



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 20.49 Thursday, December 4, 2014

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

It's Winter Fest week end in the City of Belleville

Winter Fest is this week end in the City of Belleville with ice sculptures on display along Main Street beginning on Friday.

On Friday there will be a live ice carver from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce. Carolers will be out from 3 to 5 p.m. and there's ice skating at the Fourth Street Square from 3 to 9 p.m.

Country Singer Jen Lawson will perform 5-6 p.m. and Bates hot dog stand will be in the museum area.

Conference bike rides will be in the museum area from 4 to 6 p.m. and the museum will be open so people can tour the Festival of Trees.

Fireworks over the lake will begin at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, the Jingle Bell 5K Fun Run/Walk begins at the Horizon Park gazebo at 9:45 a.m. It is being put on by the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation. All race activities are scheduled to be over by 11:30 a.m.

Ice skating continues at the Fourth Street Square from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., courtesy of the BYC. Conference bike rides are from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the museum area and a live ice carver will carve from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Chamber office.

At 3 p.m. the Belleville Area District Library will offer Gingerbread Man Decorating and a horse-drawn carriage will offer rides from 2 to 4:30 p.m. across from the Fourth Street Square.

A Soup Crawl is planned from 2 to 6 p.m. in the Fourth Street Square Area and includes CBC, Egan's Pub, Deb's Catering, Twisted Rooster, and Woodstone Grill.

A Kids Fun Zone will run from noon to 4:30 p.m. with a Bouncy House by the Chamber. There will be crafts, popcorn and cider with the Belleville Area Council for the Arts.

Carolers will sing from 2 to 4 p.m.

The lighted Christmas Parade, bringing

Santa to town, starts at 4:30 p.m. from Belleville High School and goes down W. Columbia Ave. to Five Points and then up Main Street to the museum.

Santa is scheduled to draw the winning ticket for the Chamber's Car Raffle.

The museum will be open so people can view the Festival of Trees.

After the parade, the City's Christmas Tree will be lighted in the front yard of the Belleville Area Museum.

Also, after the parade, the First United Methodist Church will host a Living Nativity Scene and also a Meet with Santa event.

On Sunday, ice skating continues on the Fourth Street Square from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Skates will be available.



Independent photo by Bob Mytych

Last year's Christmas Parade featured these Rosy the Riveters promoting the saving of the Bomber Plant for an air museum. That drive was successful and so, in Saturday's parade, there will be other local floats. The lighted parade kicks off at 4:30 p.m. from the high school and will bring Santa to town.

John Morgan is new Sumpter Township Supervisor

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its Nov. 25 meeting, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees accepted the resignation letter of Supervisor Johnny Vawters, with regrets, and then unanimously named Treasurer John Morgan as the new supervisor.

Treasurer Morgan had been serving as Acting Supervisor since the vacancy occurred.

Since the Treasurer's position was now vacant, the board voted unanimously to make Trustee Alan Bates the new Treasurer.

Since a trustee position was now vacant, the board voted, on a split vote, to make planning commission member Matthew Oddy the new township trustee.



John Morgan

All these positions are until the next election in 2016.

Supervisor Vawters' letter was short:

"Due to medical circumstances, I will be unable to continue my position as Supervisor to the Township of Sumpter.

"Effective Nov. 20, 2014, I hereby resign as Supervisor of the Township of Sumpter. I would like to thank all the citizens of Sumpter Township, township employees, and fellow Township Board members for allowing me to serve the last 10 years as Supervisor. It has been my honor.

"Let me extend my good wishes to all and future success.

"Sincerely, Johnny Vawters."

It has been more than a year that Vawters has been off the job following a stroke.

Township attorney Rob Young led the board through the legal steps they had to take since Vawters' resignation was effective immediately. He said the township had a set number of days to put a supervisor in place or the state would do it.

"I think we all think a lot of Johnny Vawters," said Treasurer Morgan. "He served the township well and unfortunately he got sick. We appreciate all he did."

Treasurer Morgan appointed Trustee Peggy Morgan to head up a committee to

put together an event to honor Vawters.

In tears, Trustee Peggy Morgan made a motion to make John Morgan supervisor for the balance of the existing term, adding that when Morgan is sworn in he must resign as Treasurer.

Attorney Young offered "congratulations or condolences" to John Morgan on his new position, moving the board forward to fill the Treasurer's job.

Clerk Clarence Hoffmann made a motion to make Trustee Alan Bates the new Treasurer and Trustee Peggy Morgan seconded the motion. John Morgan abstained because the attorney told him, by law, he could not vote on his replacement.

Then, Clerk Hoffmann made the motion to appoint Matthew Oddy as trustee, with Trustee Don Swinson seconding the motion. Attorney Young advised Bates he could not vote on his replacement.

A roll-call vote was taken with three voting yes and two moving no. Motion passed.

In favor were Swinson, Hoffman, and John Morgan. Voting no were Peggy Morgan and Trustee Bill Hamm.

"A couple of things," said Peggy Morgan, explaining her vote. "First of all, I feel we
(continued on page 15)

*Postal Regulations Require
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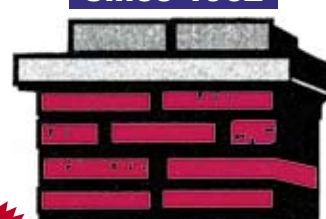
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Subdivision sidewalk along Menard's to Belleville Road?

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Some of the residents of The Meadows of Van Buren condominiums on Tyler Road aren't crazy about the idea of having a sidewalk from the back of their neighborhood, through a woody buffer zone, along a 14' fence at the proposed Menard's, and out to Belleville Road.

But, Van Buren Township planning officials are requiring it.

During the Nov. 24 meeting between about 50 people and Scott Nuttleman of Menard's Real Estate, the subject of the fence came up.

The Menard's store, proposed for a 30-acre site just north of Walmart on Belleville Road, got off to a rocky start in VBT.

Two years ago, Menard's told the township it was backing out of the site it had been seeking to develop on the North I-94 Service Drive. There were too many drainage problems, they said.

Last summer, Menards came back with a second site that it is now seeking to develop. In August it came before the planning commission and then went to the Board of Zoning Appeals, where it got stonewalled. The BZA refused to vote on the variances needed to build in the township.

There was a lot of resistance from the neighbors to having a big box store right next door, fearing a loss of property values.

Menards went back to the drawing board and came up with revised plans, hoping to get a better response.

It set up a meeting for the public, with refreshments, on Nov. 24 and that's when the new issue of the sidewalk came up.

At the VBT Downtown Development Authority meeting the next day, VBT planning consultant Sally Hodges reported: "We required them to put in sidewalks. People are concerned about keeping their property, their property. But, we're not giving up on the sidewalks."

The DDA approved a new Walkability Audit for the Belleville Road downtown area.

Menard's north property line adjoins the Meadows' south property line and Menard had changed its plans to allow more buffering with untouched brush and trees and the planting of 28 more spruce trees.

He showed a picture of the view from Sage Circle where a stub of a sidewalk in the development ends at the edge of the development's property.

Nuttleman said the sidewalk would go from Sage Circle south through a hole cut in the existing vegetation and then left and continue to the front of the store.

"I'd rather have trees than concrete," said one lady in the audience.

Another woman said the residents don't



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

About 50 people attended a meeting hosted by Menard's Scott Nuttleman, who answered questions for an hour and a half.

want people coming into their residential area from Belleville Road.

"I'd be happy not to do it," Nuttleman said. "We're being told it was planned. A stub is there because it was intended to be extended.

"I have to do it," he said. "It will go 200' into the wooded area and pop out at the front of our store."

A member of the audience asked if VBT Public Safety Director Greg Laurain would comment on the safety of this proposed sidewalk.

Director Laurain asked about lights and Nuttleman said no lights have been planned, but maybe they could put in path lights.

"Walmart had a mess in back," said a woman in the back of the meeting room.

Nuttleman said the township was very upfront. It didn't like the way it worked in the back when Walmart was put in.

But, Nuttleman said, Walmart is open 24 hours and it's "a different animal."

He said the township told him what Walmart did wasn't enough.

A woman asked if there weren't other sites in Wayne County for a Menard store.

"There are lots of sites," Nuttleman said. "There are constraints at how close our stores can be from each other. Another site wouldn't be in Van Buren Township and you'd lose 200 jobs.

"We tried the site by Farmer Jack and there were engineering problems and flood

plain issues. That was our preferred site," Nuttleman said.

He said the 30 acres zoned commercial will be developed eventually and the new traffic light will be used by Menard or someone else.

"We did a traffic study and it was approved by Wayne County," he said.

"We are a contract purchaser," Nuttleman said, when someone asked if Menard has purchased the property. "We don't want to spend a million dollars on land we can't build on. I'd lose my job."

After much discussion, Nuttleman said what VBT is asking them to do is far more than they've ever done for any other residential neighborhoods.

"I hope this goes through," said a woman from Belleville. "I'd rather see Menards than a Costco warehouse going in."

"This affects so many people. It makes my head spin," said a man.

Nuttleman wound the public discussion down after an hour and a half and invited people to look at the maps and pictures on display and ask any questions they had of him personally.

"And, I really appreciate you being respectful of me," he told the crowd.

The Menard site plan has already had a public hearing. It is expected to be back before the planning commission at its Dec. 10 meeting. The site plan also will require some variances from the BZA.

VBT DDA buys Grandpa Harris' Belleville Rd. property

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Albert Harris, the late longtime member of the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, was a builder and a gifted layer of concrete.

His family was among the early settlers of VBT and they all were builders.

And, he was known for creating and giving away wooden toys by the thousands from his little workshop on his property at

10151 Belleville Road, where he and his wife Frances lived.

Grandpa's Toys was toured by school classes and church groups and just plain interested individuals. Albert died in 2002 and Frances in 2013 at the age of 90.

At its meeting on Nov. 25, the VBT DDA voted to buy that .5 acre where Albert and Francis lived for \$150,000 and another .48 acre next door at 10101 Belleville Road for

(continued on page 18)

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

VBT Clerk vows 10 winter coats for each school

At Tuesday’s regular meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, Clerk Leon Wright explained his most recent project.

His “Coats to Kids” drive started several years ago with collecting winter coats in a box in the lobby of township hall. These coats were for local children in need.

His office also was going to sponsor a family at Christmas, as it has done in the past, but then he got a call from the counselor’s office at Owen Intermediate School asking for coats for needy students there.

Wright put out an email call to VBT employees and township vendors for help and the donations poured in. He said they will have enough money to not only provide 10 winter coats for Owen, but 10 for each school in the district.

Wright said the coat distribution will start Dec. 12.

The school district used to have a program to provide winter coats for students in need. Paul Henning, who was the district’s public relations official, handled that project, but when his job was eliminated that project stopped.

Clerk Wright teaches students at BHS about township government and voting and lays out a real for experience for their student council election with real ballots and real voting machines.

And, he’s working to keep students warm, as well, and lots of people want to help him. What a nice Christmas story.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Belleville’s Mayor Kerreen Conley insists it WILL be dark at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday when the lighted Christmas Parade begins at Belleville High School. That’s when the sun supposedly goes down.

The “nighttime” parade is being started as early as possible by the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce in deference to the Angel of Hope candlelight ceremony at Hillside Cemetery at 7 p.m.

The Angel of Hope ceremony is always held at 7 p.m. on Dec. 6 nationwide and every so many years it clashes with the Christmas Parade. The last year that happened, the Chamber delayed the parade and fireworks for a week. This year they made the parade time earlier on Saturday and moved the fireworks back to Friday, to prevent a clashing.

But, that wasn’t good enough for the Belleville Area Women’s Club who announced in a letter to the editor that it had pulled out of the parade and asked others to do the same.

They said that in the past when the Chamber moved the events to another weekend, they “realized that this was a day to remember children who were taken away too soon, not a day to celebrate Santa...” They hoped the Chamber would reschedule its weekend when the two events clash again in the future.

In a related bit of news, the Executive Director of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce Karen LaBelle is completing her last assignment – Winter Fest -- this weekend and leaving the position. She reportedly has a new job at Wayne County Community College. The Chamber is



working on securing a replacement.

At the district library board meeting on Nov. 18, Library Director Deb Green reported that 76 people attended the talk by Michigan author Kristy Robinett’s entitled “Michigan’s Most Haunted” on Oct. 23. Some people came from Ann Arbor and Jackson. Earlier in the month, 59 attended the UFO program.

Director Green also reported that Maria LeBron has accepted a nursing position in her field and is leaving library employment at the end of the year. Maria, who graduated from Wayne State in May with a nursing degree, has worked at the library since she was 16. She has been a shelving page, a desk page, Summer Reading Program assistant, and back-up at the Information Desk.

Green said that Maria will be greatly missed, “but we are nevertheless happy that she is accomplishing what she set out to do years ago.”

Bill Wolters of Stony Creek Motor Sports in Belleville went to visit someone over the holiday weekend at Glacier Hills assisted living near Saline. He was told that a former businessman from Belleville was also in that facility. So, he went to visit him and stayed a half hour talking to Ted Hooten. I remember Ted. He was in my sister’s Class of 1956 at Belleville High School. He had

the “Hoot’s Boots” shoe store in Belleville, as well as a chicken restaurant on the water. I’m sure many of you know him.


My son and I were in a pileup on I-94 on Oct. 15, as we were on our way to Wayne County Circuit Court to witness the final conferences of David Brooks and Thomas White. We didn’t get there, so we did the best we could with what happened in court.

I’ve been advised by a good source that we missed reporting that David Brooks signed a paper that day, as part of his plea agreement, that states he will never work as a police officer again. David reportedly has a new job at non-police work at a business in Van Buren Township.

I was on an errand at 34th District Court in Romulus Monday morning and had to wait a few minutes. I talked with the two young people standing at the exit with clipboards in their hands. They approached everyone who was leaving the building.

They told me that by state law the court has to do this Satisfaction Survey and ask people about their experience in court. So far that morning, they said few wanted to be bothered.





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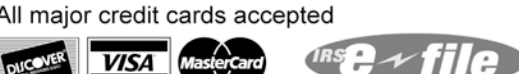
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Letters

Angel of Hope ceremony is this Saturday at 7 p.m.

To the Editor:

We invite the public to a special candlelight memorial, Angel of Hope, in honor of our beloved children that have gone before us. This short, but solemn, evening of dedication and honor is set aside each year on Dec. 6 in loving tribute to the memory of our beloved and greatly missed deceased children, regardless of age.

The "Angel of Hope" or also known as the Christmas Box Angel Statue was introduced to the world in the book "The Christmas Box," a worldwide bestseller and hit television movie by author Richard Paul Evans. In the fictional story, a woman mourns the loss of her child at the base of an angel monument. An angel statue was commissioned by Evans, in response to reports that grieving parents were seeking out the angel as a place to grieve and heal. The first statue was dedicated on Dec. 6, 1994 in Salt Lake City. As news of the angels spread, people from around the world contacted Evans so they, too, could have an Angel erected closer to them.

Belleville is one of these proud homes of an "Angel" as of 2002. The Angel is 4'3" tall and has a wingspan of 5'2". The public is welcome to visit this monument which is located just within Belleville's Hillside Cemetery. Engraved bricks surrounding the statue can also be purchased through the city. The "Angel" represents HOPE and her garden is a place of peace and serenity for all parents and families to visit. The site represents a place to grieve and heal for all our angels. The loss of a child, regardless of age, is insurmountable and we need to keep their "light" shining on with our love.

Candles, hot chocolate and flowers for the dedication will be provided. Please feel free to bring a weatherproof ornament to decorate the spruce tree located near the angel.

Please call the Brown Family Center of Belleville, MI at (734) 697-4500 to let us know if you want your child's name announced during the ceremony.

Sincerely,

Brown Funeral Home/Brown Family Center

Manager/owner's account is not accurate

To the Editor:

I'm the lady that had her oil changed at Gulf Oil Change at the end of October. All I want to say is Mr. Beydoun's account of the incident is inaccurate.

Of course, it would be given that he was not there. Furthermore, when I did try to find out who owned the company I was given the run-around.

I understand they may have been given the wrong part by their supplier. But, they damaged the original part. That is why I needed a new one. But taking care of this customer wasn't accurately portrayed. My neighbor wrote a letter to this paper because he was furious at the way I was treated and we both know what happened that day. We still have the oil stains in both of our driveways.

I was given a refund, at my insistence, and, yes, I was offered two free oil changes. What I wanted was to be reassured they would take care of any other problem that was caused by them hitting my engine with a hammer. But was I happy, as Mr. Beydoun stated? No, I was not.

He seemed very sincere in his letter to this paper. Perhaps it was due to people in this community mentioning it. Yes, people read this paper and they care about their neighbors.

P.S. If it was not for my neighbor, towing services, warranty and the dealership willing to fix their mess, I would be without a car.

Thank you for reading.

Donna Collins

Van Buren Township

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More Letters

VBALL accepting toys for Mott's Hospital

To the Editor:

Starting this week the Van Buren Area Little League (VBALL) will be accepting new unwrapped toys that will be donated to Mott's Children Hospital in Ann Arbor. They can be dropped off at 42233 McBride Avenue in the Haggerty Sub.

I have done this before through the Michigan Funeral Directors Association and it has always been a huge success and greatly appreciated.

Most of the kids will spend Christmas in the hospital and receiving a present brightens their day and lifts their spirits, knowing people care.

I have listed some items off Mott's wish list: Gift cards (i.e. Michael's, Hobby Lobby, iTunes, Amazon, etc.) and some toddler items (i.e. Rattles or any musical toy that makes noise) and other items like Legos, Crayola Crayons and markers and Model Magic. They need items the kids can play with from their beds and Please No items from a dollar store due to the safety recalls. Thank you!

Thank you for helping make a sick child's Christmas.

Marc Littleson
Van Buren Township
President of VBALL



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Thanks to merchants, fire fighters, police

To the Editor:

I think all the merchants, fire fighters, police, etc. should be praised for the beautiful Halloween trick or treaters on Halloween night. Even though the weather wasn't that great they were out there passing out candy and treats. The firemen were giving out cider. Police were giving

out treats.

When we need something we should not forget to patronize our businesses in our community.

I am proud to say I live in Belleville, a Sumpter Township resident. All the people my wife Evelyn and I came in contact with were so friendly and our grandchildren had so much fun. And we saw everyone else enjoying the moment.

Charlie C. Crispell, Sumpter Township

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Obituaries

EVELYN MIDA LYALL

(January 2, 1928 – October 3, 2014)

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

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Obituaries



Allen Dean Clark

ALLEN D. CLARK

(October 2, 1960 - November 26, 2014)

Allen Dean Clark, age 54, of Huron Township, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI, passed away Wednesday, November 26, 2014 at his home. He was born October 2, 1960 in Paw Paw, MI, son of Allen C. & Dian M. (Prim) Clark.

Allen owned the Absolute Auto property, and was the owner of the former Belleville Transmission. He was an ASE certified master mechanic who loved cars. He was a member of the Belleville Chamber of Commerce, as well as a member of Beacon Baptist Church, Taylor, MI. Allen enjoyed traveling to Tennessee and especially to the Upper Peninsula to camp. Most of all, he loved his family and spending time with them.

He is survived by his fiancé Lori Pursley; two daughters Krista (Jonathan) Schroeck of Belleville and Kayla Clark of Huron Township; Kayla's half-brother Gabreil Campbell of Belleville; his parents Allen & Dian Clark of Huron Township; three sisters Cindy (Bob) Chamberlain of Brownstown, MI, Debbie (Mark) Rose and Denise (Terry) Perecki, both of Huron Township; a brother Robert (Natisha) Clark of Milford; also numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. Allen was preceded in death by a sister in infancy, Elizabeth Clark, brother David Clark, also a niece, Adriana Hatmaker.

Visitation was 6-8 p.m. Monday and 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500 with an 11 a.m. Funeral Tuesday. Pastor Michael Brady officiated. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville.

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



Valerie Marie Tidwell

VALERIE M. TIDWELL

(February 7, 1949 - November 26, 2014)

Valerie Marie Tidwell, age 65, of Belleville, MI, passed away Wednesday, November 26, 2014 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born February 7, 1949 in Cleveland, OH, daughter of Michael & Valeria Florence (Staskiewicz) Vasko, Jr.

Valerie was a member of West Metro Church of Christ, Taylor, MI. She was a girly-girl who enjoyed dressing up, loved shopping, shoes and spoiling her grandchildren.

She is survived by her loving husband of nearly 42 years Curtis Keith Tidwell; daughter Tracey (Brian) Sullivan of Livonia, MI; two granddaughters Amanda Ingle and Stephanie Sullivan; grandson Jeffery (Ashley) Ingle; three great-grandsons Colton Ingle, Jayden Nardi and Jaxson Ingle; also a nephew Gregory Coogle of Arizona.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother Robert Vasko, also sister Ruth Coogle. Visitation was Sunday, November 30, 2014 4-8 p.m. and Monday, December 1, 2014 10-11 a.m. with an 11 a.m. Funeral Service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Pastor Myron Rhodes officiated. Interment was in Van Buren Township, MI.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Curtis Tidwell, to help defray expenses, and would be appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a story for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Sarah Janet Briggs

SARAH J. BRIGGS

(July 9, 1969 - November 29, 2014)

Sarah Janet Briggs, age 45, of Westland, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI and Livonia, MI, passed away Saturday, November 29, 2014. She was born July 9, 1969 in Ann Arbor, MI, daughter of Richard Jerome & Bonalyn Janet (Reiher) Hertz. She attended Van Buren Public Schools, Belleville, until her family moved to Westland. She was a member of the John Glenn High School class of 1987.

Sarah was an avid reader who enjoyed interior design and was very creative. She had a big heart and was always there to help people. She was also gifted psychically. She was a very generous medium who would give readings wherever she was when spirit came to her.

Sarah is survived by a daughter Alexandria Briggs and two sons Jacob Briggs and Nicholas Briggs, all of Milford, MI; her mother Bonalyn Hertz of Westland; two sisters Melissa Hertz of Belleville and Amy (Andrew) Hertz-Baylon of Adrian, MI; a brother Richard Hertz of Westland; niece and nephews Sydney, Kyle and Zane; an aunt, an uncle, several cousins and many friends. She was preceded in death by her father Richard Hertz in 1981.

Visitation will be 5-8 PM Friday and 10-11 AM Saturday, December 6, 2014 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Interment will be in Soop Cemetery, Van Buren Township, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to the family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Eula Elizabeth Haft

EULA E. HAFT

(October 26, 1914 - December 1, 2014)

Eula Elizabeth Haft, age 100, of Belleville, MI, passed away Monday, December 1, 2014 at her home. She was born October 26, 1914 in Antwerp, Ohio, daughter of Lauren G. & Della (Mangus) Ames.

Eula was a member of the First United Methodist Church, Belleville, for nearly 80 years. She was a founding member of the Home Arts Club, Belleville. She was a wonderful seamstress and was a devoted caregiver who took care of numerous children out of her home for years. Mrs. Haft is survived by three daughters Valera Jones of Dayton, Ohio, Gloria (Gary) Jahner of Tecumseh, MI and Carolyn Hyde of Belleville; 10 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and 7 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, a son Larry in infancy, husband George Haft on October 5, 1996, also a son-in-law Robert Jones.

Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. Friday and 12-2 p.m. Saturday, December 6, 2014, with the funeral at 2 p.m. Saturday at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Rev. Jim Walker will officiate. Interment will be in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.

Memorial Contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church, Belleville, or Arbor Hospice & Home Care, and would be greatly appreciated by the family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

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More Letters

VBALL is officially over, readying for 2015

To the Editor:

The 2014 baseball and softball season for the Van Buren Area Little League (VBALL) is officially over and we are preparing for the 2015 Spring Season. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who helped make VBALL's first season very successful.

I would like to thank the many, many dedicated and generous sponsors, whether your company was displayed on a banner or on the back of a team shirt or if you donated money, our season wouldn't have been as successful as it was. For this I THANK YOU ALL.

I have learned from my first season as president of a local youth organization that OUR community is very generous and we should all be proud to say we are from Belleville, Van Buren Township or Sumpter Township. A huge THANK YOU to the dedicated board members of VBALL, all of our volunteer coaches and the many players and parents. A league is only as successful as its participants and supporters. There were some volunteers that throughout the season helped us with field maintenance and grounds upkeep. Thank You! Without your help our fields would not look as good as they do. Special thanks goes out to the Van Buren Township and Supervisor Combs for our wonderful new dugouts, the beautiful trees and the playground that was used by many children who couldn't get enough time on the swings or slides.

Thank you to Contract Welding for making our brand-new base plugs that were needed badly. Last and most importantly, I would like to thank the Van Buren Civic Fund for the generous grant they awarded VBALL in the Spring that allowed us to purchase field chalking machines, new batting helmets, hitting nets, pitching machines and the 30 brand-new sets of catching equipment and coaches bags.

All this equipment was sorely needed and very crucial for running a safe Little League program. Words cannot express our gratitude to all the sponsors, coaches,

parents and township officials that helped make our first season successful.

Registration for the spring season can be done at www.VanBurenAreaLittleLeague.org or at one of our walk-in dates to be announced starting in January.

Dec. 19 we will be having a roller skating fund raiser at the Sumpter Roller Rink from 6 to 11 p.m. Drop off your child or children and spend the evening kid(s)-free shopping or just relaxing. Chaperones will be provided.

Baseball and Softball clinics will be held starting in January (check the VBALL website or the Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation for information) at the Van Buren Township Gymnasium.

If anyone is interested in being a part of the VBALL board, please contact a board member. We have several positions available.

We hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Look for us at the Belleville Christmas Parade on Dec. 6.

Thank you to all,
Marc Littleson, President
Van Buren Area Little League

Contact Congressman about your mail

To the Editor:

I recently had the privilege to speak at a rally at the capitol in Lansing. It was in conjunction with approximately 150 other rallies held around the country to protest the closing of 82 more mail Processing and Distribution Centers early next year. The four postal unions organized and participated in these rallies, but this issue does not just affect postal employees; it affects every American.

When the Postmaster General changes the service standards on Jan. 5, 2015, quality mail service will be reduced as the requirement to deliver overnight mail will be eliminated. This will allow him to close the processing plants resulting in the delay of mail that includes items such as medicine, online purchases, local newspapers, church bulletins, letters, bill payments and invitations. This even includes first-class mail going from one

address to another in the same town. There are a lot of rural businesses and people that depend on the timely delivery of the mail. Degrading service would hurt residents, small businesses and communities across the country and it would eventually destroy the Postal Service itself by driving away mail customers.

The cuts being proposed are not necessary. The Postal Service, which does not use any taxpayer money, is profitable. So far this year, it has earned more than \$1 billion in operating profit, and its finances have been improving for the last four years. The financial issues you hear about on the news stem from a mandate that was passed during the lame duck session of Congress in 2006. This mandate states that the Postal Service must pre-fund future retirees health benefits 75 years in advance and pay for this in a 10-year period. No other company, public or private, is required to do this. The cost is \$5.6 billion a year. So this explains why you hear on the news the Postal Service is losing money.

The Postal Service is an essential part of the American economy and its vast network is an integral part of our national communication infrastructure. At such a dire time for our economy, Americans cannot afford to lose dependable mail service, nor can we afford the loss of thousands of middle-class jobs that are the cornerstone of communities across the country.

So, what can you do to preserve the mail you send and receive? Contact your Congressman and encourage them to sign

onto the one-year moratorium to stop these closures and consolidations until a sensible solution can be found.

Doug Bartlett, President
Michigan Rural Letter Carriers Assoc.

Leigh Ann Lowe, State Secretary
Michigan Rural Letter Carriers Assoc.

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More Letters

VBSA: Open to making positive changes

Hello Van Buren Community,

I wanted to communicate some changes to the Van Buren Soccer Association. My name is Angie McCluskey and I have taken over the new role as President for our Soccer League.

I have an extensive soccer background, which has given me the opportunity to run this organization. I have played soccer my entire life. My husband Sean and I have two daughters who are VBSA players.

I coach for the association's Girls U11 and U8 teams and I am committed to the

success of the organization. I look forward to taking the VBSA to the next level.

In the past there was some communication between VBSA and another organization. VBSA had to make a decision to stay within our community and to make improvements as necessary. Some improvements that we are working on are as follows:

- We are in the process of filing for our 501C3 to become a non-profit organization;
- We have created a VBSA Board of members;
- We will strive to continue to communicate to our community, by sending emails, fliers, participating in community functions, and supporting other sporting clubs;
- Offering a low-cost select program to our players that play at a slightly higher level;
- Updating and managing our Quirk Park

fields;

• Opening the concession stand during games, which includes VBSA Spirit wear;

• Offering scoreboards at each of the fields; and

• Communicating and opening the relationship back with the WCCC.

These are just some of our improvements that we have made.

We are looking for sponsors for our fields at Quirk Park to help build our program. If you are interested please reach out to us.

We have several programs to offer our kids.

- Recreational Development-Ages 2-5;
- Recreational In House-Ages 5-8;
- Recreational Travel-Ages 8-14;
- High School Off Spring-High School Level;
- Adult League 18-up (we would like to bring this back to the community in the Spring at a low cost donation back to the league); and

• Offer a Low-Cost Select Program-Tryouts in June-commit to a team for a year-Fall-Spring.

The VBSA is committed to the game of soccer and nurturing the skills of our young people to be the best they can be.

We are committed to building the association to make your child's experience even better. We are open to making positive change in our community!

Please contact us for further information at www.vanburensoccer.com. Thank you for your continued support. Registration is NOW OPEN. REGISTER TODAY!

Thank you,
Angie McCluskey
President-VBSA

And the Rest of the VBS Board Members

I watched and listened as local religious and civic leaders called for healing, and even listened patiently as the national black civil rights personalities appeared for their two minutes in the limelight. All in all it was the same message over and over, "Black people feel oppressed and downtrodden because of the treatment they receive from police officers who are supposed to be protecting them, not murdering their young men."

Seeing this episode unfold again is not new for any of us. We have experienced these reactions for too many years and in too many cities across America. Black leadership criticizing law enforcement officers is as common as the crime statistics that plague our major cities and suburban communities. Ever-increasing poverty and the lack of real job opportunities in most cities has led to the corruption and discord that divides our society into categories of those that have and those who have not.

Some naïve people believe that a lack of education is to blame for the number of black criminals that are incarcerated in our prisons today. Others simply credit it to the culture of black society for the violence and drug problems inherent in our ghetto neighborhoods. Then there are those people who blame our law enforcement agencies and government officials for the tragic situations such as the case in Ferguson.

I experienced the riots in Detroit in 1967 and I also watched on television as south-central Los Angeles erupted in violence in 1992. Standard department procedures and individual police behavior was foremost in sparking these civil disturbances each time. Just like in the Michael Brown shooting death, by Officer Darren Wilson, people felt that justice wasn't served. In Detroit, the situation resulted in a mass migration of white citizens to the surrounding suburbs. Meanwhile, the police department was subjected to decades of federal oversight and continuous personnel turnover in public safety departments including numerous inexperienced professional Police Chiefs.

Throughout these periods of civil unrest very little has been said of the character of the individuals who we consider to be the victims. Even more disturbing is the way that the black community condones the gangster mentality and the "don't snitch" motto to protect the criminals in their neighborhoods. This isn't normal and it belies the real problem in Ferguson: a complete lack of trust.

Officer Darren Wilson might eventually be mentally overwhelmed by his actions and his life will forever be burdened by his behavior. Michael Brown has already paid the extreme price for stealing and bullying the people in his neighborhood. What about the rest of us on either side? Only time will tell.

Cejay Marshall
Van Buren Township

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Sonny Hall, promoter of U.S.A. Demolition Derby & Figure Eight & Autocross, Inc., was inducted into the Michigan Motor Sports Hall of Fame on Nov. 2, 2014. In 1963, Hall, his wife RoseAnne, and their children moved to Belleville. They started their business in 1975 and he has been a regular at the Sumpter Township Country Fest and Sumpter Don Rochon Memorial Car Show.

Egan's Pub to host benefit for Strzalkowski family on Dec. 11

Egan's Pub, 396 Main Street, in downtown Belleville will host a benefit for the Strzalkowski family from 4 p.m. until closing on Thursday, Dec. 11.

The benefit will help support Amelie Strzalkowski who has been fighting cancer for two years.

The event will feature a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle. Egan's Pub will donate 15% of its sales for the entire week end.

Those who have items for the silent auction are asked to contact Laura Ridenour at ridenour.laura@gmail.com.

To read the blogspot by Amelie's father, Jason, see <http://amelie-strzalkowski.blogspot.com/>. Jason is a teacher in the Van Buren Public Schools and the family lives in Howell.

On gofundme, the address is <http://www.gofundme.com/operation-ameliorate>.

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Ice Skating at 4th St Square Fri Dec 5 thru Sun Dec 7, by the BYC
Jingle Bell Fun Run/Walk Saturday Dec 6 9:45am Horizon Park for
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Friday Dec 19 7:30pm Belleville Community Band at Belleville Methodist Church

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City of Belleville negotiates with Wayne Co. over paving costs

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On Sept. 15, the Belleville City Council reluctantly approved an intergovernmental agreement with Wayne County concerning the resurfacing of East Huron River Drive from Sumpter Road to Martinsville next summer.

At Monday's council meeting there was some more discussion on what is happening now, as city attorney Steve Hitchcock is negotiating with the county about the cost. "Our attorney is talking with them saying, this is what we paid on your roads and we think we did our share," said City Manager Diana Kollmeyer, referring to the work at Five Points and other pieces of the county roadways, especially during the resurfacing of Main Street.

The agreement with the county involved paying \$22,525 as the first payment to the county for 50% of the local share of resurfacing the roadway. After bids are taken, if the total cost is more than the \$934,950 estimated, with the city's share \$45,050, Belleville could opt out of the project.

The county project is partially funded with federal money.

The funds Belleville would use are state Act 51 road funds and the city doesn't get Act 51 funds for East Huron River Drive.

City attorney Steve Hitchcock was to look into whether it is legal to use those funds for a county project.

DPW Director Keith Tackett said that is a "grey area."

The question is whether the city can use its Local and Major street funds on a county road that doesn't belong to the city, Kollmeyer said.

"They're concerned about US repairing THEIR roads," said Councilman Tom Fielder.

The project will mill off the surface and resurface and restore the shoulder with grass. It will take 65 days and would start after the 2015 Strawberry Fest, so it will be done by next fall.

Mike Renaud asked from the audience about the surveying he has seen recently on West Huron River Drive.

Tackett said he talked to the survey crew

and they said there are some plans for resurfacing that area, but it would be about two years out.

In other business at the 20-minute, Dec. 1 meeting, the council:

- Set a 7:30 p.m., Dec. 15 public hearing on the proposed Snow Emergency Ordinance that would require vehicles to be removed from streets after an emergency is declared so the streets can be plowed;

- Set a 7:30 p.m., Dec. 15 public hearing on use of the 2015 federal CDBG funds. Of the \$57,000 expected, \$40,470 is planned for the ADA canoe/kayak launch at Horizon Park. There also will be \$9,830 for senior/disabled services city-wide, \$1,000 for senior chore services, and \$5,700 for program administration and strategic planning;

- Deferred to the Dec. 15 council meeting a closed-door session to consult with the city attorney on the strategy for pending litigation;

- Learned the winners of the Christmas Decorating Contest will be presented with their awards at the Dec. 15 meeting;

- Approved the annual Maintenance, Special Events, and Pavement Restoration permits with Wayne County;

- Approved the official council meeting dates for 2015, generally the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:30 p.m. The meetings will be on Tuesdays, instead, on Jan. 20, Feb. 17, and Sept. 8 because of holidays;

- Approved accounts payable of \$115,039.98 and the following departmental purchases in excess of \$500: to Miss Dig for membership, \$980 from the Water Department; and to Quint Plumbing for repair, \$948.41 from the Water Department;

- Heard 34th District Court Judge David Parrott express gratitude for the support of the city in his recent successful bid for reelection. He said more than 68% of the voters in the city supported him. "I am deeply humbled and honored. Thank you for your support." He said, going into his third term, he will continue to adhere to the high standards at the 34th District Court and continue to work cooperatively with

the two other judges there. And, he will continue "to dispense justice fairly, and firmly when called for," he said; and

- Heard Councilman Fielder say that Judge Parrott is part of a group of three judges at the 34th District Court that work well together and have an outstanding

reputation. He said in another city, nearby, he has been told the judges don't talk to one another. He said the City of Plymouth pays \$50,000 to support its district court and Belleville pays nothing, getting an income, instead. "We're very fortunate," Fielder said.

Holiday Arts & Crafts, Bake Sale this Saturday at VBT Hall

On Saturday, Dec. 6, Van Buren Township's annual Holiday Arts and Craft sale will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the community center, 46425 Tyler Road.

There are more crafters than ever before

and even a waiting list this year.

The seniors also are holding a bake sale from 9 a.m. until noon with special, home-baked goodies.

Belleville Winter Fest Weekend

DECEMBER 5 - 7 DOWNTOWN • MAIN STREET

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2014

LIVE ICE CARVER 2 pm - 4 pm Chamber location
CAROLERS 3 pm - 4:30 pm Grace Community Church

Jen Lawson,
Country Singer
will perform
5 - 6 pm



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

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

CONFERENCE BIKE RIDES 4 pm - 6 pm Museum area

FIREWORKS OVER THE LAKE will begin at 7 pm

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014

JINGLE BELL RUN Horizon Park -- Registration @ 8:30 am

WINTER FEST OPEN HOUSE Main Street Flowers 9 am - 6 pm

Hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, discounts

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

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

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

LIVE ICE CARVER 2 pm - 4 pm Chamber location

GINGERBREAD MAN DECORATING 3 pm Belleville Area District Library

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

SOUP CRAWL 2 pm - 6 pm Fourth Street Square area

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

BELLEVILLE COMMUNITY COURUS 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm -- Museum area

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

Crafts/Popcorn/Cider Belleville Council for the Arts

CAROLERS 2 pm - 3:30 pm Grace Community Church

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

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

CITY CHRISTMAS TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY

Immediately following Parade Museum Lawn

"LIVING" NATIVITY First United Methodist Church following parade

MEET WITH SANTA First United Methodist Church following parade

Ice Sculptures Displayed on Main Street

Bates Hotdog Stand will be on site, Museum area
Glow Works will be on site with Glow Merchandise

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2014

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

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Van Buren Parks and Recreation



Holiday Arts & Crafts Show

Saturday, December 6, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Free entry for a great show full of
handmade crafts. Holiday gift ideas.
Concessions provided.

"Friendly Crafters"

"Plenty of Parking"



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Van Buren Twp, MI 48111
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www.vanburen-mi.org



Van Buren Public Schools



Readiness Program
Michigan's Nationally Recognized Pre-K Program

The Great Start Readiness Program is a
FREE preschool program for families
who qualify. Children must be 4 years old
by December 1, 2014.

Limited spaces are available at
Haggerty School! If you would like more
information or are interested in
completing an application, please contact
us at (734) 699-2180.

More Letters

It's time to SPEAK UP on Constitution, schools

To the Editor:

I would like to share the following with your readers entitled "The Lord's Prayer" written by a 15-year-old student in *USA Today*. I do not know the student nor the school he/she attends, but I am grateful for the student's show of courage and compassion, who deservedly earned an A+.

"Now I sit me down in school, where praying is against the rule.

"For this great nation under God, finds mention of Him very odd.

"If scripture now the class recites, it violates the Bill of Rights.

"And anytime my head I bow, becomes a Federal matter now.

"Our hair can be purple, orange, or green. That's no offense, it's a freedom scene.

"The law is specific, the law is precise. Prayers spoke aloud are a serious vice.

"For praying in a public hall, might offend someone with no faith at all.

"In silence alone we must meditate. God's name is prohibited by the United States.

"We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks, and pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.

"Guns are allowed, but Not the Bible. To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

"We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen, and the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.

"It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong. We're taught that such 'judgments' do not belong.

"We can get our condoms and birth controls, study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles.

"But the Ten Commandments are not allowed. No word of God must reach this crowd.

"It's scary here I must confess. When chaos reigns the school's a mess.

"So, Lord, this silent plea I make: Should I be shot, my soul please take! Amen."

From the "mouths of babes" comes this shameful testimony. I hope and pray our Belleville schools do not condone or endorse any of the above. I would like to encourage parents and students alike in our area to share their thoughts and experiences. We need to hold our superintendent and elected board members accountable. If our students can identify with any of the above "offenses," I would recommend the parents begin searching for another school where God and the Bible, Liberty and Freedom

still reign.

For those of us in our senior years, let's remind the parents of today when in 1963 Madalyn Murray O'Hair, the founder and president of the American Atheist movement, vented all the way to the Supreme Court; she was successful in ending Bible reading in our public schools. She is dead, but the Atheists/American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is very much alive today. They reign rampant with constant threats to our Constitution and our public schools, and, more often than not, our schools "cave in" to their threats! Thus, our student suffer; they are being taught what is commonly known as PC – Politically Correct – and we parents, grandparents sit idly by – don't say anything or ask questions. You may offend someone! Thanks to our "gutless" politicians and the atheists, we are, slowly but surely, surrendering our freedoms. It's time to SPEAK UP!

God Bless America.
(Mrs.) Ruth E. Bleeker
Belleville

Sumpter Seniors thank Marti's Gift Gallery

To the Editor:

Sumpter Seniors would like to extend a special Thank You to Marti's Gift Gallery!

Martha generously donated a few hundred dollars of gifts for our center. We had beautiful donated gifts for our Bingo prizes! Cute Christmas decorations for our homes. More of the generosity will be door prizes at our Christmas party Dec. 16.

We appreciate the thoughtfulness, over the years. It saddens us to see the Gift Shop close.

Sincerely,
Maryann Watson and Sumpter Seniors

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Upcoming Meetings

• Monday, Dec. 8 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., Rawsonville Elementary School. There will be a tour of the building at 6:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, Dec. 9 – VBT Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m. Also,

Belleville Area District Library Board, 7 p.m.

• Wednesday, Dec. 10 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Thursday, Dec. 11 – Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Monday, Dec. 15 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, work/study session, 7 p.m., Administration Building. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

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Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 1)

had seven people interested in the post.

"I am a Democrat and always will be a Democrat and will not vote for a Republican to serve on the board with me," Morgan said, referring to Oddy.

Trustee Hamm said Oddy is a very intelligent man.

"I am a Democrat," Hamm continued. "The public put me in as a Democrat and I cannot go with a Republican on the slate."

Bates spoke in favor of Oddy.

"I know him. His parents were Democrats," Bates said. "Joan (his mother who served as Sumpter Clerk) ran as a Democrat.

How they figure he's a Republican, I don't know."

Bates said of Peggy Morgan and Hamm, "These two Democrats were not supported by the 15th District. I'm for the best person for the township."

"Ask him," Trustee Swinson said of Oddy and the new Supervisor Morgan cut off all the arguing.

"I'm sure you are offended," said Supervisor Morgan to Trustee Peggy Morgan and then he let her respond.

She gestured to have Hamm speak first.

"The reason we think Mr. Oddy is a Republican is because Mr. Bates told me that," Hamm said.

Bates said he never said that.

Trustee Morgan explained that when a candidate is being interviewed by a Democratic steering committee they ask you if you would allow unions into your township and she said yes. They ask you if you would support a Republican and she said no.

Then, Supervisor Morgan welcomed Matthew Oddy to the board, saying he has gone from a little boy he knew to a highly qualified, grown man willing to serve his township.

"Thank you for appointing me," Oddy said when given an opportunity to speak. "I was

appointed to the planning commission by a Democratic supervisor and I come from a long line of Democrats in my family."

Supervisor Morgan said to Trustee Morgan, "I hope you and Bill know you have a right to your opinion."

Trustee Morgan replied that she will work with Oddy. After the meeting, Trustee Hamm, too, said he would work with Oddy.

But, they said, when the next election comes, there will be a problem with Oddy being on a Democratic slate if he is a Republican.

During the open-floor section of the meeting, Mary Ban congratulated Oddy and said it makes no difference whether you have an R or D or I after your name.

"It's integrity, loyalty to the township ... and adding to the township's quality of governance. Quality is what counts," Ban said.

The three new officers were sworn in by Clerk Hoffman at the township employees' annual Thanksgiving meal the next day. A ceremonial swearing-in may possibly take place at the final meeting of the year on Dec. 9 before the camera for viewing on cable TV.

In other business at the Nov. 25 meeting, the board:

- Set a public hearing during the regular 6:30 p.m. board meeting on Dec. 9 to hear a report from township attorney Young on alleged violations of the special exception use granted for the Sumpter Roller Rink, 19750 Sumpter Road. The owners can give their side and then the board can decide whether to revoke the special use for events other than roller skating. Young said a series of incidents involving the police have happened and these threats to the health, safety and welfare of the township is what the board doesn't want in its township;

- Approved correcting the warrant amount approved at the Oct. 28 meeting to \$127,121.60;

- Approved signing the SMART contract for specialized services for the 2015 fiscal year;

- Approved the Sumpter board meeting dates and the planning commission meeting dates for 2015;

- Approved selling the building department's 2000 Ranger to Deputy Fire Chief Rick Brown. No sales price was announced. Trustee Hamm, board liaison to the building department, said he had asked to have the truck go out for auction, but at the last minute someone changed it to a straight sale. Hamm said he did not know the amount paid;

- Approved adoption of the 2012 Michigan Building Codes;

- Appointed Joseph Wilson to the Senior Advisory Board to replace Kenneth Stewart who has moved out of Sumpter;

- Approved a one-year leave of absence for fire fighter Anthony Spitznagel;

- Approved termination of probationary fire fighter Stacy Hayes on a 5-1 vote, with Hoffman voting no. Attorney Young said it was not a termination for cause, but was recommended by the fire chief;

- Approved the resignation of Josh Talbert from the fire department;

- Approved the appointment of Brenda Bukis to the Board of Review to replace Sandra Todd;

- Approved the purchase of \$5,350 worth of fire hose from West Shore Fire, Inc. The request was for 10 100-foot lengths of yellow rubber-covered hose with Storz couplings;

- Approved the purchase of 10 sets of fire department turn-out gear for \$22,740 from West Shore Fire, Inc.;

- Approved the purchase of a 2015 Ford F-250 4x4 Styleside pick-up with snow plow package for no more than \$30,000 from Atchinson Ford for the building department. Trustee Swinson abstained on the vote since he works for Atchinson and worked on the sale;

- Approved a resolution authorizing the fire department to apply for a grant through the Michigan Township Participating Plan Risk Reduction Grant Program;

- Approved the following reappointments to Parks and Recreation with terms to expire October 2017: Kim Toms, Holly Swinson, Sharon Pokerwinski, Richard Pokerwinski, Mary Grant and Virginia Belinski;

- Heard Ban question the legality of the district library agreement. Attorney Young said he has been looking at options for the township. He said since the .7 mill operating funds were adopted by the voters in the three communities, the district library was in place. "They can build, remodel, do nothing at all," he said. "The board controls it all." He said if they want to build something or remodel, the board must come to the voters for funds; and

- Heard an announcement that the Senior Citizen Christmas lunch will be at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 16, at the Community Center. Membership is \$8 for residents and \$9 for non-residents. A charge of \$5 will be levied if a person comes without a dish to pass. Also, the free Children's Christmas Party will be at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 17, at the Community Center with sign-up in the clerk's office by Dec. 11 so there can be presents for all.

Jesus Is Waiting 4 U Meet Him @ Church

Message paid for by a member of the Catholic Church.

Belleville Community Band

Christmas Concert

Free Admission



Friday, December 19th 7:30pm

First United Methodist Church
417 Charles St

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

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**Sumpter Township
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2014**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Treasurer J. Morgan showing present: Clerk Hoffman, Treasurer J. Morgan, Trustees: Hamm, Bates, Swinson & P. Morgan. Excused Medical Supervisor Vawters. Also present: Deputy Clerk Hurst and approx. 19 residents.

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

4. Public comments on agenda items only

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by Hoffman, supported by Bates to approve minutes of the regular board meeting October 14, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to accept minutes of the planning commission September 11, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants: Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve warrants totaling ~~\$957,299.23~~. (Corrected at Nov. 25, 2014 regular meeting Motion #15. \$127,121.60) Roll call vote: Yes: J. Morgan, Hoffman, Bates, Hamm, Swinson & P. Morgan. Nay: None. Absent: Vawters. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Parks & Recreation/Chamber: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve parks & recreation report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Attorney: No report.

9. Board Response

10. New Business:

A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve to erect at the recycling center a guard post shed materials and labor provided as eagle scout project by Ryan York. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by Hamm, supported by Hoffman to approve a proclamation honoring Veterans for the month of November. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to **TABLE** the addition to the zoning ordinance regarding provisionary centers. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve to close the township hall December 24 thru January 4, 2015 with employees using their time for days not covered by union contract. Treasurers' office will be open December 31, 2014 for tax payments only 9 am to 5 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Motion by Hamm, supported by Hoffman to approve to pay firefighter Collin Lynch \$25.00 hour for instructing medical classes. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Announcements

12. Open Floor

13. Adjournment: Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to adjourn at 6:45 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on October 28, 2014 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Publish: December 4, 2014



**City of Belleville
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2014**

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

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Fielder Present

Council Member Smith Present

Council Member Tindall Present

Mayor Pro Tem Loria Present

Mayor Conley Absent/Excused

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Loria presented plaques to the Scarecrow contest winners.

Families/Individuals – The Mida Family

Youth Groups/Organizations – Savage School

Adult Groups/Organizations – City of Belleville

Department of Public Services.

Business – Century 21 Belvil Realty, Inc.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Smith, Second by Fielder to approve agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Tindall, Second by Fielder to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of November 3, 2014 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. CDBG – Transfer of 2012 Funds

Motion by Tindall, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 14-136** to open Public Hearing at 8:28 P.M. to discuss CDBG Transfer of 2012 Funds. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Fielder, Second by Tindall to close Public Hearing at 8:35 P.M.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. BYC– Use of Fourth Street Square – Ice Rink

Motion by Tindall, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 14-137** to approve a request from BYC to set up an Ice Rink at Fourth Street Square for Winter fest 2014 on December 5th, 6th and 7th from 4:00 P.M. on the 5th to 6:00 P.M. on the 7th. MOTION CARRIED.

B. CDBG Transfer of 2012 Funds

Motion by Tindall, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 14-138** to approve CDBG funds to be transferred for the City of Belleville from 2012 (Barrier Free Improvements) funds are \$34,080.00 and is planned for replacement of the Village Park playscape to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act.

MOTION CARRIED.

C. GELC Wage Approval

Motion by Fielder, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 14-139** to approve a Letter of Understanding with GELC to pay a one time \$1,000.00 stipend to full-time employees.

MOTION CARRIED.

D. Christmas Holiday Decorating Contest

Discussion was held on the 2014 Holiday Decorating Contest. Winners in each area will be notified on Friday, December 12th and presentations will be made at the City Council meeting on Monday, December 15th.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Tindall, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 14-140** to approve accounts payable and payables over \$500.00 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

10. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Tindall, Second by Fielder to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Long, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: December 1, 2014

Published: December 2, 2014



**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF BELLEVILLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AN
ORDINANCE TO AMEND CITY CODE CHAPTER 78
BY ADDING "SNOW EMERGENCY"**



The Belleville City Council will conduct a public hearing on December 15, 2014 beginning at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the agenda will permit. The hearing will be conducted at the City of Belleville City Hall, located at 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments from the public regarding an Ordinance to amend City Code Chapter 78 "Streets, Sidewalks and Certain Other Public Places", by adding Section 78-153 "Snow Emergency" in the Code of Ordinances for the City of Belleville.

Pertinent information is available for review at Belleville City Hall during regular business hours 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Written comments may be submitted to the City Council at the above address prior to the meeting. Written comments must be received by 4:00 p.m. December 12, 2014. After that time and date, they may be hand-delivered to the City Council at the December 15, 2014 public hearing.

Lisa Long, CMC
City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: December 4, 2014



**City of Belleville
NOTICE OF AMENDED STATEMENT
2012 Community Development Block Grants**



Following a public hearing on November 17, 2014 the City Council reprogrammed part of the 2012 CDBG funds which were not needed to complete Barrier Free Improvements project, to fund an ADA accessible Playscape in Village Park as follows:

1. Barrier Free Improvements

Location: Various City facilities

Activity: ADA evaluation & modifications

<u>Project</u>	<u>Original</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Final</u>
Barrier Free	\$ 40,470	- 34,080	\$ 6,390

2. Village Park ADA Accessible Playscape

Location: city-wide

Activity: ADA Modification

<u>Project</u>	<u>Original</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Final</u>
ADA Playscape	\$ 0	\$+ 34,080	\$ 34,080
Village Park			

Lisa Long
City Clerk

PUBLISH: December 4, 2014

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

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

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

The purpose of this meeting will be:

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

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

Leon Wright
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: November 26, 2014
December 4, 2014

Post: November 26, 2014

Give the gift that will keep on giving for a whole year!



A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BELLEVILLE-AREA INDEPENDENT



It's so easy, just fill out the coupon below and mail mail it to us. We'll do the rest! No crowds, no driving in bad weather, no hassles! And the best part is, it's only \$30.00 for a full year (\$35 outside of Michigan).



The recipient will receive a Christmas card letting them know you sent them their subscription.



CHRISTMAS GIFT SUBSCRIPTION FOR

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

YOUR NAME
& PHONE# _____

Send your check or money order for \$30.00 (\$35.00 outside of Michigan) to:
Belleville-Area Independent
152 Main St., Suite 9, Belleville, MI 48111



City of Belleville Public Notice



City of Belleville Public Notice

City of Belleville NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Community Development Block Grants



A public hearing is scheduled before the City Council on Monday, December 15, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street, for the purpose of

RECEIVING COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE 2015 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM

The City of Belleville expects to receive **approximately** \$57,000 in year 2015 CDBG funds. Projects must meet HUD regulations and Wayne County's program guidelines. Additional information is available by contacting the City Clerk's office, 6 Main Street, Belleville MI 48111 – phone (734) 697-9323.

Pursuant to the program guidelines, the City of Belleville is announcing its program objectives and proposed uses of the **estimated** CDBG funds as follows:

PROPOSED GOALS AND PROJECTS:

GOAL: Suitable Living Environment

Location: City-wide

Activity: Senior/Disabled Services \$ 9,830

Activity: ADA Park Projects \$ 40,470

Handicap/Disabled Horizon Park

Canoe/Kayak Launch

Activity: Senior Chore Services \$ 1,000

Program Administration

Strategic Planning \$ 5,700

TOTAL \$ 57,000

Citizens are invited to comment on the proposed projects and to suggest other projects which meet the County's guidelines.

Lisa Long, CMC
City Clerk/Treasurer

PUBLISH: December 4, 2014

2014 Holiday Decorating Contest



Light Up the Town for Christmas in Belleville 2014

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

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

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

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

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

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

VBT DDA

(continued from page 3)

\$200,000 from the Harris heirs.

The properties, which total 1.1 acres, wrap around a restored old home at 10145 Belleville Road owned by Carol and Terry Bird and housing the Remerica Main Street real estate offices.

Carol Bird, a longtime member of the DDA, abstained from the vote.

DDA Executive Director Susan Ireland explained the background of the purchase in a memo to the DDA. She reminded them that in the August meeting the DDA authorized her to investigate and potentially consummate a transaction for the purchase of real property.

Then, at the October meeting, the DDA approved retaining professional consultants as part of the investigation process in order to complete the due diligence.

She said in order to complete the transaction, the seller needs to provide the DDA with title work and the DDA is waiting for the results of the Phase I environmental analysis and surveys from Wade Trim engineers.

At the Nov. 25 meeting, Ireland said they need to create additional areas within the DDA district for people to go, to meet, to gather.

She said the old home, restored by the Birds, is the only restored home in that area. She also pointed out that Bird has the Remerica building and the property they are purchasing wraps around her property. She said the property is on the market at a very good price and they have reached an agreement.

Ireland said Dec. 12 is the deadline to make a decision and that will be contingent on receiving all the items needed.

VBT Supervisor Linda Combs said that was a nice area for a small park, away from the traffic and noise.

Ireland pointed out it butts up to the Westlake Apartments.

"It is good for the downtown and we won't get the price again," Ireland said, pointing out it is "place-making" which the state encourages.

She said it is zoned residential, so they won't need a zoning change.

Sally Hodges of McKenna Associates, the township's planning consultants, said they walked around all the buildings and looked in the windows.

She said they will do a site analysis, economic analysis, and try to turn in a way to earn revenue with the facility with rentals, so it is not a burden to the township.

Ireland asked for volunteers to sit on a sub-committee to assist in determining the use of the property. She said, Bird, of course, wants to sit on the sub-committee.

Assistant DDA Executive Director

The DDA approved hiring Lisa M. Lothringer as Assistant DDA Executive Director. She will begin work on Jan. 5 at an annual salary of \$49,000.

Her husband John and twin sons Joshua and John were with her at the meeting to show their support.

Ireland outlined the search for her assistant

that started last April. After a disappointing number of applicants, they had a second search, expanding the part-time job to full time. Thirty-eight applications were received and reviewed.

A subcommittee of Carol Bird, Mark Laginess, Robert Bechtel and Joe Baskin helped in the process.

Ireland said there was a wide variety of applicants with a broad range of education and experience. She said the final two candidates were interviewed by the subcommittee.

"They were both very impressive and each would be able to satisfy the qualities the DDA is looking for," Ireland said. "A significant amount of time was spent discussing the value of each candidate and after weighing the merits of both candidates it was agreed that Ms. Lisa Lothringer would be the best fit for the DDA."

Lothringer earned a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing from Siena Heights University in Adrian last May, with a 3.7 GPA. She graduated from Monroe County Community College *summa cum laude* in 2009 with an Associate of Applied Science in Business.

Since 2009, she has worked for the Monroe County Intermediate School District as Special Education Administrative Coordinator / Assistant Substitute Teacher.

Lothringer has skills in internet use, organizational skills, event coordination, public speaking, and more than 15 years of experience working with non-profit groups on fundraising projects.

Regional Detention Pond

Dave Nummer of Wade Trim engineers announced there is a new revised layout for the regional detention pond he is working on for the DDA.

The pond is being relocated to the east side of the RV business on the I-94 North Service Drive, east of Dewitt. He said the sides of the present drain are falling in and trees are falling in the drain.

"This will be a better spot, a more functional pond. The property is not owned by the land conservancy," but a private property owner.

"I believe he will be amiable since it works well for the future development of the site," Nummer said. "He can run his storm sewer right into it."

He said the land conservancy wanted trails and access to the property and that can be from Belleville Road along the pipe to their property to the pond and to the North I-94 Service Drive, creating a loop.

Nummer said he has confirmed the hydrology of the area and a draft report is to be shared with the county.

He said he will meet with the property owner on the property acquisition.

"Things really are starting to come together on this," Nummer said.

In other business at the Nov. 25 meeting, the DDA:

- Approved a Walkability Audit along the Belleville Road downtown corridor by McKenna and Associates at a cost of \$12,750. Paul Evans, McKenna's consultant

(Continued on page 21)

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

Santa's Mailbox

Santa's Mailbox is outside next to the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce for the children to send their letters to the Jolly Old Elf. The Chamber is located at 248 Main Street, Belleville.

HELP WANTED

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

EXPERIENCED HOUSE CLEANER for local company. Needs to be reliable and have transportation. (734) 818-7372 12/4

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

IRON ANTIQUE BED - over 100 years old \$50. Handicapped equipment-everything you need \$5 each. (734) 391-7003. 12/4

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

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

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE

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

VEHICLE FOR SALE

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

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

FREE

CAROL GOMES RIGGS 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. 12/4

LOST

SILVER RING. Engraved with "Debbie" followed by a heart. (734) 444-7566 12/4

FOR RENT

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

BELLEVILLE AREA CONDO. 2 bd. 1 ½ 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 ½ baths. Appliances, washer/dryer. New carpet/paint. Carport, pool. Water/heat. \$875/mo. (734) 223-3993. 12/11

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

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.



**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.*

**The Belleville-Area
Independent New Website
is Now Online! Visit us @
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

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

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

SERVICES

Take Advantage Of Fall Rates!

Call **FIRST CLASS LANDSCAPING**

(734) 699-4711

FREE ESTIMATES!!!

YEAR ROUND SERVICES

Landscaping Maintenance

Snow Removal Garage, Basement & Attic Clean-Ups*

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

A&L SERVICES

**Home Improvement &
Handyman Service**

Painting, Drywall, Carpentry,
Electrical, Plumbing,

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**Serving Belleville Since
1995. Call Aaron Schultz**

@ 734-740-0628

M.D. APPLIANCE SERVICE

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

Sumpter Township Police alert public to telephone scam

On Dec. 1, the Sumpter Township Police Department was contacted by a Van Buren Township resident about a phone call received earlier in the day by her elderly mother.

The resident said a call came in showing on her caller ID as being from the Sumpter Township Police Department and showing the department's office number of 734-461-4833.

On the other end of the line was a male speaking in an unrecognized thick foreign accent claiming he was from the police department and that back taxes were owed.

He reportedly went on to say that if full payment was not made immediately by credit card over the phone the Sumpter Township Police Department would come to her house and arrest her.

This scam used what is called "Spoofing" to show a different number on the caller ID than the one actually being used and relies on the victim believing that they are in fact being contacted by a legitimate caller, be it a business, municipality, etc.

You can read more about "Spoofing" using this link:

<http://netsecurity.about.com/od/securityadvisorie1/a/Caller-Id-Spoofing.htm>

Instructions:

Never give out credit card information over the phone unless you are completely sure who you are dealing with and/or are the one who placed the call in the first place. In the event that something seems out of sorts after receiving a call asking for such information, take proper steps to confirm the source before giving any information.

Captain Eric Luke, Sumpter Township PD
eluke@sumptertpd.org

Santa coming to library from 6:30-8 p.m. Dec. 8

Santa Claus will visit the Belleville Area District Library from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 8. If kids are too shy to whisper in Santa's ear, they are invited to bring their hand-written wish list. Parents are invited to take pictures of their children with Santa for Christmas cards.

Community Chorus to hold free Christmas Concert on Saturday, Dec. 13

Belleville Community Chorus will present its free Christmas concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., at the United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street in Belleville. The Children's Chorus and Teen Ensemble also will perform.

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, Nov. 23:

0448 – assault & battery, Tyler Rd.
1227 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1239 – narcotics crime, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1245 – shots fired, Millington Ct. / Ironwood Dr.
1319 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis
1341 – agency assist, SB I-275/I-94
1434 – fraud, Belleville
1439 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1514 – noise complaint, Parkwood Manor
1730 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1806 – larceny, Beverly Rd.
1942 – missing person, Parkwood Dr.

Monday, Nov. 24:

1317 – larceny, Quirk Rd.
1327 – agency assist, Haggerty Rd./S. I-94 Service
1417 – agency assist, Industrial
1945 – mental, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2006 – hospice, Bemis Rd.
2018 – unattended death, Elwell Rd.
2350 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Truman

Tuesday, Nov. 25:

1330 – sexual assault, Stratford Dr.
1334 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1401 – private property accident, Belleville
1419 – harassment call, Haggerty Rd.
1521 – suicide or attempt, Belleville Rd.
1520 – juvenile complaint, Country Walk Blvd.
1537 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1538 – harassment call, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1600 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1600 – traffic complaint, Belleville/Tim Horton's
1611 – larceny, Denton Rd.
1625 – larceny from auto, Parkwood Dr.
1719 – disorderly conduct, Ecorse Rd.
1726 – mental, Brandi
1857 – disorderly conduct, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1856 – civil matter, Super 8
2022 – mental, Jackson St.
2210 – missing person, Denton Rd.

Wednesday, Nov. 26:

0044 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd./Quirk
0246 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
0754 – larceny, Oak Ln.
1034 – private property accident, Rawsonville
1200 – suspicious person, Tyler
1212 – suspicious situation, Martz Rd.
1313 – assault & battery, Leon Dr.
1424 – larceny from auto, Haggerty
1545 – property damage accident, Rawsonville
2127 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2225 – operating while intoxicated, N. I-94 Service
2225 – suspicious situation, Westlake
2331 – suspicious vehicle, Maurice Dr.
2334 – assault & battery, Brandi

Thursday, Nov. 27:

0034 – operating while intoxicated, WB I-94 / Belleville Rd.
0114 – malicious destruction of property, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0202 – property damage accident, W. Huron River Dr. / Ormond Dr.
0550 – property damage accident, Bemis/Sumpter
0914 – breaking & entering, McBride Ave.
1645 – agency assist, WB I-94/Belleville Rd.
1856 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Huron River Dr.
1914 – family trouble, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2035 – family trouble, Pond Ridge Dr.
2044 – family trouble, Lighthouse Dr.
2239 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2314 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr./Belleville Rd.

Friday, Nov. 28:

0141 – disturbance, Westlake
0455 – larceny, Lake Crest Dr.
0613 – family trouble, N. Ponderosa Trl.
0800 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd./W. Huron River Dr.
1104 – private property accident, Victoria St.
1545 – PPO violation, Belleville
1614 – larceny, Rawsonville Rd.
1719 – larceny, Parkwood Dr.
1750 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.

/ Bemis Rd.

1805 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Westlake Circle
1823 – agency assist, Victoria St.
Saturday, Nov. 29:
0755 – disturbance, Denton Rd.
0823 – malicious destruction of property, S. Bellridge Dr.
1001 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
1023 – fraud, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1026 – larceny from auto, S. Bellridge Dr.
1028 – larceny from auto, S. Bellridge Dr.
1034 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.

1125 – malicious destruction of property, N. Bellridge Dr.
1206 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1358 – property damage accident, Belleville/Belle Tire

1403 – missing person, Denton Rd.
1522 – larceny from auto, S. Bellridge Dr.
1655 – property damage accident, WB I-94/I-275
1657 – larceny, E. Huron River Dr.
1746 – agency assist, W. Columbia
1954 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
1959 – harassment call, Daisy
2241 – noise complaint, Pine Dr.
2332 – suspicious situation, Haggerty Rd./E. Huron River Dr.

Also on this week's log are 134 traffic stops, 27 of which were on I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 23:

0241 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0843 – suspicious vehicle, Sumpter Rd.
1156 – agency assist, Belle Villa Blvd.
1548 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1932 – welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.
1951 – welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.
1948 – suspicious situation, Sumpter
2203 – civil matter, Main St.

Monday, Nov. 24:

0012 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
0121 – serve warrant, Carmell St.
0514 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1415 – holdup alarm, S. Industrial Park Dr.
1644 – miscellaneous complaint, Citgo
2103 – suspicious situation, E. Columbia / Davenport
2121 – intrusion alarm, Third St.

Tuesday, Nov. 25:

0224 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1036 – intrusion alarm, W. Wabash Ave.
1052 – information, W. Columbia Ave.
1112 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Main St.
1327 – parking complaint, Third St.
1606 – property damage accident, Angola
1611 – parking complaint, Thornhill Ct./Victorian Ln.
2356 – disturbance, N. Liberty St.

Wednesday, Nov. 26:

0601 – trespassing, Belle Villa Blvd.
1134 – warrant arrest, Main St.
1429 – warrant arrest, Main St.
1742 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
2015 – prisoner check, Main St.
2349 – property check, Sumpter

Thursday, Nov. 27:

0103 – motorist assist, N. Liberty St./Second St.
0228 – follow up, Loza Ln.
0316 – assist fire dept., Edison Ave.
1010 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1220 – found property, W. Columbia Ave.
1418 – noise complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.
1808 – parking complaint, Light Tower Dr.
1919 – assist fire dept., Estrada
2340 – suspicious situation, South/Owen

Friday, Nov. 28:

0624 – suspicious vehicle, Light Tower Dr.
1048 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1418 – vehicle lockout, Jet's Pizza
1555 – civil matter, Belle Villa Blvd.
1619 – animal complaint, Harbour Pointe Dr.
2012 – welfare check, Clarence St.
2332 – domestic assault, Charles Ct.

Saturday, Nov. 29:

0645 – assist fire dept., N. Aberdeen Ct.
1216 – fraud, Sumpter
1505 – agency assist, Estrada
1620 – motorist assist, 5 Points
1743 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2033 – harassment call, N. Liberty St.
2144 – suspicious vehicle, W. Columbia Ave.
Also on this week's log are 26 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 23:

0140 – assist other agency, out of township
1019 – death investigation, New Mexico
1422 – mental health commitment, Willis/Wilmut
1501 – civil dispute, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1542 – suspicious person, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1916 – civil dispute, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
2045 – alarm, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2244 – fire dept. assist, Rawsonville/Willis

Monday, Nov. 24:

0150 – parking complaint, 45000 bl. Arkona Rd.
0205 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
0240 – fire dept. assist, Texas
1322 – down wires, Bemis/Haggerty
1343 – traffic hazard, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1441 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1452 – traffic hazard, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1513 – reckless driver complaint, Lohr/Bemis
1624 – family trouble, Sumpter/Wear
1642 – alarm, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.

Tuesday, Nov. 25:

0006 – warrant arrest, out of township
0927 – fire dept. assist, 5700 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
0936 – suspicious incident, New Mexico
0949 – neighbor dispute, 44000 bl. Paris Dr.
1014 – alarm, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1213 – suspicious incident, 19000 bl. Clark Rd.
1412 – odor investigation, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1710 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Fenster
1730 – suspicious vehicle, Rawsonville/Bemis
2236 – juvenile complaint, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

Wednesday, Nov. 26:

1000 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Kozma
1046 – larceny, 45000 bl. Wear Rd.
1220 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1904 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2204 – suspicious vehicle, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
2216 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.

Thursday, Nov. 27:

0041 – property damage accident, Judd/Sumpter
0234 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0548 – suspicious vehicle, 43000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0828 – animal complaint, 19000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1154 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
1241 – juvenile complaint, Sumpter/Victoria
1503 – suspicious vehicle, 20000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1738 – warrant arrest, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1952 – suspicious incident, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
2112 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

Friday, Nov. 28:

1005 – alarm, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1932 – assist other agency, out of township
2017 – well-being check, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.

Saturday, Nov. 29:

0059 – suspicious incident, 8100 bl. Rawsonville
0639 – suspicious person, 22000 bl. Martinsville
1147 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
1641 – civil dispute, 43000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1947 – assist other agency, 23000 bl. Sherwood

Also on this week's log are four follow-up investigations, 35 miscellaneous details, 176 patrol checks, and 49 traffic stops.



VBT DDA

(continued from page 18)

on non-motorized transportation, gave a presentation to the DDA on the project. Hodges said there are walks and crosswalks on Belleville Road and they want to make it more walkable and bikeable. Hodges said people can get their own walk score, from 1-100, by going onto www.walkscore.com/score and answering some questions;

• Approved buying an \$895 full-page advertisement in the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce 2015 Directory;

• Approved the amended 2014 DDA Budget and the proposed 2015 DDA Budget;

• Heard the holiday decorations arrived earlier that day to use for the entry to the

township north of the Belleville Bridge and they will be erected immediately by Old Glory;

• Approved an amended expenditure for the DDA for three emergency sirens at not to exceed \$72,030. In August they approved \$62,030, which included some CDBG funds that had to be taken out;

• Heard DDA vice chairman Craig Atchinson announce that at the recent VBT Civic Fund meeting, the members agreed to pay \$116,000 for six emergency sirens that were to be paid for by the township. He said Public Safety Director Greg Laurain and Police Lt. Charles Bazy were at the meeting and explained the need; and

• Learned the DDA has a verbal approval from the county on the landscape planned for the corner of Belleville and Ecorse

roads. The county asked the DDA to have a civil engineer review the landscape plans. The county also asked for one more meeting on on-site visibility.

Absent from the Nov. 25 meeting were chairman Jere Dolph, Joe Baskin, Bob Bechtel, and Mark Laginess.

Vehicles will signal their precise locations at Detroit Metro Airport

Vehicles operating on the airfield at Detroit Metropolitan Airport will soon be sending a signal showing their exact location to both Air Traffic Control and the airport's Operational Control Center.

"Safety is the number-one priority at our airports," said Airport Authority CEO Thomas Naughton.

"Allowing Air Traffic Control and Operational Control Center to monitor certain vehicles on the Aircraft Operating Area not only improves safety by improving situational awareness, but enhances efficiency when responding to possible incidents, as well."

The Airport Authority has selected Exelis to install Vehicle Movement Area Transponders in airport rescue and fire fighting, airport maintenance, and airfield operations vehicles operating in the Aircraft Operating Area.

Symphony® MobileVue™ will provide Air Traffic Control with the ability to view vehicles equipped with the transponders instantly with the vehicle identification being displayed on a common screen shared with the Operational Control Center. Currently, vehicles check in via radio with Air Traffic Control for identification, and are not visible in the Operational Control Center.

"Having the vehicle identification displayed should enhance our dispatch's identification of vehicle assets for airfield job assignments," said Director of Airfield Operations Dianne Walker.

"Another advantage is that if an incident occurs, Symphony MobileVue will give the Airport Authority Operational Control Center capability to view a display and contact the closest emergency vehicle for a faster, more-efficient response time."

Installation of the transponders in 48 vehicles that operate on the Aircraft Operating Area is expected to be complete in the spring of 2015.

Birthdays

Nov. 28 – Jane Vesche

Nov. 30 – Glenice Bosman

Dec. 1 – Nick Bevins, Rochelle McArthur

Dec. 7 – Dan Michaels

Dec. 8 – Tom Smith

Dec. 11 – Lori Demond

Dec. 29 – Vickie White

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



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.

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Amy - Formerly of Amy's Hair Shop

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KAREN'S PLACE COUPON EXPIRES 12/31/2014

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.

BELLEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11900 Belleville Road, Belleville, MI 48111

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FRI. 11AM - 11PM
SAT. 12PM-11PM
SUN. 12PM-10PM

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Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Hot Hair Salon and Denny's Barber Shop will have your family looking their best for the holidays with specials on all kinds of salon and beauty services, such as color and highlights, mani/pedi's and kids 12 and under haircuts for just \$9.95 with their ad coupon in today's paper. First-time customers can get \$5 off with another coupon. Walk-ins and appointments are available by calling **(734) 697-4485**.

The incentives with great savings on new, pre-owned, and lease-to-own of manufactured homes in **Belleville Manor** and at **Van Buren Estates** have been extended through December. The Franklin Homes Company will match up to \$2,000 of your down payment. For details call **Belinda Lawson** at Belleville Manor at **(734) 699-7700** or **Joy Moore** at Van Buren Estates at **(734) 697-6159**. There's still time to move in by Christmas. For more info on both communities in Belleville visit their website at www.franklinhomesales.com.

Winter Fest 2014 is this week end, Dec. 5-7 in Downtown Belleville and the list of activities continues to grow. Don't forget the parade on Saturday starts at 4:30 p.m. this year and the fireworks over the lake is now on Friday, beginning at 7 p.m. The Main Street business decorating contest judging will also take place Friday evening. The weather forecast is supposed get close to 40 all three days so make sure you get out to see all the ice sculptures that will dot Main Street. And, watch out for Jingle Belle runners downtown on Saturday morning. A holiday arts and craft show will take place on Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Municipal Center. Raffle tickets are still available at the chamber to win a 1-year lease on a new Ford Focus. Tickets are \$20 each and only 1,000 of them are being sold. Drawing is Saturday at the parade. For details and locations for most of the activities and events around town, check out the Winter Fest ad in today's paper.

MD Appliance Service in Belleville can get your refrigerator, washer, dryer, and range working like new again. They charge only \$20 for house calls. Call **(734) 782-3354**.

Garden Fantasy Florist & Greenhouse located on Haggerty Road just north of I-94 in Belleville is your local holiday decorating headquarters featuring grown-in-Michigan, fresh-cut Christmas trees, wreaths, and cedar roping. Right now get a \$10 Garden Fantasy Gift Card for every \$50 purchase with their ad coupon in today's paper. Call **(734) 699-7370** and visit their website at www.gardenfantasyflorist.com.

A personal thanks to Karen LaBelle and the Belleville Chamber of Commerce

for allowing me to once again provide drawings for this year's Chamber Coloring Book, which will be stuffed in stockings for kids visiting Santa after he arrives Saturday. If you can't get to see him this weekend, the **Belleville Central Business Community** will hold Photos with Santa at the Belleville Area Museum on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Dec. 20, from noon to 4 p.m. Framed professional photographs will be available at no charge, thanks to **Genisys Credit Union** and the **Tucker Insurance Agency** of Belleville. Also it's great to see all the businesses stepping up to sponsor Winter Fest this year, including the **Belleville DDA, Belleville CBC, EQ, BYC, Meijer, Jack Demmer Ford, Wayne County Community College, The Spicer Group, and Woodstone Grill**. Thanks.

Want free color in the *Independent*? Simply sign your ad up for a year. If you're an advertiser that runs every week with us anyway, the 52-week run will not only get your ad colorized by our production team, you'll save 35% off the total contract. Call with any questions at **(734) 699 9020**.

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 Board sets special 4 p.m. meeting Monday to discuss budget

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, the board voted unanimously to hold a special work/study session at 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, to discuss the proposed budget.

A balanced budget needs to be approved by the end of the month and the board has yet to see the budget that was adjusted after the two days of discussion in November.

More Letters

Please help us get Willis Road paved in Sumpter

To the Editor:

About our Roads: The last time Willis Road was worked on was 2009. At that time, I asked the road crew when they thought Willis would be paved. The answer I got was it'll be done in 2012.

Nothing has been done to improve the condition of the road. The road is in bad shape from Rawsonville to Sumpter Road. Please try to help us and get it paved.

Thanks,
Jim Allen
Sumpter Township

"Ancient Rome declined because it had a Senate; now what's going to happen to us with both a Senate and a House?"

Will Rogers



The Environmental Quality Company

Congratulates the City of Belleville on their Winter Fest 2014!

For over fifty-seven years, EQ has set the industry standard for superior environmental management services. Our technical innovations, sustainable solutions and commitment to our local communities has made us one of the most respected environmental companies in the country.



Happy Holidays From Our Family To Yours!

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**12 & Under
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Shellac \$10 More
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**One Call Does It All...
...At The Independent
734-699-9020**

Orphan of the Week

**Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue**

“COMET”



There's no need to wait another 100 years to catch a glimpse of a spectacular comet when all you have to do is take our **Comet** home and you can see one everyday. **Comet** is an entertaining, curious and affectionate orange tabby boy that will add lots of cosmic fun to your home. He can take a little time to adjust to changes in his living arrangements but his curious nature soon has him boldly going where no kitty has gone before by exploring any open cabinets, cubbyholes or unidentified flying or lying around objects. **Comet** gets along with his kitty crewmates here and doesn't seem to mind being in close quarters with them but as always allowing plenty of time to adjust with new kitty friends is suggested. He's very people friendly too and likes getting pets and attention but isn't an attention hog in the least. **Comet's** handsome orange and white coat and striking yellow eyes will catch your eye and leave you feeling star struck and wanting to know more. Although he likes being active we think **Comet** will probably do best in a home where things are not always running at warp-speed. **Comet** is neutered, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped and quite ready for a fur-ever home adventure. Call Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more info.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Friday, Dec. 5** – Fireworks at dusk over Belleville Lake from the Denton Road Bridge. Part of Winter Fest activities. Also, skating on the Fourth Street Square, courtesy of BYC.

• **Saturday, Dec. 6** – Holiday Arts & Crafts Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Van Buren Township Community Center, 46425 Tyler Road, 699-8921. Also, September Days Bake Sale, 9 a.m.-noon.

• **Saturday, Dec. 6** – Winter Fest activities all day. Christmas parade at 4:30 p.m. Tree lighting in front of the museum after the parade.

• **Saturday, Dec. 6** – Angel of Hope annual candlelight ceremony in Hillside Cemetery, 7 p.m.

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

• **Monday, Dec. 8** – Santa is coming to the Belleville Area District Library from 6:30 to 8 p.m. If the kids are too shy to whisper in Santa's ear, they are invited to bring their hand-written wish lists. Take your own pictures for Christmas cards.

• **Saturday, Dec. 13** – Children's Christmas Ornament Workshops, 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. at the Belleville Area Museum. Cost \$2. (Pre-registration encouraged.) Pictures with Santa are free from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., courtesy of the CBC and sponsors.

• **Saturday, Dec. 13** – Please join the Belleville Community Chorus for its annual Winter Concert at 7 p.m. at Belleville United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street, Belleville. This year it's "Snowflakes & Stars." Reception to follow in the basement. Free, but donations are gratefully accepted.



These are the Students of the Month for November at Keystone Academy. From left, in the front row, are James Rosenthal, Kelsey Oxender, Nolan Henderson, Gabriel Rister, Zaynab Shafu, Gracie Hallock, Hannah Fortune, Vincent Bodziak, Makaela Mongo, and Ayden McCormick. From left, in the second row, are Allison Heringhausen, Ngozi Ndukwe, Donovan Clark, Nadia Evans, Christopher Warren, Kaitlyn Mitchell, Jack Foster, Eric Briske, and Davai Matthews. From left, in back, are Brooklyn Keele, Makynna Varney, Kaitlin Hicks, Gracelyn Hurst, Lucas Loggie, Matthew Morton, Barry Butler, Laurence Dallas, and Kelsey McKnight.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

The Nov. 10 meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education was held at Owen Intermediate School and before board members were given a tour of the building, an ensemble of school musicians entertained them.



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

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SPECIALS
2-5PM**

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& GARLIC WITH PITA BREAD**

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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.



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. \$114,900



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



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BOG RD VAN BUREN .55 ACRES	\$29,750
49809 BOG 2.74 ACRES	\$49,500
5900 DELLOR 1.81 ACRES	\$40,000
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP	
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
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COGSWELL ROMULUS .71 ACRES	\$35,000
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9801 OZGA 4.47 ACRES (HAS HOME)	\$59,500
BELLEVILLE	
337 MAIN .32 ACRES 83X165	\$79,500



130 WEST WABASH, BELLEVILLE
A MOST AFFORDABLE home in the City of Belleville. Clean, neat and move in condition, this home offers 2 bedrooms, living room, dining room, hardwood floors and full basement. Large lot with garage and more. This location is one of the best, in a wonderful neighborhood, close to parks, city hall and more. \$54,900.



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