart moved, Budd seconded to adopt Resolution 2014-27 to reprogram 2012, 2013 and 2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administration funds in the amount of \$24,062.57, create a new project-Emergency Warning Outdoor Sirens and allocate the funds to the project. Carried.

Hart moved, Miller seconded to approve Resolution 2014-31 Pledging Township's Limited Tax General Obligation, full faith and credit, to payment of Tax Increment Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2015 of the Local Development Finance Authority of the Charter Township of Van Buren.

**REPORTS:** October 2014 Budgetary report was received and filed. Copies are available at the Clerk's Office.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Clerk Wright announced the Township Administrative offices will be closed December 24, 2014 through January 4, 2015; thanked the contributors to the "Coats for Schools Kids" drive and announced 10 coats were delivered to six Van Buren Public Schools on Friday December 12, 2014. Supervisor Combs, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, wished everyone a safe and happy holiday. Trustee Hart announced the Senior Christmas Party was a great success and everyone had a wonderful time. Deputy Director Besson announced that donations for the Water's Edge Fire Victims were being accepted by Belleville Pointe Apartments, The Red Cross and several civic groups in the community. Supervisor Combs thanked the Recreation and Senior Department staff who assisted in transporting those displaced by the Water's Edge Apartment Fire to the Township until the Red Cross could arrive.

**AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items):** Resident commented on: freedom of speech when public comments stated are factual; Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) bylaws, bonds and member attendance. Resident asked for clarification on when the Special Board of Trustees meeting would be held. Supervisor Combs advised resident that notice of the meeting would be posted as soon as a Public Hearing publication date could be determined.

**CLOSED SESSION:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Hart moved, Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Carried. Respectfully submitted,  
Leon Wright, Township Clerk  
Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor  
Published: Dec. 25, 2014

## Upcoming Meetings

- Tuesday, Dec. 30 – Van Buren Township budget public hearing at 4 p.m. in the board room at township hall. To receive comment on and vote on the 2014 amended general fund budget, the 2015 proposed general fund budget, and eight special revenue funds.

- Monday, Jan. 5 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

- Thursday, Jan. 8 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m., required meeting. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

- Monday, Jan. 12 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m.

- Tuesday, Jan. 13 – Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library meeting at 7 p.m.

- Tuesday, Jan. 20 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, Jan. 27 –Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

- Monday, Feb. 2 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, Feb. 3 – Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m.

"You have to be odd to be number one."  
— Dr. Seuss

## Public Auction Notice

### MICHIGAN STATE POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

#### NOTICE OF AUCTION FOR MICHIGAN STATE POLICE AT J&T CROVA TOWING 36573 GRANT RD., ROMULUS, MI WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

2000 FORD FOCUS	1FAFP3834YW127385	2001 CHEVROLET IMPALA	2G1WF55EX19363061
1996 SAAB 900 SE	YS3DF58N5T2032330	2002 CHEVROLET IMPALA	2G1WH55K229374637
1995 FORD MUSTANG GT	1FALP42F65F119815	1997 DODGE STRATUS	1B3EJ46X5VN617887
2003 TOYOTA CAMRY	4T1BF32K13U564000	1999 OLDS SILHOUETTE	1GHDXX03E2XD210438
1996 FORD WINDSTAR	2FMDA5149TBC03206	2003 FORD EXPLORER	1FMZU70E13UA95645
1998 FORD ESCORT	3FALP1133WR133731	1998 FORD ESCORT	3FAKP113XWR189497
2000 OLDS ALERO	1G3NK12T8YC321856	1994 FORD EXPLORER	1FMZU34X1RUD20282
2002 FORD EXPLORER	1FMZU63K52UD44572	1992 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL	1LNLM9746NY706182
2007 CHEVROLET HHR	3GNDA13D07S623390	2003 LINCOLN TOWNCAR	1LNHM83W43Y604058
1999 FORD ESCORT	1FAFP13P7XW115986	1992 CHEVROLET CAPRICE	1G1BN53E6NR104941
2003 SATURN I200	1G8JU54F63Y569892	1995 HONDA ACCORD	1HGCE1899SA006658
1991 FORD TEMPO	1FAFP37X7MK199532	2000 CHEVROLET MALIBU	1G1NE52J5Y6144641
2001 DODGE STRATUS	1B3EJ46X71N644986	2001 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE	4A3AE45G91E187386
2002 OLDS ALERO	1G3NL52F72C241907	1999 SUBARU OUTBACK	4S3BG6853X7641474
1987 HONDA CIVIC	JHMEC1342HS037230	2002 CHEVROLET CAVALIER	1G1JC524527194293
2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER	1GNDT13X54K111314	1998 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER	4M2ZU55P8WUJ47791
2005 CHRYSLER 300	2C3AA53G75H588347	2005 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX	2G2WP522151281016
2002 LINCOLN LS	1LNH86SX2Y678382	2001 PONTIAC GRAND AM	1G2NW52E61C134400
2000 PONTIAC GRAND AM	1G2NV52E6YM763419	2003 FORD EXPLORER	1FMZU72K33UA92331
2000 PLYMOUTH VOYAGER	2P4GP44GX9R603155	2002 LINCOLN LS	1LNHM87A72Y704944
1994 LINCOLN TOWNCAR	1LNLM82W8RY672383	1998 FORD ESCORT	1FAFP13POW233067
1992 TOYOTA CAMRY	4T1SK11E6NU024222	1997 VW JETTA	3VWSB81H7VM100166
2008 JEEP PATRIOT	1J8FF28W28D648305	1996 FORD TAURUS	1FALP52U9TG284199
1995 DODGE RAM	3B7KC23W8SM179609	2002 CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO	2G1WW12E329194340
1988 FORD F-150	1FTDF15Y3JLA20246	2002 FORD TAURUS	1FAHP56S52A116351
2000 CHEVROLET VENTURE	1GNDX03EXYD113079	1993 DODGE SHADOW	1B3XP64KXPN546893
2006 PONTIAC G6	1G2ZG558064146869	2002 FORD ESCORT	3FAFP13PX2R103620
2000 CADILLAC CTS	1G6DM57T460213239	2002 HONDA ACCORD	1HGCG56752A085698
1999 PONTIAC GRAND AM	1G2NE52T5XC573632	2001 FORD TAURUS	1FAFP53U91A175818
2000 AUDI A4	WAUKC68DOYA168475		



# Belleville Mill to close its doors after 56 years of service to community

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

John Hoops announced Monday that the Belleville Mill will be closing its doors at the end of the business day on Dec. 31.

The mill has been serving the Belleville community for 56 years under the ownership of the Hoops family. It is located next to the railroad track between Savage Road/East Columbia Ave. and South Street in the City of Belleville.

John Hoops said the pending decision

to close the business is why he backed off from a sure reappointment to the Belleville Downtown Development Authority in December, saying he would let them know his decision in January.

Hoops is the current president of the Belleville DDA.

He said the decision to close the business was based on several factors, including rising costs and not being able to make the business strong.

**One Call Does It All...  
...At The Independent  
734-699-9020**

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.**, in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan to consider a request to rezone the following described parcels.

Parcel tax ID numbers **V-125-83-018-02-0134-006, -007, -008, -009, and -010, also known as 49230 Michigan Ave. and 5825 Denton Road**, are the subject parcels of this hearing. The subject parcels combined measure approximately 1.99 acres. This property is located around the northeast corner of Michigan Ave. and Denton Rd.



The applicant, Denton Partners, LLC, is requesting this rezoning action. The Public Hearing is in regards to amending the Charter Township of Van Buren Zoning Ordinance 06-02-92, as amended, zoning map by rezoning the subject property from **C (Local Business) to C-1 (General Business)**.

Written comments will be accepted by the Planning and Economic Development Department until 4:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations will be made available with advance notice.

Posted: December 19, 2014  
Published: December 25, 2014

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

On Wednesday, December 31, 2014, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at **Great Lakes Towing** and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1993	TOYOTA	4D	4T1SK12E5PU227409	14-18899
2005	BUICK	4D	2G4WD532751284114	14-20601
1998	DODGE	SW	1B4GP44G8WB741001	14-21248
2003	FORD	SW	1FMZU73K53ZB12208	14-21439
2001	DODGE	PU	3B7HC13Y31G738972	14-21557

All vehicles are sold in "as is condition." Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Leon Wright, CMC  
Van Buren Township Clerk  
Published: December 25, 2014

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, and County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on **Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** and **Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** regarding the proposed use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The following projects are being proposed for the use of these federal funds for the period beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016:

#### OBJECTIVES:

- A) To provide the benefits of using CDBG funding directly to persons of low- to moderate-income and/or areas where 51% of the residents are of low- to moderate-income.
- B) To reduce negative environmental impacts.
- C) To maintain a high level of performance in the management of CDBG non-federally funded programs.
- D) To improve the quality of life for low- to moderate-income persons.
- E) To create affordable housing for low-income households.

#### ESTIMATED FUNDING

\$89,921  
\$8,992  
\$8,992  
\$5,995  
\$5,995

#### PROPOSED PROJECTS

Public Facilities  
Youth Services  
Senior Services  
Planning  
Administration

(Combined total of Planning and Administration cannot exceed 10% of total allocation)

The following items are contingent upon the availability of funds and may vary depending upon:

- The repayment of prior Housing Rehabilitation loans through lien pay-offs.

\$ 5,000

Program Income (Housing Rehabilitation)

**\$124,895**

**Total Proposed Allocation (estimate)**

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 4:00 p.m., the hearing dates.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should contact the Planning and Economic Development Department at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting to request accommodations.

Posted: December 17, 2014  
Published: December 25, 2014



# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, and County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on **Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.** to consider a Special Land Use request on the following described property.

Parcel number V125-83-059-01-0013-000, also known as 10705 Belleville Road, and the northerly half (approximately 33 feet) of the parcel to the south, are the subject of this hearing. The site is approximately 1.98 acres and is located in the C-1, General Business Zoning District. This site is located on the east side of Belleville Road, north of the I-94 Service Drive.

The applicant, Bellevue Development, LLC, is requesting approval of a drive-through restaurant. A drive-through restaurant is a Special Land Use in the C-1 District, and a proposed Special Land Use requires a public hearing. This hearing is being held in accordance with Section 12.03 (Permitted Uses With Special Approval) of the Zoning Ordinance.

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 4:00 p.m., the hearing date.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should contact the Planning and Economic Development Department at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting to request accommodations.

Posted: December 19, 2014  
Published: December 25, 2014

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

# Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Tuesday, Dec. 30** – This is the deadline for the Independent writing contest that will bring the winner a \$100 prize, with \$50 and \$25 prizes, as well. Just write, in 300 words or less, what was your favorite Independent story in the last 20 years, the most important story in the last 20 years, why the paper is important to you or what story you think the Independent missed in the last 20 years. Get it to the Independent by 4 p.m. Information, (734) 699-9020.

• **Wednesday, Dec. 31** – New Year's Eve Bash at the Moose Lodge at the corner of Sumpter and Harris roads, 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. featuring Southern Heat Band, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Dinner, 7-9 p.m. Dancing, champagne toast, door prizes and midnight munchies. Tickets \$20 each in advance; \$25 at the door. Tickets on sale at the lodge.

• **Wednesday, Dec. 31** – Celebrate New Year's Eve at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Road, Van Buren Township. Cocktail hour 6-7 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Music by Second Wind, classic rock. Tickets are \$30 which include dinner, champagne, party favors, pizza after midnight and entertainment. Call (734) 787-2255 or (810) 247-0914 for tickets.

• **Friday, Jan. 9** – Help the *Belleville-Area Independent* celebrate completion of its 20<sup>th</sup> year of publishing, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the newspaper office, 512 Main Street,

Belleville. Each person attending is entitled to a free classified ad for three weeks – regularly offered for \$10. Refreshments and fun.

• **Saturday, Jan. 17** – Wayne County Fair Association invites you to the annual Wild Game benefit dinner at the fairgrounds. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:15. Pre-sale tickets \$30; at the door, \$35. Door prizes and raffles. Information (734) 942-1684; (734) 799-3692, Proceeds go to the upkeep of the fairgrounds.

• **Sunday, Jan. 18** – Off-leash playtime at 2 p.m. with other friendly Pugs and Pug owners in the Abbott Building at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Road, Van Buren Township. FREE, but donations accepted. You Pugs will love you for their new social life! [www.meetup.com/semichiganpugs](http://www.meetup.com/semichiganpugs)

• **Saturday, Jan. 31** – St. Anthony Men's Club Holiday Dance, Mardi Gras, in the Father Folta building behind the church. Tickets, \$30 per person. Call Garden Fantasy for information, (734) 699-7370.

• **Saturday, Feb. 21** – Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, Second-Annual Cabin Fever Bowling Fundraiser at Thunderbowl Lanes, 4200 Allen Rd., Allen Park. Check in 4:30 p.m.; 5 p.m. start time. \$20 per person, includes three hours of bowling, pizza and pop. Pre-registration by Feb. 10. Questions: Pat Clemens (313) 319-4715 or (734) 461-9458 or email [pado01@att.net](mailto:pado01@att.net).

# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REPROGRAMMING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, and County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on **Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** regarding the proposed use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the reprogramming / transfer of the following funds and the creation of a new project to install four (4) emergency outdoor warning sirens in Low/Moderate Income Areas.

### Qualifying the Project

The emergency outdoor warning siren project would meet the qualifying standards for CDBG projects as follow:

- National Objective – LMA, Low/Moderate Income Area
- Eligible Activity – Public Facilities and Improvements (HUD Matrix Code 03)

The Township will comply with all CDBG regulations pertaining LMA project qualification.

### Proposed Funding Sources

The cost of the emergency outdoor warning sirens is estimated at \$77,800. The Township proposes to use the following estimated funding:

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| • Reprogram (transfer) 2012 balances:                      |                    |
| o Activity #12-30-14A, Countywide Housing Rehabilitation - | \$17,588.67        |
| • Reprogram (transfer) 2013 balances:                      |                    |
| o Activity #13-30-14A, Countywide Housing Rehabilitation - | \$9,074.33         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$26,663.00</b> |

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 4:00 p.m., the hearing date.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should contact the Planning and Economic Development Department at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting to request accommodations.

Posted: December 17, 2014  
Published: December 25, 2014



**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



## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*The following are selected calls for VBT Police.*

**Sunday, Dec. 14:**  
0018 – disorderly conduct, Belleville Rd.  
0223 – operating while intoxicated, Taco Bell / Rawsonville  
0338 – suspicious situation, Westlake Bldg. 15  
0356 – indecent exposure, Belleville  
0520 – suspicious situation, Southport B19  
1131 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.  
1155 – property damage accident, Van Born / Haggerty  
1237 – disturbance, Ayres Ave.  
1338 – personal injury accident, EB I-94/Belleville  
1341 – suicide or attempt, Ayres Ave.  
1711 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1917 – assault & battery, Rickman Dr.  
2036 – intimidation threat, Maurice Dr.  
2226 – missing person, Lindsey Dr.

**Monday, Dec. 15:**  
0437 – malicious destruction of property, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
0655 – suspicious person, Richard Run  
0832 – larceny from auto, S. Bellridge Dr.  
1413 – E-911 hang up/investigation, N. Bellridge  
1440 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1503 – assault & battery, N. Bellridge Dr.  
1519 – larceny, Water's Edge Ln.  
1614 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.  
1740 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Tyler Rd.  
1741 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Village Green  
1830 – E-911 cellular, Mott  
2155 – assault & battery, N. Timberview Dr.  
2206 – suspicious situation, Rickman Dr.  
2214 – malicious destruction of property, Rose Blvd.  
2221 – neighbor trouble, Rose  
2346 – breaking & entering, Westlake

**Tuesday, Dec. 16:**  
0004 – noise complaint, Wheeler St.  
0223 – E-911 cellular, Hannan Rd.  
0506 – agency assist, Belle Villa  
0628 – assault & battery, Kirkridge Park Dr.  
0824 – suspicious person, McBride Ave.  
0851 – personal injury accident, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.  
1059 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Capitol Dr.  
1147 – intrusion alarm, Kirkridge Park Dr.  
1223 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.  
1311 – breaking & entering, Haggerty Rd.  
1330 – assault & battery, Rawsonville  
1534 – private property accident, Denton Rd.  
1642 – assist fire dept., WB I-94/Haggerty  
1649 – narcotics crime, Mida  
1657 – fraud, Belleville  
1701 – disorderly conduct, Ecorse  
1722 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1728 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.  
1846 – missing person, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1853 – intimidation threat, Richard Run  
1910 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2210 – assault & battery, Ironwood Dr.  
2222 – hospice, S. I-94 Service Dr.

**Wednesday, Dec. 17:**  
0012 – fight, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0330 – larceny from auto, Lighthouse Dr.  
0612 – shots fired, Van Buren Park  
0855 – larceny, Oak Ln.  
1046 – disturbance, Stamford Rd.  
1059 – suicide or attempt, Western St.  
1219 – assault & battery, Park Estates  
1301 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Assembly St.  
1351 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.  
1412 – suspicious person, Rawsonville Taco Bell  
1546 – disturbance, Village Green Ln.  
1834 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1848 – narcotics crime, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
1911 – holdup alarm, Belleville Rd.  
1955 – mental, Denton Rd.

**Thursday, Dec. 18:**  
0451 – hospice, Lake Pointe Blvd.  
0844 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
0918 – private property accident, S. I-94 Service  
1025 – larceny, Water's Edge Ln.

1156 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1221 – private property accident, Van Born Rd.  
1301 – suicide or attempt, Belleville  
1323 – suspicious situation, Country Walk  
1406 – fraud, Hardwood Dr.  
1437 – suspicious person, Meadows Cir.  
1553 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Haggerty  
1631 – assist fire dept., Water's Edge Ln.  
1922 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.  
1949 – parking complaint, French Landing Park  
2032 – mental, Borgman Ave.  
2237 – property damage accident, Hannan/I-275  
2302 – property damage accident, US 12 bypass /

Ecorse  
2352 – property damage accident, Hannan/I-275  
**Friday, Dec. 19:**  
0015 – PPO violation, Oak Ln.  
0033 – suicide or attempt, Maple Dr.  
0232 – intimidation threat, Parkwood Dr.  
0731 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler  
1032 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1455 – juvenile complaint, Tyler  
1709 – harassment call, Savage  
1928 – assault & battery, Van Buren St.  
2123 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2246 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.  
2343 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

**Saturday, Dec. 20:**  
0009 – noise complaint, Meadows Cir.  
0148 – retail fraud, Belleville  
0320 – missing person, Van Buren St.  
0659 – malicious destruction of property, Parkwood Dr.  
1108 – violation of public health code/violation controlled substance act, Wildflower Ct.  
1242 – missing person, Van Buren St.  
1304 – larceny, Harmony Ln.  
1531 – disorderly conduct, Belleville  
1622 – disorderly conduct, Parkside Dr.  
1741 – personal injury accident, EB I-94 / Belleville

1825 – assault & battery, Village Green Ln.  
2134 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2248 – intimidation threat, Parkwood Dr.  
2255 – suspicious situation, Westlake  
2308 – E-911 hang up/investigation, JT Bar  
Also on this week's log are 107 traffic stops, 12 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, Dec 14:**  
0523 – assist fire dept., Henry St.  
0957 – welfare check, Denton/Bridge  
1011 – property damage accident, Loza Ln.  
1304 – welfare check, Main St.  
1423 – lost property, W. Columbia Ave.  
2105 – civil matter, Main St.  
2217 – information, Main St./Fourth St.  
**Monday, Dec. 15:**  
0817 – found property, Main St.  
1011 – suspicious person, Light Tower Dr.  
1537 – disorderly conduct, S. Industrial Park Dr.  
1554 – warrant arrest, Main St.  
1633 – found property, Main St.  
1804 – shots fired, Victorian Court

**Tuesday, Dec. 16:**  
0456 – suspicious situation, Belle Villa  
0752 – assist fire dept., Victorian Ln.  
0907 – information, S. Industrial Park Dr.  
1602 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
2213 – parking complaint, Oxford Ct.  
2333 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

**Wednesday, Dec. 17:**  
0027 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
0028 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
1203 – domestic assault, Belle Villa Blvd.  
1251 – trespassing, Tuscan Manor  
1512 – miscellaneous complaint, Main St.  
1914 – intrusion alarm, Main St.  
2112 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.

**Thursday, Dec. 18:**  
1211 – vehicle lockout, Sumpter Rd./Industrial Park Dr.  
1405 – suspicious person, Century 21  
1624 – private property accident, Menlo Park Dr.

1635 – animal complaint, Second St.  
1716 – lost property, Charter One  
1904 – private property accident, W. Columbia  
1933 – parking complaint, W. Columbia Ave.  
2139 – animal complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.

**Friday, Dec. 19:**  
0054 – assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave.  
0123 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
0135 – fire investigation, Menlo Park Dr.  
1215 – disorderly conduct, Main St.  
1300 – neighbor trouble, Menlo Park  
1459 – property damage accident, Main/Denton  
1703 – ATV/ORV complaint, Main St.  
1708 – juvenile complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.  
1722 – traffic complaint, Sumpter/Bemis  
2021 – vehicle lockout, Dos Rios St.  
2234 – intimidation threat, Lakeview Tavern

**Saturday, Dec. 20:**  
1301 – agency assist, W. Adams  
1318 – information, Main St.  
2142 – parking complaint, Harbour Pointe Dr.  
Also on this week's log are 31 traffic stops.

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, Dec. 14:**  
0044 – alarm, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.  
0104 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0743 – juvenile complaint, Sumpter/Dunn  
0900 – fire dept. assist, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1028 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1534 – dumping complaint, Arkona/Sumpter  
1551 – property damage accident, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.  
1602 – malicious destruction of property, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1642 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Morton Ave.  
1952 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

**Monday, Dec. 15:**  
0213 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1015 – animal complaint, 21000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
1054 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1057 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1542 – citizen assist, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1641 – suspicious incident, Bemis/Sumpter  
1907 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2204 – suspicious incident, Savage/Clark  
2252 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Arkona Rd.  
2328 – alarm, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.

**Tuesday, Dec. 16:**  
0051 – alarm, 18000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
0238 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico  
0443 – alarm, 18000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
0830 – fire dept. assist, Nevada  
0842 – suspicious incident, Sumpter/Willis  
1005 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1102 – animal complaint, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1104 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1235 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
1304 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.  
1323 – animal complaint, 51000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1351 – property damage accident, 49000 bl. Willis  
1831 – harassment complaint, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.

**Wednesday, Dec. 17:**  
0433 – fire dept. assist, 6400 bl. Oakville Waltz  
0449 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0756 – breaking & entering report, 6200 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.  
0930 – civil dispute, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
1257 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1444 – suspicious incident, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1613 – disorderly person, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.  
1714 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
1818 – property damage accident, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2026 – animal complaint, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.  
2115 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.

**Thursday, Dec. 18:**  
0259 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0704 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0902 – suspicious vehicle, Clay/Sumpter  
1059 – neighbor dispute, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1224 – missing person, 28000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1319 – civil dispute, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
1415 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz/ Sherwood

1619 – juvenile complaint, 6700 bl. Oakville Waltz  
1649 – civil dispute, 21000 bl. Willmot Rd.  
1820 – warrant arrest, 6700 l. Oakville Waltz Rd.  
1941 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1952 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.  
2005 – threats complaint, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.  
2144 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Rustic Ln.

**Friday, Dec. 19:**  
0028 – assist other agency, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.  
0133 – fire dept. assist, 8700 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
0852 – property damage accident, 12000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

0953 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1053 – breaking & entering report, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1215 – suspicious incident, 21000 bl. Fenster  
1519 – civil dispute, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.  
1547 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1619 – suspicious person, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1733 – assist other agency, Vermont  
1752 – suspicious incident, 13000 bl. Rawsonville  
2212 – traffic hazard, Sumpter/Judd  
2332 – suspicious incident, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

**Saturday, Dec. 20:**  
0226 – assist other agency, out of township  
0346 – suspicious incident, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
0552 – suspicious vehicle, 8100 bl. Rawsonville  
0608 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1428 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Claxton Dr.  
1910 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2127 – suspicious incident, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2241 – warrant arrest, out of township

Also on this week's log are 11 follow-up investigations, 38 miscellaneous details, 204 patrol checks, and 67 traffic stops.

## More Letters

## Thanks to those who helped at my accident

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, I was involved in a serious auto accident at the corner of Huron River Drive and Rawsonville Road.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank from the bottom of my heart the two passers-by (one woman and one man) who stopped to render assistance to me while waiting for the ambulance to arrive. I did not get their names but they go to the top of my gratitude list.

Their presence helped to keep me calm and quiet while I waited for the ambulance. The ambulance crew was especially helpful and professional.

Sincerely,  
Glenice Bosman

## Bayou Grill offered fire victims free food

To the Editor:

Please publicize the Bayou Grill helping the fire victims of Water's Edge Apts. They are going above and beyond by offering these people meals at no charge for one whole month!

The owners of this wonderful restaurant in town are Angels from Heaven! Words cannot express the gratitude for their kindness, compassion and generosity.

Judy Hashek





## Orphan of the Week

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue

**“MISHKA”**



In our opinion there's nothing better than doggie kisses to brighten your day and our **Mishka** gives the best ones in town! She's a 6 ½ year old Australian Cattle dog mix with a fun-loving, energetic and engaging personality who enjoys spending time with people and giving away her awesome doggie kisses. Middle age hasn't slowed this girl down either; she's jam-packed with energy and will need an equally active family to keep up with her. Her two favorite pastimes are playing a good game of fetch in the yard and taking an exciting walk with her people friends. **Mishka** is a very social girl and loves being in the company of people so it will be important she get lots of quality time with her humans in her forever home. Some basic training once in a home will also benefit her by reinforcing good behaviors and forming strong bonds with her new family. **Mishka** can be a real take charge type of gal and she tends to let her natural herding tendency take over with other dogs when not corrected. She also may decide smaller kids need some herding too so a home with older kids would be a better fit for her. She's spayed, vaccinated and micro-chipped. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more info.



Independent photo by Bob Mytych  
On Dec. 13 The Q Banquet & Event Center held its grand opening and ribbon-cutting at 879 Sumpter Road in Belleville. Gina and Greg Hamilton cut the ribbon for their business with members of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce.



*From All Of Us At The Belleville Independent!*



From left: Rosemary Otzman, Janet Millard, James Otzman, Bob Mytych



Hours:  
Monday - Saturday 6am - 10pm  
Sunday 7am - 9pm

**734-697-1000**

9624 Belleville Rd.  
Belleville, MI

[www.leosconeyisland.com](http://www.leosconeyisland.com)

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Just **\$7.99**  
INCLUDES  
FRIES & POP

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  - **Texas Burger** ½ lb. Burger with Bacon, Cheese & BBQ Sauce
  - **Belleville Burger** With Coleslaw, Red Onions & American Cheese
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**— MONDAYS —**  
ENJOY OUR CLOWN,  
FACE PAINTING & BALLOONS  
6-8PM

### Check Out These Offers!

**Buy 5 Cones, Get 1 Free!**

*Not valid on Mondays.*  
With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.

**10% OFF**  
**Your Entire Bill**

With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.

**\$2 OFF**  
**Your Entire Bill**  
of \$20 or More

With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.

**Buy 1 Dinner, Get 1 Half Off**

With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.

### BREAKFAST SPECIALS

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
**6am - 11am**  
**Starting at only \$2.49**  
*No Coupon Needed!*



“Out of clutter, find simplicity.”  
— Albert Einstein





### 2014 FOCUS SE

Leather, Heated Seats  
24 month lease for  
**\$120/mo.\***  
**REBATES UP TO \$4,000.**  
**BUY AS LOW AS \$16,561**



## OUR HOLIDAY SAVINGS EVENT IS UNDERWAY AT ATCHINSON FORD!

**New  
DETAIL SHOP  
NOW OPEN!**



### 2014 F-150 SUPERCAB XLT

Leather Seats  
24 month lease for  
**\$241/mo.\***  
**REBATES UP TO \$6,500.**  
**BUY AS LOW AS \$31,068**

### USED CAR SPECIAL



### 2010 TAURUS LIMITED

Leather Seats  
**\$12,999**



### 2015 FUSION SE

24 month lease for  
**\$128/mo.\***  
**REBATES UP TO \$3,500.**  
**BUY AS LOW AS \$18,600**



### 2014 EDGE SE

24 month lease for  
**\$218/mo.\***  
**REBATES UP TO \$4,500. BUY AS LOW AS \$23,435**



### 2015 ESCAPE SE

24 month lease for  
**\$128/mo.\***  
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Belleville, MI 48111

**734-697-9161**  
**www.atchinson.net**



**RE/MAX**

**CROSSROADS III**

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Belleville, Michigan 48111

email: mrsold@mrsold.com

**GLENN SILVENIS**

**(734) 699-4000**

**www.MrSold.com**

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**41525 TYLER, VAN BUREN**  
**BECAUSE YOU DESERVE IT!** Ultra move in condition 4 bedroom, 2 bath Full brick ranch with premium kitchen, fireplace, newer carpet, and floor coverings. 3 seasons room, full finished basement with bar, Large 2+ Acre parcel with huge pole barn. \$244,900



**132 N LIBERTY, BELLEVILLE**  
**MULTI MILLION DOLLAR VIEWS** Updated 3 Bedroom Belleville Lake Home. Lakefront views from doorwalls & master bedroom, updated kitchen, newer roof, walkout deck from large family room w fireplace. New flooring, paint walkout basement \$269,900.



**9502 HAGGERTY, VAN BUREN**  
**CAR COLLECTORS DREAM!** Load up the pole barns with 30+ cars! 5+ acre brick ranch offering 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, finished basement plus large family room & bar and NEW ROOF (2014). Paved street and 2 huge pole barns. Possible rezoning to commercial use. \$214,900



**9019 COGSWELL, ROMULUS**  
**WAKE UP TO EXCITEMENT EVERY MORNING** in this 4,900 sf masterpiece. Only the finest of construction with 4 large bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths, 2 fireplaces, marble floors, 2 master bedrooms with Jacuzzis, finished basement, 2 bars, 3 car attached and 2 car detached garages. On 4 manicured acres. \$499,900.



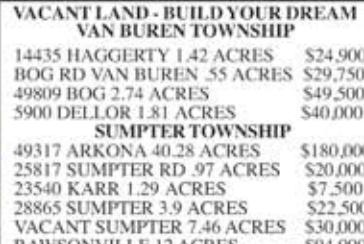
**45205 JEANETTE, VAN BUREN**  
**CITY CLOSE - COUNTRY COMFORT - CURB APPEAL PLUS.** Lots to love in this Large Parcel 4 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath Colonial. Hardwood floors, Large living room, 2 1/2 Car attached garage and Huge Detached Barn with Loft. Paved street, Wonderful Neighborhood and Minutes from all Freeways. \$165,900



**19350 SUMPTER RD, SUMPTER TWP**  
**GREAT LOCATION** with little competition. 4,100+ square foot set up for a bar/ restaurant or pizzeria. Most equipment could be included. Looks great and shows even better. Plenty of parking on 2+ acres. A Best Buy investment property at only \$387,000



**429 HARBOUR POINTE, BELLEVILLE**  
**CUSTOM BUILT** brick & vinyl 3 bedroom home with large master suite, sitting room and huge master bath, hardwood floors, double fireplaces, 2 1/2 baths, large basement, three seasons room and deck. 2 1/2 car attached garage. Great neighborhood. \$179,900.



**VACANT LAND - BUILD YOUR DREAM VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP**

14435 HAGGERTY 1.42 ACRES	\$24,900
BOG RD VAN BUREN .55 ACRES	\$29,750
49809 BOG 2.74 ACRES	\$49,500
5900 DELLOR 1.81 ACRES	\$40,000
<b>SUMPTER TOWNSHIP</b>	
49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES	\$180,000
25817 SUMPTER RD .97 ACRES	\$20,000
23540 KARR 1.29 ACRES	\$7,500
28865 SUMPTER 3.9 ACRES	\$22,500
VACANT SUMPTER 7.46 ACRES	\$30,000
RAWSONVILLE 12 ACRES	\$94,900
WEAR ROAD 10 ACRES	\$49,900



**14015 HAGGERTY, VAN BUREN**  
**APPETITE FOR AN ACRE?** Country vinyl ranch featuring 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, Brand New Furnace and Brand New Water Heater. Close to Lower Huron Metro Park, Freeways, Metro Airport and Shopping. Paved Street and paved drive plus TWO - 2 1/2 CAR GARAGES make this a must see property. \$109,900



**500 HURON RIVER DR, BELLEVILLE**  
**HIGHEST QUALITY!** Brick Commercial building in the City of Belleville. Former florist, coffee house, and bakery with potential for immediate franchise opportunity The quality, potential and design of this newer (2002) constructed building are beyond description. \$795,000