



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 20.9 Thursday, February 27, 2014 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren FREE

City Council hosts party for retiring Boc, but he doesn't come

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Keith Boc, who is retiring from Belleville City employment on Feb. 28 -- his 50th birthday -- was honored at a brief party during the city council meeting on Feb. 18.

The only problem was that Boc had called in sick that day and didn't come to the meeting.

Mayor Kerreen Conley had baked a special cake, showing the parts of Boc's job as director of public services. They had invited five of the six mayors Boc had served under during his 28 years of service.

Present were Mayors Glenn Silvenis, Richard Smith, Thomas Fielder (now a councilman), and Conley. Later Conley said Mayor Bev Steinhauer told her she marked her calendar, but then the event slipped her mind. She said they didn't know how to get in touch with Mayor Dennis Fassett.

Mayor Conley showed the plaque the council got for Boc, read the engraving on the plaque, and then read some prepared positive remarks on Boc's service to the community.

At about 8:30 p.m., Mayor Conley recessed the meeting for about 12 minutes and members of the audience and all the mayors ate the cake and had their pictures

taken together.

In other business at the Feb. 18 meeting (held on a Tuesday because of Presidents' Day), the council:

- Approved the mayor's appointment of Rick Dawson to the Board of Review with a term to expire Dec. 31, 2016;
- Heard Aimee Page, representing The Senior Alliance, give a report on the services that help residents in the city;
- Approved the Belleville-Area Council for the Arts' "Hares on the Square" event, formerly called "Bunnies on Main," April 14-20 in the planter boxes on the Fourth Street Square;
- Approved signing a letter of engagement

with Employee Solve, Inc. of Birmingham to offer Human Resources help to the city in the area of retiree health care for a \$3,500 fee over a 60-day period;

- Unanimously accepted City Manager Diana Kollmeyer's recommendation not to raise fire department training/practice wages from \$7.40 to \$10 an hour at this time and to revisit the request during upcoming budget cycle. She pointed out the hourly rate for training and practice recently was increased from \$5 to \$7.40, in that evening's payables the city had to pay \$2,200 for non-participation in the Western Wayne County Mutual Aid Hazmat team,

(continued on page 19)

Civil Service Commission supports free healthcare for Boc

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After one hour and 14 minutes of discussion at a morning meeting on Feb. 21, the Belleville Civil Service Commission voted unanimously to what amounts to the city providing free health care to Keith Boc after he retires Feb. 28.

Department of Public Services Director Keith Boc had pointed out the existing rules of the city on retirement health care were not being followed.

The current rules say that after 25 years of service, health care for life is paid 100% by the city. But after a closed-door session on Nov. 4, the council voted for provisions that require 20% payment of health care premiums for Civil Service retirees, the same as for other employees.

Boc is about to retire and said he wanted a decision now because this has been weighing on him since that council action in November and it has been very stressful for him.

At the Feb. 21 meeting, when it was suggested the CSC may want to look at the city attorney's opinion and take the appeal up at a future meeting, Boc said, "Wait

another week? I thought this meeting would be held months ago... I just want it to be over with."

"I'm with Keith," said CSC chairman Mike Loria. "We just could be going round and round about this."

Boc said he knows the city council could just ignore the CSC decision and if he gets a bill in the mail for health care he will have to pay it or lose his health coverage.

The Feb. 21 CSC meeting agenda called for an executive session before Boc's appeal so the CSC could hear "a communication from the city attorney which is subject to the attorney-client privilege."

But CSC member Don Bluhm challenged the need for closed-door session, saying everything should be discussed in public.

"The city attorney represents the city. How can the city attorney represent the city and come over and try to talk to us in executive session? ... Intimidation is the word that comes to mind. There is nothing to go into closed session for," Bluhm said.

City attorney Steve Hitchcock said he could do it in open session if the CSC doesn't have any questions.

Loria, who later in the meeting was

reelected CSC chairman, said there are no charges brought against anyone, so there is no reason to go into closed session. He said the communication from Hitchcock was just given to CSC members that morning.

"I don't think we need to go into closed session," Bluhm stated, and then made the motion to remove Item 7, Executive Session, from the agenda.

"Who's harmed by not going into executive session?" asked CSC member Roy Acho.

Hitchcock said the CSC members couldn't ask questions that they wouldn't want in public.

But, Acho said, there are no charges against any individual.

Acho then seconded Bluhm's motion and the CSC voted not to go into executive session.

The CSC then reelected Loria as chairman and heard Boc's appeal.

Boc said he submitted an appeal Dec. 2 under Civil Services rules. He said after 25 years of service the Nov. 4 decision was the first time the city council acted on a Civil Service subject without going through the Civil Service Commission. Under CSC



Keith Boc

Rules, a grievance must be resolved and answered by his immediate supervisor

(continued on page 15)

Judge Oakley adjourns Whites's felony cases

Disbarred attorney Thomas White of Van Buren Township was due to have preliminary exams on 20 felony charges

before 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green on Wednesday, Feb. 26, but

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

School Board rates Supt. Van Tassel as 'Highly Effective'

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After several closed-door sessions over the last month, members of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education voted unanimously in public on Monday that they rate School Supt. Michael Van Tassel as "Highly Effective."

The board, which is expected to evaluate the superintendent annually, presented a two-page, single-spaced evaluation they had worked together to write during its Feb. 10 closed-door session.

"Just over two years ago, in a time of great difficulties, Supt. Van Tassel was hired specifically to bring the kinds of thoughtful, research-based, yet significant changes Van Buren Public Schools needed to address major problems," the evaluation began, listing eight challenges, including a \$5 million budget deficit.

"Since his hiring, Supt. Van Tassel has made remarkable progress in all of these areas with focused leadership, systematic improvement processes, and comprehensive investment in developing the skills of all employees. Further, the Board of Education commends the Superintendent for his efforts to keep the board apprised of critical district matters," the evaluation continued.

Progress in all the areas was detailed, including moving from a deficit to a 7.3% fund balance and a projected balance of



Van Tassel

more than 9% by the end of the year.

"The laborious examination of the budget line by line allowed for \$1 million of savings with minimal impact on student learning," the evaluation stated.

"... Overall, we see sustained and dramatic progress in all areas, and the district is firmly set on an upward trajectory," the evaluation ended.

Board vice president Martha Toth pointed out that Trustee Kathy Kovach was absent from Monday's meeting, but would surely have voted in favor of the top evaluation for Van Tassel had she been present.

On Monday, the board held a 15-minute special meeting to adopt the evaluation and then held a work/study session to discuss other items.

Common Core

Michelle Wagner, an experienced teacher, has been released from her teaching duties to help create K-8 English Language Arts curriculum under Common Core.

She explained the district has to "unpack" the curriculum and "chunk" it the way that is best for this district.

Supt. Van Tassel said the state doesn't require this, so the board might ask, "Why are we breaking down the standards?"

He answered his own question: "So teachers can have good conversations on how to teach the standards."

He said they have checked and find teachers across the state are not breaking it down, so Van Buren is having to do it for itself. He said they are planning how to group it and teach it to kids.

Trustee Sherry Frazier said this could be a money-maker, if the district copyrighted

its work and sold it to other districts.

Wagner said it was targeted for this district and would assure parents that their children would get the same education no matter who their teacher is – "although some teachers will sing more and some will do more art" – the end product will be the same.

"A few short years ago, in elementary schools our classes were teaching different things ... and then all the students went into one high school," said Trustee Scott Russell.

Trustee Russell asked when the district will have everything aligned and Van Tassel said he would expect everything would be aligned in three years. He said the curriculum would be evaluated every year and every three years it would be restacked and readjusted.

"We have lost so many experienced staff," Van Tassel said. "There's not a lot of 30-year staff because the state is pushing them out..."

He said they have to set up a program for new teachers to learn the curriculum.

"I'm incredibly impressed with the entire K-4 staff," Van Tassel said referring to their curriculum work.

Wagner said teachers used to spend a lot of time developing curriculum, but now the school will give them the curriculum.

Toth said there is clearly a lot of discussion on Common Core and she is afraid of what the state is going to come up with for assessment.

"I'm afraid of the assessment, but the curriculum itself is a huge step forward," Toth said.

Head Start

Van Tassel said the district has been contacted by the Guidance Center which is interested in having its Head Start program move from St. Anthony's Catholic Church school building to the Haggerty School, where there are empty classrooms and lots of room for expansion.

The board encouraged Van Tassel to proceed with discussions with Head Start, which wants to be in place for fall classes.

Van Tassel said in a contract proposal Head Start has offered \$40,000 a year in rent for a three-year commitment, with either side able to cancel with 30 days of notice.

Head Start lost its Sumpter site, reportedly because of the federal sequester cuts, and now it wants to expand.

The school district offers Great Start preschool, available to the next income bracket above Head Start, to about 170 total children in morning and afternoon classes.

Van Tassel said by having Head Start at Haggerty the district could tie all the early elementary programs together so children coming into Kindergarten in the district are better prepared, "Instead of having different abilities – from can't identify letters to being fluent readers."

Closed-door session

At the end of Monday's meeting the board voted to go into closed-door session to discuss an opinion letter from its attorney on an undisclosed subject.

VBT Trustee Miller questions absences of DDA reappointments

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Van Buren Township Trustee Reggie Miller questioned the attendance records of two of the three candidates being proposed by Supervisor Linda Combs for four-year reappointments to the Downtown Development Authority.

At the Feb. 18 meeting of the VBT Board of Trustees, Trustee Miller first asked that the reappointments be removed from the consent agenda, so they could be discussed.

The DDA reappointments, proposed to the supervisor by DDA Executive Director Susan Ireland, were for Jere Dolph, Ronald Blank, and Robert Bechtel and Ireland told the board that all three had been "wonderful, wonderful members..."

Miller had no problem with Dolph, who has been on the DDA since it was organized when he represented the Van Buren Public

Schools. Dolph currently serves as DDA chairman and Ireland said, "He has the history."

Blank is a VBT business owner and developer and knows how to question engineers. Bechtel owns a furniture manufacturing business on Van Born Road.

It was the attendance records of Blank and Bechtel that bothered her.

Bechtel was absent from 5 of the 12 meetings in 2013 and 8 of the 12 meetings in 2012.

Blank was absent from 8 of the 12 meetings in 2013 and 7 of the 12 in 2012.

She said members of the community had brought this to her attention and, "I have to ask about the attendance. Why the

absenteeism?"

Ireland said Bechtel teaches a class in marketing at Macomb County Community College on the same night of the DDA meetings.

She said Blank had missed a couple "for his religious faith" and others because he had a family issue to deal with.

Miller said that the township counts attendance as important.

"I would not like to lose them because of the knowledge they bring to the DDA board," Ireland said.

Miller insisted that attendance was important and should be treated seriously.

Supervisor Combs said when they can't come they are in touch with Ireland by email and phone with their input.

"Is there any way for them to teleconference in?" Miller asked and Ireland said she didn't think they could do that.

"We have to address the absenteeism ...

It's critical to the success of the township..." Miller said.

Clerk Leon Wright made the motion to approve the appointments of all three and Trustee Brenda McClanahan seconded the motion.

"I'll be voting no," Miller said. "I think we need board members who can commit." She said she thinks board members should have a shared value and common vision.

Miller said she means to take nothing from these gentlemen, but can't in good conscience vote for them.

Clerk Wright said board members should value their commitments and the board should set forth a policy going forward.

"If we don't have anyone else to handle it at this time," the board should reappoint these members, Wright said, pointing out these were uncompensated positions.

(continued on page 12)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Learning cursive writing again

The Van Buren Public Schools is adopting a "unified writing program" in the district and teachers were introduced to the "Handwriting without Tears" K-5 program during a professional development day last Friday.

We were happy to hear that cursive writing will again be taught in the schools. At Monday's school board meeting it was explained that some teachers were teaching cursive writing in their classes and some weren't.

It seemed we were heading toward an all-computer-typing education, when the Common Core standards, which have been adopted by the VBPS, required students to read the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution – which are in script writing.

It was found that if students couldn't write script, they couldn't read script. Also, legal documents require a signature in writing, so students really should learn how to write.

They will be learning the shaping of the letters early on and connected script in the 3rd grade, which will be perfected in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades.

And, they will be using a pincher grip, with three fingers pinching the pencil, which should be a golfer's pencil, instead of the fat pencils used in the past. Curriculum Director Diane Kullis said they are going to see if they can get a bunch of golf pencils cheap somewhere.

We commend the district for moving forward with script lessons. The students will benefit in many ways.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Joe Moore, who for years had sold the *Sunday Free Press* at the Frosty Boy parking lot on Main Street in Belleville, took a break for a few months.

He called to say he will be back this Sunday, March 2. He opens up shop at 6 a.m. He has many customers who have missed him and will be glad to see him back. He sells the paper at a reduced rate.

I received the following email on Friday. It made me smile:

Rosemary, I loved your story about the 3 ballon son your birthday arrangement. Sorry my space bar is broken, hope you can read this.

I got a call from a lady whose snow blower was ruined after it sucked up one of those pink, plastic bags containing advertising from the Detroit Free Press Sunday paper. She said one of her neighbors had a pink plastic bag sucked up in her snowblower, but the machine was stronger and it just chopped it up and spit it out.

I do see those bags in paper boxes, out under mailboxes, and in yards everywhere. Maybe in nice weather they would be picked up by homeowners and wouldn't be so intrusive. We found a pink bag with advertising blowing around in our backyard, and we live out in the country.

On Monday Congressman John D. Dingell (D-MI12) announced his decision not to run for re-election to the House of Representatives this fall.

We're going to miss his work in Washington, as well as his faithful attendance at events in our district. Democrats and Republicans alike praise his accomplishments.



Rep. Dingell has served about 59 years in the U.S. House, making him the longest serving Congressman in history.

I received an email Tuesday morning about the Woodstone Grill sign that has been put up on the restaurant near Kmart and across the street from Denny's.

Our reader said back in the 1970s she remembered it being the Woodstone Inn and she wondered if the new owner has a sense of history or is it just a coincidence.

She said she smiled when she saw the new sign because it brought happy memories of when she and her husband had season tickets to the Fisher Theater in Detroit and enjoyed pre-show dinners at the Woodstone Inn.

The Woodstone had first been a bank or credit union. It was a two-story building, open in the center, with seating upstairs looking down to the ground-floor seating.

It was later torn down. Then it became a Shoney's (maybe something before that), then Lonestar, and most recently Feathers.

She said maybe other readers can fill in the blanks. She said there's a date on the building over the front door, so that must be when it was built after the old Woodstone Inn was torn down.

Part of the ceiling fell in when water was dripping down into the front office at Belleville City Hall. On Friday they had a

Metro Environmental crew there working on the water on the roof that had been dripping down into the building. They were there again on Monday.

By Monday, the front office had been cleared of workers and all the papers and equipment protectively covered with plastic. This office, where residents go to pay their water bills and the like, smelled really musty. It was unsafe for workers, according to City Manager Diane Kollmeyer. They were working elsewhere in the building.

The public will get all the information on the problem at the next city council meeting, I'm sure.

I know that at last Wednesday's DDA meeting in the city council chambers, I was sitting next to a wastebasket that was catching water that dropped from the ceiling. The fluorescent light overhead was out because it had water in it.

On Thursday morning, at the CSC meeting, I had to move farther over because there were now three wastebaskets catching drips. That light was on, however, even though you could still see the water in the fixture. CSC member Don Bluhm was sitting right under it where they had placed a table for him to use for his papers. Thankfully, it didn't fall in on him.



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Letters

Fishing and Libraries?

To the Editor:

Fishing and Libraries?

Let me get this concept into perspective. This Belleville Area District Library board appears to be under the tutelage of an architect whose concepts are exponential and more appropriate to the Chicago Miracle Mile, San Francisco Fisherman's Wharf, or New Orleans Bourbon Street. Is this "couture-of-architecture" a fisherperson (I believe this was the word chosen to be politically correct) or is anyone on the BADL a fisherperson?

First, the concept of putting a fishing pier in conjunction with the proposed library is conducive to complete ridicule. This has the concept of "Build it and they will come" field of dreams. Fishermen go where the fish are located, not where you build them a comfortable pier with running water and bathroom facilities.

Second, just who is going to maintain those restrooms, pick up the "fish litter" etc.?

Third, just where do fisherpersons park? In an already undersized parking facility?

Fourth, just what does a library have to do with fishing other than the BADL schmoozing the DNR for this property?

It is not the responsibility of Belleville, Van Buren, or Sumpter to provide fishing facilities at property tax payers' expense. I was an avid fisherperson, but I never depended on someone providing me with the comforts of home. And, it has been my experience that when facilities are provided, there are those who find it more expeditious to use whatever and wherever is available -- and not those designated! Awareness also tells us to learn by experience: the rest rooms at Horizon Park and the maintenance at Victory Park.

Schmooze some other time and place and with someone else! Vote NO on the Library Bonds!

Sincerely,
Cornell Anton, Jr.
City of Belleville

The game is on: Join us to help the local needy

To the Editor:

St. Vincent DePaul of Belleville has once again teamed up with our local police

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and fire departments in Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter for our annual charity basketball game.

Last year the fire department team won the nail biter and it was a great time for all who attended. We gave away some awesome door prizes and raised over \$3,000.

St. Vincent DePaul assisted over 475 families with food, shelter, health and dental care, car repairs, utilities help, rent help, eye glasses, clothing, furniture, appliances, medications, and so on.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 29, at the BHS gym. Ticket prices are \$10 each. Doors open at 6 p.m., game time is 7 p.m.

Great door prizes include a flat-screen TV, an iPad, as well as other great items. If you or your business would like to sponsor the game, please call (734) 732-2472 for more information.

The need is greater than ever. Please count your blessings.

Sincerely,
Reggie Ion, vice president
St. Vincent DePaul

Goodfellows say 'Thank you' to all who helped

To the Editor:

Another year of the Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows Christmas Assistance Program has come to an end.

This year 2013, the Goodfellows had the enjoyable job of distributing food, family essentials, coats, gloves, mittens and toys to 93 families and over 200 children.

Without our volunteers and the Van Buren Township Fire Firefighters who gave their time standing outside in the chilling cold selling candy canes, collecting, sorting and re-packaging the food and shopping for the toys, the assistance we gave to these families would not have been possible.

We would like to thank all of the businesses, schools and residents for their generous donations. The money and goods you donated to the Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows helped provide a more joyful Christmas for those families in our community and enabled the Goodfellows to fulfill their promise of "No Child Without a Christmas." We would also like to thank Remax for the use of their truck to transport the toys to our distribution center and the 34th District Court workers who help load the food and toys into the residents' vehicles. Our coat drive was a huge success as well thanks to the residents who donated and from Meijer's for their donation to purchase over 75 coats for all ages of children.

Again, on behalf of the Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all businesses, schools, residents, and volunteers for another successful year.

Respectfully,
Pam Fleming, Coordinator
Belleville / Van Buren Goodfellows

Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Thursday, Feb. 27** – The African American Book Group meets at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library to discuss “The Street: A Novel” by Ann Petry.
- **Friday, Feb. 28** – Sumpter Township Seniors’ annual Black History Celebration begins at 2 p.m. in the Community Center Gym, 23501 Sumpter Road. RSVP to 461-9373 by Feb. 21. Cost is \$4, which includes food and refreshments. Please bring a dish to pass.
- **Friday, Feb. 28** – Friends Family Theater Free Movie, 7 p.m., with Bounce House, in Youth Center, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road at Bemis, Ypsilanti. Featuring “Veggies in Space: The Fennel Frontier.” All movies tentative. Confirm or questions: (734) 482-5074. Previews: www.friendsfamilytheater.com
- **Saturday, March 1** – The *Independent's* Bob Mytych is featured artist from noon to 2 p.m. helping kids to make and take home fun items at the Bayou Grill, 404 Main St. It's free and all art items will be provided. Bob says the “mighty bald eagle” is the subject of the artworks.
- **Sunday, March 2** – Bugles Across America is held at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial on High Street in Belleville to honor with a brief ceremony military people serving and at rest.



Bethany Bible Church
810 E. Huron River Dr. Belleville, Michigan 48111
(734) 697-7456
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Obituaries



Priscilla Nerswick

PRISCILLA J. NERSWICK

(March 10, 1933 - February 14, 2014)

Priscilla J. Nerswick, 80, passed away peacefully on February 14, 2014. She was formerly of Belleville and currently a resident of Spring Hill, FL.

She was born in Escanaba, MI, March 10, 1933 the daughter of Lawrence W. Burr and Lucy (Charles) Burr. Priscilla married Paul Nerswick on May 10, 1952 and he preceded her in death in 1976.

She is survived by a son Paul P. Nerswick of Spring Hill, FL; two daughters, Roxanne Cripps (companion Gary Grunst) of Carleton, MI and Denise (Jesse) Weick of Belleville; a sister Rosie Kowtko of California; a brother-in-law Edward Nerswick of Lewiston, MI; four grandchildren, Paula Cripps, Charles Nerswick, Kristina Pankey, and Jessy Weick; five great-grandchildren, Katalina Pankey, Andrew Kklasen, Amara, Zoey, and Lilyann Priscilla Nerwick; and several other family members and special friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Clarence Burr, stepmother Olive Burr-Wickstrom, and long-time companion Vern Ellard.

Priscilla worked as a bus aide for Van Buren Public Schools, was a past vice president of the Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows, Past Noble Grand of the Rebekahs, March of Dimes, and Robson Road Halloween display.

Cremation was by Brewer and Sons Funeral homes & Cremation Services of Spring Hill, FL. Please visit www.brewerfuneral.com to send condolences.

A memorial service will be held in Michigan in May.

MICHAEL B. ASHLEY

(October 4, 1976 - February 22, 2014)

Age 37 of Woodhaven, a former Romulus High School teacher. Survived by wife Michelle, daughter Emma Sue, parents, five siblings. Viewing Thursday, Feb. 27, 1-6 p.m. and service at 6 p.m. at Crane's Funeral Home.



Myron "Pete" Noll

MYRON 'PETE' NOLL

(December 23, 1924 - February 19, 2014)

Myron George "Pete" Noll, age 89, of Belleville, MI, passed away Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at Oakwood Hospital-Annapolis Center, Wayne, MI. He was born December 23, 1924 in Fort Wayne, IN, son of Howard William & Verla (Freeland) Noll.

Pete proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He worked for Ford Motor Company as an engineer his whole life. He was a member of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, New Boston, MI. He was a Square Dance caller for over 50 years and was the past president of the State Callers Organization and Ann Arbor Callers Association. He was driven his whole life by the love of his family.

Pete is survived by his wife Nancy Ellen (Bishop) Noll; two sons Peter Scot (Mary L.) Noll of Lower Gwynedd, PA and Gregory Allen (Carol) Noll of Johnson City, TN; three daughters Cathy (Donald) Benczarski of Walled Lake, MI, Lori Lynn (Alan) Frederick of Garden City, MI, and Patricia Sue Noll of Dearborn, MI; 11 grandchildren Stephanie, Christopher, Donnie, Elisabeth, Leah, Joseph, Lauren, Audrey, Daniel, Timothy, and Brian Bishop; 5 great-grandchildren Whaley and Waylan Napier, Madalyn and Charlotte Shawver, Alexis Hartwig, and one on-the-way; also a sister Thelma Shoemaker of Fort Wayne, IN.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Betty Ann, four brothers William, Kenneth, Robert and Vern Noll, also his sister Thelma.



Visitation was Friday 3-8 PM at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing & Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville and 10-11 AM Saturday, February 22, 2014 with an 11:00 AM Funeral with Rev. D. Lee Cullen, Jr. officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a story for his family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Julia Helen Calloway

JULIA HELEN CALLOWAY

(February 12, 1927 - February 13, 2014)

Julia Helen Calloway, age 87, of Belleville, MI, a 58-year resident of Sumpter Township, passed away Thursday, February 13, 2014 at home, surrounded with love and her family.

She was born on February 12, 1927 in Hamtramck, MI to the late Julia and John Ben Hardeman. She was the beloved wife of the late John L. Calloway, Sr. She was the last of nine siblings.

She loved Church with all of her heart. She loved the Lord Jesus Christ and truly exemplified a sanctified lifestyle. She was very active in her church until she became ill.

Among her many talents: cooking, canning, kosher dill pickles and jellies, but as a seamstress, this was her specialty. She was a great supporter of her community for Sumpter Township as a Census taker for Sumpter Township, Den Mother for the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of

America, and Court Reporter for Judge Fink, Sr., of the 14th District Court in Ann Arbor, MI. She was employed with the University of Michigan for 17 years as a Certified Medical Transcriptionist.

To cherish her memory, two daughters: Iris Larsen, Judith Walton (David), two sons John L. Jr. (Sharon) and Bruce (Sherita), all of Belleville, MI; 14 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; 3 nieces; 7 nephews; 1 sister-in-law, and many wonderful and faithful saints and friends. Three children preceded her in death Lavenia Julia, Phillip Craig, and Keith Addison.

Her body was entrusted to O.H. Pye, III Funeral Home, 17600 Plymouth Rd., Detroit, MI and visitation services were held on Thursday, February 20, 2014. Funeral services were held Friday, February 21, 2014 at the Messiah Temple Church, 200 Harriet St., Ypsilanti, MI. www.pyefuneralhome.com

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, March 3 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 4 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, regular meeting, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 5 – Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m.
- Monday, March 10 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education meets at 7 p.m. at the Belleville High School Commons.
- Tuesday, March 11 – Van Buren Township September Days Endowment Committee, 11 a.m. Also, VBT Local Development Financing Authority (LDFA), 2 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.

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VBT Director Mullen explains 'attack' on DDA TIF funding

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

At the regular meeting of the Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) on Feb. 11, VBT Director of Planning and Economic Development Arthur Mullen gave a presentation on what he considers "legislative attacks" to LDFA and DDA funding.

Mullen said there have been discussions in Lansing about Tax Increment Finance (TIF) collecting agencies, especially the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

There are eight different types of tax capture authorities allowed by state statute for downtown development, neighborhood improvement, brownfield redevelopment and other uses, according to the Michigan Treasury Department.

The first of these was the Downtown Development Authority Act authorized by Public Act 197 of 1975. It allows local authorities to collect and levy taxes, issue bonds and spend tax dollars within the boundaries of downtown to support new development.

Opponents say the DDAs should be dissolved and all the tax money collected go to the municipality, which needs it so badly these days, where the tax revenue would be handled by elected officials instead of TIF appointees who are not accountable to voters.

Mullen told the LDFA that there are draft bills that have been introduced to the State House Tax Policy Committee to reduce or eliminate the DDAs ability to capture all revenues within TIF districts. Recently the DIA and Zoo Authority have been successful in opting out and the Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Library Association, and other groups are interested in doing the same.

Mullen said a draft bill sponsored and scheduled to be presented by Rep. Eileen Kowall, R-White Lake, may have options from previous draft bills which included:

- Resetting the TIF base year;
- Automatic elimination of TIF capture after completion of bond-funded projects;
- Automatic expiration of TIFs after 10

years unless indebted and if so, then after 20 years;

- Ability of taxing jurisdictions to opt-out of TIF capture at any time;

- Mandatory expansion of DDA boards to include representatives from all TIF capture taxing jurisdictions;

- Immediate return of all unassigned funds to taxing jurisdictions; and

- Increased transparency due to perceived lack of elected oversight of authorities.

Mullen said Draft #4 bill is out for comments that include some automatic opt-outs still in the bill. The counties still want increased transparency and reporting requirements. There is also some concern

that taxing jurisdictions be represented in DDAs.

Mullen said if the bill goes through as drafted it could have significant impacts to the VBT DDA. He added that the VBT DDA does not have any significant outstanding bonds.

[Actually, the VBT DDA has outstanding bonds for Fire Station #2, the Belleville/Ecorse Road project, and future projects within the LDFA.]

Mullen is the chairman of the Michigan Downtown Association's Legislative and Advocacy Committee and he said he has been attending work group meetings with Rep. Kowall in efforts to stop what

he called the "risky proposal" that would "de-fund" DDAs and other tax-capturing entities, eliminating successful economic development programs in downtowns, brownfields, industrial districts, and other improvement zones.

Audience member John Delaney asked how this bill would affect the LDFA.

Mullen said the language right now wouldn't impact the LDFA unless it refinanced its bonds or was planning to do additional investment in the LDFA district. There can only be one LDFA at a time in the community, he said.

He said, right now they are only looking at the DDA Act.

LDFA looks into background of land values at Grace Lake

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

At its regular meeting Feb. 11, the Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority heard a presentation on methods used to determine the property value of Grace Lake – the former Visteon Village.

The value is an issue of contention in the legal wrangling over the bonds the township backed for Visteon which will be coming up short for payment in a few years.

The LDFA had requested the township Assessing Department explain the situation and Assessment Coordinator Linda Stevenson and contracted Assessor Robert Brandmier addressed the group.

Arthur Mullen, VBT director of planning and economic development, told the LDFA there are three approaches to market value and then turned to Stevenson and Brandmier to continue.

Brandmier gave a history of the sale of the Visteon property. At the time of the sale to Sovereign Partners, Sovereign was concerned with the property value and tax abatements that were given to Visteon.

A team was formed, consisting of Stevenson, Brandmier, VBT attorney Patrick McCauley, and Trustee Phil Hart, with people from Wayne County staying in

constant communication with the State Tax Commission.

Brandmier said a *cost approach* to assessing the value of the property was thrown out by the State of Michigan Tax Tribunal as not being a good indicator of value.

According to Brandmier, the *market value approach* was not used because at that time, the market was in bad shape. Even though the property was sold for \$82 million it is valued at \$64 million. It is illegal to value a property at sale price, he said.

He said the *income approach* was used.

The property Visteon was still holding was put back onto the unabated/regular roll bringing tax revenue to the township and school district.

For 2012-13, Sovereign paid \$22,000 more in taxes than before the sale, he said.

Brandmier said industrial property value equalization for 2014 is down 12% overall.

"This year the Visteon property assessment will not be changed," he said, with the township making the adjustments, pluses or minuses, where they are needed.

(continued on page 9)

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Grace Lake

(continued from page 8)

He said the equalization is now done by property class, i.e. industrial, commercial, and residential.

Director Mullen asked for an outlook/projection for equalization and Brandmier said the residential class is increasing, commercial is a little flat and may go down a little more for another year. Industrial class is flat.

John Delaney asked from the audience if there were plans to market the out-lots for development at Sovereign.

Chairman Dotson said LDFA member Richard Gavalier brought that up at a previous meeting, asking what is the township doing to try to build, try to grow, and do some more over there to try to get some more income from that property.

VBT Supervisor Linda Combs said, again, that she would call Sovereign and set up a meeting with Director Mullen and herself and possibly Chairman Dotson to discuss that with them.

At the December meeting Supervisor Combs volunteered to check with Sovereign Partners to see if it had a broker for the property.

From the audience Carl Johnson asked Brandmier, "If you had a crystal ball what would the incremental increase look like moving forward?"

"At the Sovereign piece, it will go up very slowly," Brandmier said, adding, the market value of those types of property don't increase that much. If you only have one sale on that type of property every three or four years, it's difficult to access or appraise the market value, he said.

The *Independent* asked if other properties in the district show any signs of growth. Stevenson said there may be an increase in personal property but they're not due until Feb. 20.

The *Independent* also asked Dotson if the budget would need to be adjusted for a lack of increased tax revenue. The 2014 LDFA budget anticipates a \$75,000 increase in tax revenue.

Director Mullen answered that the budget is based on projected income going forward.

Mullen added, "We've got a rainy day fund (bankruptcy settlement) and excess income fund (interest on settlement) to pay off the bonds through February 2018."

"I thought you were basing that (budget) on not having this big growth going. It's

just kinda flat," said Stevenson, who is president of the Michigan Assessors Association.

"What will happen is that we will start paying on a second class of bonds this year or next year that will increase our payments and that's where we will really end up going underwater in the repayment," Mullen replied. "Right now we're almost having enough income to pay it." He referred to the \$477,496 that is not being collected in the district and is coming out of the settlement.

In other business at the Feb. 11 meeting, the LDFA:

- Approved amending the bylaws to change the frequency the LDFA meets to every other month instead of every month. This change requires township board approval. Additional special meetings can be called as needed; and

- Discussed and left unchanged the current attendance policy that states three unexcused absences by any member will result in automatic resignation. Dotson said unexcused absences will not have a per-year time frame and stressed the importance of continuity of business.

Bob Mytych is featured artist at Saturday's Artists Kids Club event at Bayou

The Bayou Grill and the Belleville Area Council for the Arts invite parents to bring their children, this Saturday, March 1 from noon to 2 p.m. to the "Alligator Artists Kids Club" at the Bayou Grill, 404 Main Street, in downtown Belleville.

The bald eagle will be this month's subject as featured artist Bob Mytych guides kids through fun make-and-take projects. All art materials are provided.

To register or for information, call the Bayou Grill at (734) 697-2300. Pre-registration is not required but is appreciated.

Ypsilanti Fire Dept. hires Lt. VanGemert with SAFER grant

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Van Buren Township on-call Fire Lt. Bruce VanGemert has been hired by the City of Ypsilanti as a full-time fire fighter with funds coming from a federal SAFER grant it received in January.

The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was announced Jan. 17 for \$800,505 for hiring fire fighters in Ypsilanti.

VanGemert started his new job on Feb. 17 and the next day the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees unanimously granted him a six-month personal leave of absence from its fire department, retroactive to Feb. 17.

The VBT union contract allows a six-month leave, so VanGemert can come back to fighting fires on a paid-on-call status at his former pay and seniority rather than having to start over once his intense first months of training are over for his new job. VanGemert lives in VBT.

VBT Fire Chief Dan Besson said the department has always offered a leave of absence and VanGemert is the first one to take advantage of it.

VanGemert, a member of the Hazmat team, has been an exemplary employee, Chief Besson said.

VanGemert is a six-year member of the fire department. He was presented with VBT's Bill Gage Award for Excellence in Fire Service in 2012.

VanGemert's position of lieutenant was turned over to fire fighter Doug Doty, since the position cannot be kept on hold.

The City of Ypsilanti also used the SAFER grant to hire Nate Darling, who returned to his native Michigan from Indianapolis, IN. He has 13 years of full-time fire fighting experience.

The City of Ypsilanti plans to use SAFER grant funds to hire four more fire fighters, who will start around April 1.

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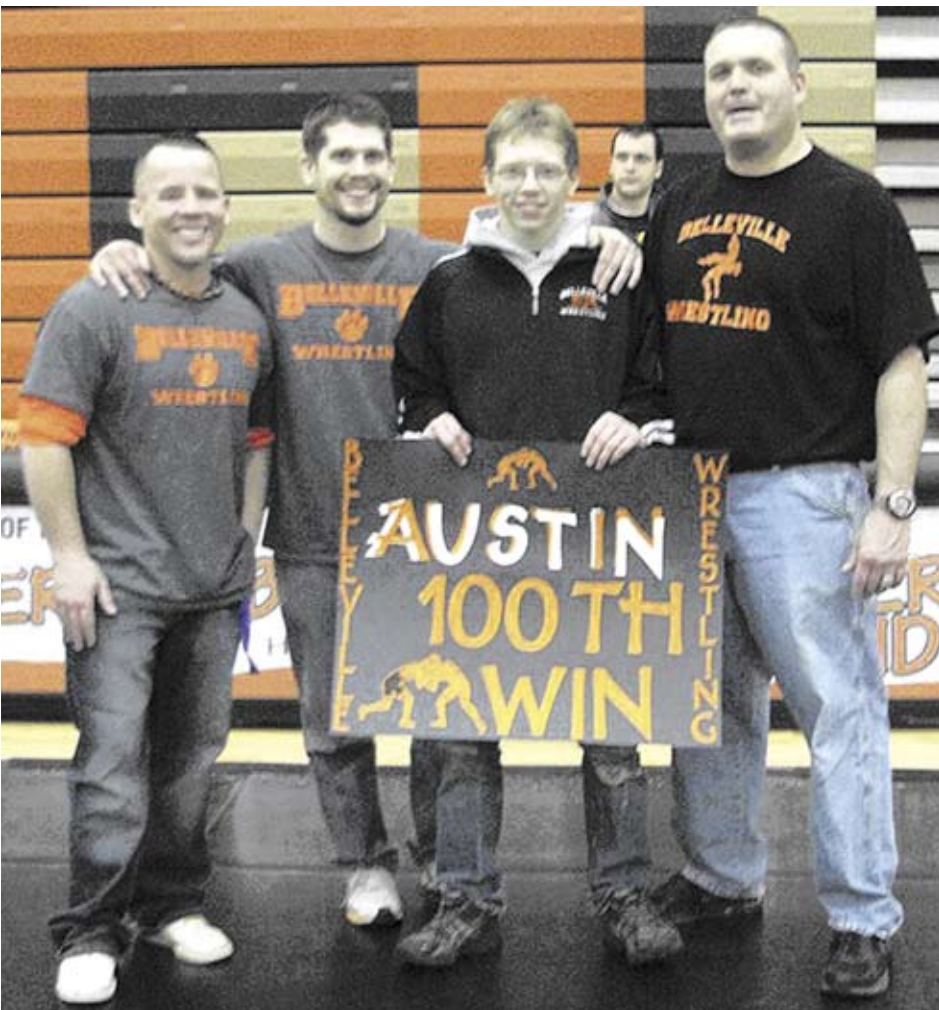
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Celebrating Austin Koehler's 100th varsity wrestling win are, from left, Assistant Coach Justin Williams, Mike Sherman, Austin, and Head Coach Derek Phillips.

BHS wrestler celebrates 100th varsity win, heading to State contest

By Michelle Toth

Austin Koehler, a senior at Belleville High School, just celebrated his 100th varsity wrestling win and will be competing at State starting today with his teammate Jumanty Houze.

Austin has been wrestling since the sixth grade and said he still loves it. He has travelled across the country to practice his moves.

Some of Austin's signature moves are arm bars, leg riding, and the cradle. His favorite move is the double chicken wing.

"Earning a medal is your paycheck for all of your hard work," Austin's coaches have told him. He believes in this philosophy and has his medals proudly on display.

Wrestling is a gentleman's sport. The athletes shake hands to begin a bout, as well as at the cessation. Win or lose, they shake hands. It is not uncommon to see the

opponents help one another off the floor, or even hug each other.

In fact, these lessons learned from competing have lead Austin to mentor and coach up-and-coming wrestlers from MYWAY Belleville Wrestling Club (BWC). He also attends William D. Ford vocational tech school, where he is studying H.V.A.C. After graduation, he hopes to attend college to study mechanical engineering.

Austin and Jumanty have qualified for State competition and will be competing at The Palace of Auburn Hills beginning Thursday, Feb. 27.

These boys are very dedicated wrestlers, and are always entertaining to watch. Congratulations to these young men. Through their hard work, dedication and practice they have paved their way for success in life.

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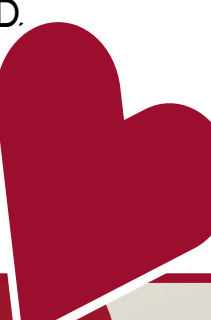
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VBT Board

(continued from page 3)

Treasurer Sharry Budd said the meetings are once a month and missing eight in a year is a lot. She agreed the boards needed attendance policies that they stick to.

Treasurer Budd said she wouldn't vote no because she didn't want to interrupt the work of the DDA.

"Actually I will mention this to them," said Ireland, noting DDA Chairman Dolph has mentioned it in the past.

Ireland said in their bylaws three unexcused absences constitute a resignation.

"All boards have that," Combs said.

"They need to start enforcing that," Wright said.

Ireland said Bechtel helped her to get the new website for the township.

"Excused or unexcused. They're not here," Miller said.

The vote was 4-1 to approve the three appointments with Miller voting no. Voting yes were Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, and Trustee McClanahan. Trustees Jeff Jahr and Phil Hart were absent and excused.

In other business at the 46-minute, Feb. 18 meeting, the board:

- Approved a resolution supporting a Charitable Gaming License for the non-profit Van Buren Area Little League so they could hold fund-raising raffles;
- Approved the supervisor's reappointments of Charles Coleman, Mark Duff, Kimberly Nofz, Sam Villa and Tammy Wall to the Recreation Committee and the appointment of Rondell Sherman, all with terms to expire Feb. 1, 2015. Sherman replaces Harold "Speed" Gant, who chose not to seek reappointment. Sherman is a 16-year resident of VBT, with a bachelor's degree in Construction Management from Eastern Michigan University, who is presently employed by the United Association #190 Plumbers / Pipefitters as a master plumber/pipefitter;
- Approved the six-month personal leave of absence for paid-on-call fire fighter Bruce VanGemert, as provided for in the Michigan Association of Fire Fighters' Collective Bargaining Agreement;
- Learned three new police officers were sworn in on Feb. 14: Mike King, Jordan Short, and Andrew Venier. Also, Doug

Doty was sworn in as lieutenant in the fire department; and

- Heard VBT resident Cornell Mathis introduce himself and announce he is running for State Representative in the 21st District. When he started to state more about his campaign, Trustee Miller interrupted him and said the board's policy is not to announce political candidates. "I think we need to stick to the rules on this," she said. After the meeting she invited Mathis up to talk to board members and learned that he is her neighbor, living two houses down the street from her.

Feb. 18 work/study session

During the 28-minute work/study session that began at 4 p.m. on Feb. 18, the board:

- Discussed the Salaried Employees Benefits Manual and proposed changes to the Pension / Deferred Compensation provisions to be in compliance with state mandates. The issue will be placed on the March 4 agenda for action;
- Learned from Arthur Mullen, director of planning and economic development, that a draft has just been finished on the Cobblestone issue. He said the township met with its attorney and owners and came up with an agreement. A final draft came from township attorney Patrick McCauley before he went on vacation. This is expected to be on the March 4 agenda;
- Learned from Mullen that the Victorian Park consent judgment has been filed with the court and a packet of information has been delivered to homeowners, with only one calling in for information;
- Learned Mullen is waiting for something from Country Walk homeowners association, which has not submitted an application;
- Heard Wade Trim engineer Dave Nummer say, concerning the Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater (SAW) grant application to the Michigan DEQ, that there were 467 applications received asking for \$540 million in projects for the \$450 million available. Nummer said VBT has an 80% chance of getting funded for its \$700,000 (10% match) request in the five years of the grant. He said they have yet to hear anything about the grant; and
- Heard Clerk Wright say the board is slipping back into the old format where items discussed at the work/study session were acted upon at the next day's regular

meeting. It was supposed to be discussions were held for future board action; and

- Learned Marie Schoutz, a New Yorker, has been hired as the township's part-time Human Resources Director.

Court Watching

Domestic violence leads the cases at 34th District Court

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

Domestic violence charges dominated Judge Brian Oakley's Feb. 19 courtroom docket at 34th District Court in Romulus. One very-involved case was from Sumpter Township and three from Van Buren Township.

Brandon Akers, 26, of Sumpter Township was arrested Dec. 6, 2013 for domestic violence, misdemeanor assault and battery, and driving without a license. The Dec. 6 charges violated his November 2012, three-year probation sentence for receiving and concealing firearms.

Being brought to 34th District Court in street clothes from jail, Akers stood near his court-appointed attorney Jeffrey Bowdich for his preliminary examination. Akers accepted a plea deal that had been worked out between Bowdich and Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Carrie Butorac. Akers pled guilty to domestic violence and misdemeanor assault and battery with a dismissed charge

of driving without a valid driver's license.

Butorac told Judge Oakley that Akers had been sending letters from jail and they wish to remain.

In pleading guilty to the charges, Akers admitted he drove a vehicle in Sumpter while his license was suspended and put his hand on his loved ones and shouldn't have. Butorac also added he violated probation for a 2012 felony firearms charge.

During the sentencing phase Bowdich said Akers should get credit for 72 days of time served. The complainants were in the courtroom.

Judge Oakley asked if the victims would like to give a statement. Akers' girlfriend April approached the bench and said she just wants Akers to get help with his problems.

Akers' mother Yvonne said her son has had problems for most of his life. Every time he gets out of jail he hurts people or property and he once tried to hang himself. She is fearful for his safety and also for the safety of his two children, ages 5 and 7.

She also said he takes drugs and gets violent and has been unable to function on his own and needs help. He takes Xanax and Vicodin and smokes crack.

Akers denied taking Xanax and Oxycontin. He said he was recently incarcerated for one year and had a chance to see himself sober

(Continued on page 13)



Akers



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Court watching

(continued from page 12)

and saw his kids when he was sober. He said he was drug-free for 10 months, then got a script for Xanax from a doctor.

Akers said he was laid off in 2011 and was recently working for a construction company and got fired.

Judge Oakley said, "You survived all those months without drugs. You don't need Xanax, you need a job. The ladies think

you need help and want you in an inpatient facility".

Akers was adamant that he wants to "do it on his own".

Judge Oakley said, "No, No. I don't think you can do that. That's what addicts do, they rationalize irrational behavior."

Judge Oakley said he wants to send Akers to jail so his family can sleep at night. He also doesn't want the taxpayers to be feeding him.

Judge Oakley referred Akers to the 34th

District Court probation department to look at the family situation and the victim's wish for inpatient treatment. He said he would sentence Akers in a couple of weeks.

Akers was taken back to lock-up

Gregory Davon Peques

Court-appointed attorney Bowdich explained that Gregory Davon Peques, 22, had a domestic violence trial scheduled for the day but the Prosecutor Butorac had a lengthy discussion with the victim who did not wish to proceed. Peques was arrested in Van Buren Township. Judge Oakley dismissed the case

David Gerald Kass

David Gerald Kass, 33, was another defendant in a VBT domestic violence case. Kass' preliminary examination was adjourned/postponed until he could get an attorney

John Knox

John Knox, another defendant in a VBT domestic violence case, appeared before Judge Oakley. Oakley asked him if he is working. He answered No and said he didn't have any money. Judge Oakley appointed Bowdich as his attorney and rescheduled the

preliminary exam for Feb. 26.

Jamal Montieth Avery

Three counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct charges against Jamal Montieth Avery, 32, of Belleville were dismissed after Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Carole Murray advised the court that she was unable to produce the alleged victim after several phone calls and going out to two other locations.

The charges were filed 2.5 years ago. Murray moved to dismiss and Judge Oakley granted the dismissal without prejudice. A dismissal "without prejudice" allows a prosecutor to re-file the same charge arising from the same incident against the same defendant again.

Belleville Police Cpl. Todd Schreengost was the officer on record.

Joseph Halton

Joseph Halton, 45, charged with retail fraud in VBT, arrived at 34th District Court in street clothes after being transported from the Gus Harrison Correctional Facility in Adrian.

Halton has a long history of retail fraud and unarmed robbery in Washtenaw and Wayne counties. Halton's preliminary exam was adjourned/postponed until Feb. 26.

Sumpter Township Public Notice

TOWNSHIP OF SUMPTER TWP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Program is scheduled for March 11, 2014 at the Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111 at 6:00 p.m. For the purpose of:

Receiving comments and suggestions regarding the 2014-2015 Community Development Block Grant program. These suggestions must identify and benefit community development or housing needs of low and moderate income residents.

The following is the estimate allocation for 2014-2015 funds:

Administration (21A):	\$ 10,537.08
Senior Services (grass/snow) (05):	\$ 15,805.62
Housing Rehabilitation (14A):	\$ 26,270.00
Demolitions (04):	\$ 52,758.11
Total 2014-2015 CDBG Projects	\$105,370.81
Housing Rehabilitation Program Income (14A):	\$5,000.00

Persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids or services in using public facilities, services or program along with further information is available by contacting the Supervisor of the Township of Sumpter at 734-461-6201 ext 2229.

Published in the Belleville Area Independent Newspaper on February 27, 2014.

Sumpter Township Public Notice

Sumpter Township 2014 March Board of Review

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF SUMPTER TOWNSHIP THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF SUMPTER TOWNSHIP WILL MEET AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL, 23480 SUMPTER ROAD, ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

March 4 th 2014	Organizational Meeting 5:00 pm
March 10 th , 2014	2:00 pm to 9:00 pm appointments
March 11 th , 2014	9:00 am to 12:00 pm appointments
March 13 th , 2014	9:00 am to 4:00 pm appointments

All Hardship/Poverty Applications must be received by 4 pm Friday March 13, 2014. If hardship/poverty application is not received by this date/time, the petitioner will be rescheduled to the July Board of Review.

For appointment to petition to Board of Review please call (734) 461-6201 ext 2229

Sumpter Township Clerk
Clarence J. Hoffman Jr.
Sumpter Township Supervisor/Assessor
Johnny Vawters

Publish: February 20, 2014
February 27, 2014
March 6, 2014

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP 2014 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

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 the following dates:

March 4, Tuesday
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
(Organizational Meeting)

No Appeals Heard at this Meeting

March 10, Monday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

March 12, Wednesday
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 13, Thursday
3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

REVIEW IN PERSON IS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Taxpayers/Property Owners may appeal by making an appointment to appear before the Board of Review **OR** by letter appeal (personal appearance is not required).

Letters of appeal must be received on or before MARCH 12, 2014.

Appointments to appeal in person may be scheduled by calling the Assessing Office at 734-699-8946 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. by MARCH 11, 2014.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers are as follows:

Classification	Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	50%	1.0000
Commercial	50%	1.0000
Industrial	50%	1.0000
Residential	50%	1.0000
Developmental	50%	1.0000
Personal	50%	1.0000

Leon Wright
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: Thursday, February 13, 2014
Thursday, February 20, 2014
Thursday, February 27, 2014

Thomas White

(continued from page 1)

the day before he was due to appear he got another delay.

On Tuesday morning, Feb. 25, White and his attorney Michael Vincent appeared before 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley and got another adjournment of White's case, this time until 10 a.m., March 12.

The first five felony charges were filed Sept. 4 and White has yet to have preliminary exams on them since the court agreed to postpone those exams until the other pending charges were filed. The 15 other charges were filed in December and White has had adjournments on all 20 charges since then.

Charges include conducting a criminal enterprise, identity theft, writing bad checks and embezzling a minimum of \$1 million from his clients.

White was an attorney with offices at 35 Main Street, Belleville, for 20 years until he was disbarred for stealing from his clients.

Rosemary K. Otzman, Editor
Diane Madigan, Court Reporter

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



March 4 is **Paczki Day** and the folks over at **The Bake Shoppe** on Savage at Bemis Roads are gearing up with their European-style, made-from-scratch recipe starting tomorrow, Feb. 28 through March 4. Choose from fillings such as apple, apricot, blueberry, custard, lemon, prune, raspberry and strawberry. They cost \$1.50 each, \$9 for 6, and \$18 a dozen. To place an order, call **(734) 699-2236**.

The **Belleville Area Council for the Arts** and the great folks at the **Bayou Grill** on Main Street have teamed up again this year to offer the next installment of **Alligator Artists Kids Club** this Saturday, March 1, beginning at noon. This month's featured artist is me, (thank you, thank you) and we will be celebrating the American Bald Eagle, majestic bird of prey that can be seen frequently around our lake community. We'll craft some cool make-and-take Eagles. A free pizza lunch will be offered

to the participants, too. Registration is encouraged and can be made by calling the Bayou at **(734) 697-2300**. Also learn about how you can volunteer or get involved with the arts council and its events. The next Kids' Club Day will be April 5. Hope to see you there.

The knowledgeable staff at **Cocoa Beach Tanning** on East Huron River Drive in the City of Belleville are experts in UV and sunless tanning and offer the hottest lamps in town, along with a wide variety of tanning packages and a fine selection of tanning lotions and moisturizers. Professional spray Tanning is also available by appointment. Call **Mandi Ross** at **(734) 699-1905** and like them on Facebook, too.

Tickets are on sale for the upcoming **Legacy Five** concert set for 7 p.m. March

22 at **Bethany Bible Church** in Belleville on East Huron River Drive. Tickets are \$13 in advance, \$15 at the door and \$7 for kids 12 and under. For more information or to purchase tickets, call **(734) 697-7456** or visit www.bethanybiblechurch.com.

Kudos go to the new website at **Van Buren Township**. Be sure to check it out at www.vanburen-mi.org.

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 cost to be in this column.

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

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

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Absent and excused: Trustee Hart and Trustee Jahr. Others in attendance: Fire Chief Besson, DDA Executive Director Ireland, Secretary LaMothe and an audience of four (4).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: McClanahan moved, Wright seconded to approve the agenda as amended, to move item #5 on the Consent Agenda to New Business item #2. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 14, 2014; Approval of Resolution 2014-03, Local Governing Body Resolution for Charitable Gaming License for Van Buren Area Little League; Board Retreat Strategic Planning Session Minutes February 8, 2014; Reappointments of Charles Coleman, Mark Duff, Kimberly Nofz, Sam Villa and Tammy Wall and appointment of Rondell Sherman to the Recreation Committee with terms to expire February 1, 2015; Voucher List of February 18, 2014.] as amended. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Combs read a letter from Huron Township Police Chief Gary Docktor thanking Public Safety Director Laurain and sharing his heartfelt gratitude to Sergeant Louis Keele and the Honor Guard for their presentation at the memorial service for Huron Township Fire Chief Scott Carey.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Wright moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the personal leave of absence request for Paid-on-Call Fire Fighter Bruce VanGemert, per the Michigan Association of Fire Fighters Collective Bargaining Agreement. Carried.

Wright moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the reappointments of Ronald Blank, Robert Bechtel and Jere Dolph to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) with terms to expire March 9, 2018. Roll call vote. Yeas: McClanahan, Wright, Combs and Budd. Nays: Miller. Absent and excused: Hart and Jahr. Carried.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor Combs made the following announcements: On Friday, February 14th Van Buren Township sworn in three new police officers Mark King, Jordan Short, and Andrew Venier; Douglas Doty was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in the Fire Department; Van Buren Township has a new website; The Yankee Air Museum is attempting to break the world's record of the most Rosie the Riveters at one place on Saturday, March 29th complete details are on savethebomberplant.org; On Thursday, March 13th The Friends of the Library is hosting a meeting with the Director of Public Works, Jim Taylor, at the Belleville Area District Library at 7:00 p.m.; Have a problem with your road in Wayne County call 1-888-762-3273; On Saturday, March 22nd Van Buren Township Recreation Department is hosting a mini camp day; Registration for Get Up and Get Active (ages 9-14) to be held on April 21st – 25th; Registration for Day Camp begins on Monday, March 3rd. Call 734-699-8921 for more information on Recreation events; Belleville Area Museum "History of Tri-Community Clubs and Organizations" exhibit opens in May; On February 20th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. the Museum's lecture; The Belleville Area Museum Annual Quilt Show will run from March 1-29; The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Spring Trade Show on Saturday, March 15th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Belleville High School; September Days Senior Center is hosting the Elder Law and Advocacy Center with a Q&A period with Attorney Kathleen Graham on Thursday, March 6th at 10:00 a.m.; Join the 2014 Beginner Golf Clinic Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12 noon starting March 11th in the Senior Center; On Thursday, February 25th at 10:30 a.m. September Days Senior Center is sponsoring Q&A with Supervisor Combs. Contact the Senior Center at 734-699-8918 for information on these events.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Cornell Mathis introduced himself as running for State Representative of the 21st District.

ADJOURNMENT: McClanahan moved, Wright seconded to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor
Publish: February 27, 2014

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

On Wednesday, March, 5th, 2014, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:30am, at **J&T Towing** and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2002	MERCURY	4D	1MEFM55S32G605144	13-24984
2007	TOYOTA	4D	1NXBR32EX7Z783481	13-25645
1995	FORD	PU	1FTCR10X5SUB99886	14-011
1996	FORD	2D	1FALP6240TH162377	14-431
2002	CHRYSLER	SW	2C8GP54L42R716306	14-621
2001	CADILLAC	4D	1G6KD54Y81U209722	14-773
2003	FORD	4D	1FAFP33P83W157542	14-873
2005	CADILLAC	4D	1G6DM56T850180858	14-982
2003	CADILLAC	4D	1G6KD54Y93U135150	14-1110

At 11:30am, the auction will move to **Great Lakes Towing** and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1998	HONDA	4D	1HGCG1657WA011518	13-22984
2001	FORD	SW	1FMZU67E31UC39130	13-24170
2003	PONTIAC	SW	1GMDX03E13D133850	13-25204
1996	FORD	SW	2FMDA5141TBB66040	13-25344
2000	CHRYSLER	4D	2C3HD36J7YH188472	13-25510
2000	DODGE	SW	1B4GP44R6YB678405	13-27886
1997	LINCOLN	4D	1LNLM97V8VY677244	13-28635
1994	MERCURY	SW	4M2DV11WXRDJ50726	13-28897
1997	FORD	SW	1FDEE1460VHB83710	14-117
2003	SATURN	4D	1G8AL52F23Z133766	14-270
1994	GMC	PU	1GTDT19Z9RK506962	14-764
2001	OLDSMOBILE	4D	1G3WH52H71F194625	14-1068

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

Leon Wright, CMC
Van Buren Township Clerk
Published: February, 27, 2014

CSC & Boc

(continued from page 1)

within five days. It wasn't.

Kollmeyer answered him on Dec. 13 saying his appeal is denied since Resolution 13-101 was adopted by the City Council not the CSC and his request for an appeal is "not in order."

He said the problem of being denied coverage for his wife, who reportedly has multiple sclerosis, has been resolved through action the council took three days before the appeal hearing, on Feb. 18, with a last-minute item added to its agenda.

Kollmeyer said the city council took action to resolve the civil service retiree health care issue.

"The city council has the right to do it, but must do it correctly," Boc said of changes to the health care provisions. "Go to the Civil Service Commission first. But that's not what they did."

Hitchcock cited provisions in the employee handbook that says hospitalization and medical benefits provided to retirees is the same as to active employees and "in no event" shall the city pay premiums for retirees that exceeds that for active employees.

He said the city council is only affirming that CSC retirees have to pay 20% like the active employees and that's what they did in their resolution.

Bluhm said the council can't do that without a City Charter change, since the

Civil Service Commission needs to sign off on that, as well as the council.

Hitchcock gave his opinion that "a premium cost cannot exceed what actives pay." Hitchcock said "employee compensation" does not cover health care. He said the charter does not name health care as a benefit.

Boc said in the rules given to him it says after 25 years of service, the city will pay 100% of the premium for retirees' health care.

"If the city wants to charge 20%, fine, let the Civil Service Commission change it," Boc said.

Bluhm asked if this is based on the fact that that other unions have just 80% covered by the city and the CSC rules are being changed to be consistent with the unions?

Hitchcock said yes.

Kollmeyer said the CSC had a one-year contract for employees to pay 10% of health care, which was approved by the CSC and the council. The police union members have been paying 20% for 4-5 months and the GELC union just signed off to 20% in January, she said.

She said the council's resolution was moving forward since no one was paying that yet.

Boc asked why weren't CSC retirees already paying the same as active employees?

Kollmeyer said retired Police Sgt. Bob Dawson has no insurance through the city.

"So, I'll be the first," Boc stated, shaking his head.

Bluhm read an April 5, 2005 city resolution prepared by City Manager Steve Walters that stated CSC decisions "shall not be dictated by union negotiations."

Kollmeyer repeated that in "no way shall the city be required to pay more for retired than active."

Boc said there are no co-pays mentioned in the CSC contract.

He said Nov. 4 the council went into closed session and then came out and changed CSC rules.

"And, didn't tell us about it until it was done," Boc said, adding they said, "This is what it is. Accept it."

"I am not trying to take anything ..." Boc said. "After 25 years my rules still say the city will pay 100%. They need to change

these rules with the CSC.

"I apologize for this whole mess," Boc said, "but these are the rules I have."

He said there was a big session to adopt those rules in 2005. There were no co-pays because in those days there weren't any.

Kollmeyer said the CSC contract was for 10% and the second year it was to be 20%.

"Why two years later say CSC retirees if it was for everyone?" Boc said.

Attorney Hitchcock said, "Nobody was about to retire."

"That's what I thought," Boc said.

Kollmeyer said that wasn't fair.

Hitchcock stated his position on the authority of the CSC. He said compensation and positions of employees are under CSC, but benefits do not go under CSC. He said nowhere is the word "healthcare" in the CSC rules.

"Benefits are not part of a compensation plan," Hitchcock stated.

Boc disagreed, saying salaries and benefits combined is the compensation plan. He said he searched the internet and that's what he found.

"I don't know what you searched for," Hitchcock said, repeating, "Compensation does not include fringe benefits."

Police Chief Gene Taylor, the only other CSC employee present besides Boc, held up that day's *Independent* with the Sumpter Township wages on the front page with the subheads: wages, benefits, and total compensation.

Acho said he didn't know if the commission could make a decision that day. He said when a person applies for a job, he asks what the compensation is and that includes everything.

Attorney Hitchcock said, "Regardless ... in no event shall the city pay more ..."

Bluhm said, "But it says the city shall pay..."

"We could go around for five years," said Loria. "We've got some language that needs to be changed."

Bluhm said they need the city to request the change.

When Boc stated how burdensome this has been to him since he learned of the Nov. 4 action, Bluhm said it has been 91 days.

(Continued on page 16)

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

Charter Township of Van Buren Vacancy Announcement

POSTING DATE: February 21, 2014

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: 2/21/2014

NUMBER OF AVAILABLE POSTION: 1

OPENING DATE: Friday February 21, 2014

CLOSING DATE: Monday March 3, 2014

POSITION TITLE: Account Clerk

POSITION LOCATION: Township Treasurer Office, 46425 Tyler Rd.,
Belleville, MI 48111

EMPLOYMENT TYPE: Part Time

SALARY: \$15.00 Hourly

POSITION SUMMARY:

Under the supervisor of the Township Treasurer or their designee, the employee will be responsible for performing a broad range of clerical duties including typing, filing, data entry, analysis, researching, record keeping and customer service.

DUTIES:

- Enter information into tax program BS&A/ Springbrook software.
- Collect and process various receipts of Township funds.
- Performs routine filing of documents and maintains filing systems.
- Assist Township customers regarding various inquires such as taxes, payment history and various other related matters.
- Process Township's customer payments.
- Answer phone calls from internal and external clients.
- Greets customers in a courteous manner.
- Create letters, memorandums, reports and other clerical communications.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school diploma or equivalent.
- Strong attention to detail.
- Competence in basic mathematics and cash handling skills.
- Excellent customer service skills.
- Knowledge of the techniques for handling telephone calls in a courteous and efficient manner.
- Ability to type letters, memoranda and other standard business documents in correct format.
- Strong computer skills such as Word, Excel, & PowerPoint.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Experience working with public sector.

HOW TO APPLY:

You must submit a complete application to the Human Resources Office by posting end date or apply via e-mail to www.vbthr@vanburen-mi.org

VAN BURN TOWNSHIP IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Publish: February 27, 2014

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CSC & Boc

(continued from page 15)

Chief Taylor said, as a former union representative, there is a legal difference between “shall” and “may.” He explained the wording that assures Boc doesn’t go out and get expensive coverage, but it should be same as the active employees.

Mayor Kerreen Conley, who was seated in the audience, passed a note to the attorney and Hitchcock rose and conducted a whispered communication with her.

Bluhm said he feels the CSC should support Boc and if the administration feels future benefits need to be changed for new employees, changes can be made.

Acho said he supports Boc for a couple of reasons.

“I just found the timing curious,” Acho said. “I’m assuming after he announced his retirement...”

Boc interrupted him to explain that it was a week after the Nov. 4 meeting that he made his decision to retire, “because of this.”

Mayor Conley said before November this had been discussed with Boc on multiple occasions and, “He knew!”

“At no time would the city be obligated to pay more,” she continued. “This was language before November ... but it seemed to need clarification.

“We did not know when Keith was going to retire. It was to clarify the situation before Gene, Keith or Lisa [Long] retired.

“He decided to retire a week later. He was mad about an action that the council took,” she said, adding the action was not taken because he was retiring.

“I’m responding,” Boc said. “I called Kerreen [Mayor Conley] confidentially and said I’m considering retiring on my birthday and she said, ‘Pfsst. I figured that anyway.’ Thirty days later this was passed. I asked her why she didn’t go before the CSC before making a decision and she said, ‘Because we don’t have to.’”

Bluhm said no one knew about the Nov. 4 action until after it was over. The council took action based on the opinion that benefits were not under the CSC.

Loria asked if their CSC action goes back to the city council and Boc replied that CSC rules are binding under the appeals

process.

“I don’t agree you have authority to overrule the city council,” Hitchcock said.

“We have a right to uphold our rules,” Bluhm replied.

“What the council decides to do is on them,” Loria stated.

“The Civil Service Commission does not have authority to change what the city council has done,” Mayor Conley stated.

“Regardless what we decide the city council can disagree,” Loria said. “That’s out of our realm.”

Chief Taylor said he was never informed about the Nov. 4 resolution until the day after it was passed.

Kollmeyer said Boc and Taylor were at that council meeting, but left when the council went into closed-door session to discuss an attorney/client matter.

“You left. You could have stayed,” Kollmeyer said, pointing out the press stayed that night.

Bluhm made a motion but Hitchcock wanted it more precise, so he reworded it, “that the CSC upholds Section C1 of the benefits and wage handbook that indicates 100% of health care is paid by the city for a retiree with 25 years of service.”

Acho seconded the motion, saying the handbook says 100% and it should have been changed but wasn’t.

Bluhm and Acho voted yes on the motion and Loria asked if he could abstain. He couldn’t, so after saying this was a horribly difficult decision, decided, “I’m going to go with the others.”

“We have to have some clarity,” Acho said. “I’m all for saving the citizens money but we need clarity, the sooner the better.”

Bluhm said at the last CSC meeting on May 30, he suggested they needed to work on improving the handbook.

He said in 1996, when the present Mayor Conley was city manager, they started improvement on the handbook and changes were approved and then rescinded.

Conley said it was suspended for 45 days so employees could have input and then it was approved.

“It was never approved by council,” Boc flatly stated.

“I know this has created a lot of animosity and I’m sorry,” Boc said, as the meeting ended.

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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CAROLYN BONANNI WILMOT RD. 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

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EFFICIENCY - \$385/mo. includes water. 105 Wexford, Belleville. Close to I-94 & 275. 5 miles from airport. (734) 730-8286 2/27

RENT - 3 BR. HOUSE, Willis. \$900/ mo. plus security. Milan Schools. No inside pets. OPEN HOUSE 3-08-14, 8 a.m./5 p.m. (989) 672-0900 3/06

Seaman Kellie Driscoll completes U.S. Navy Basic Training

Navy Seaman Kellie A. Driscoll, daughter of Patrick A. and Jill L. Driscoll of Canton, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL.

Driscoll is a 2007 graduate of Belleville High School.

During the eight-week program, Driscoll completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

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“Sometimes I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on or by imbeciles who really mean it.” Mark Twain

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

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"Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities.
 Truth isn't."

Mark Twain

HELP WANTED

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.
Sunday, Feb. 16:
0219 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service
0301 – assault & battery, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
0309 – assault assist, N. Liberty
0430 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Belleville Rd.
0548 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0551 – disturbance, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0713 – assault & battery, Lake Villa Dr.
0853 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Haggerty
1103 – property damage accident, Bemis/Elwell
1133 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Jeremy
1242 – property damage accident, Belleville/N. I94 Service Dr.
1448 – juvenile complaint, Belleville Rd.
1729 – narcotics crime, Outer Dr.
1816 – property damage accident, Denton/Ecorse
Monday, Feb. 17:
1209 – private property accident, Rawsonville
1619 – assault & battery, Gilmore St.
1633 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Van Born
1827 – overdose, Riggs Rd.
2157 – assault & battery, E. Archwood Dr.
2218 – private property accident, Van Born/Haggerty
Tuesday, Feb. 18:
0539 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Haggerty
0602 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1158 – private property accident, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1259 – disorderly conduct, Belleville Rd.
1611 – missing person, S. Bellridge Dr.
1614 – malicious destruction of property, Rawsonville Rd.
1659 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Van Born
1815 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
1931 – malicious destruction of property, Bemis
2319 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
Wednesday, Feb. 19:
0033 – assault & battery, Bak Rd.
0119 – suicide or attempt, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0203 – agency assist, Main
0851 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1412 – water leak found, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
1500 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1552 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1607 – disorderly conduct, Belleville Rd.
1630 – ATV/ORV complaint, Arthur/Pierce
1642 – harassment call, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1724 – property damage accident, Michigan / Belleville
1823 – breaking & entering, Tyler Rd.
2145 – operating while intoxicated, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
2259 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Haggerty Rd.
Thursday, Feb. 20:
0357 – malicious destruction of property, Village Green Ln.
0458 – agency assist, Ormond Dr.
0545 – personal injury accident, EB I-94/Southport
0602 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Southport
0809 – property damage accident, Belleville N. / EB I-94
1123 – private property accident, Ecorse Rd.
1130 – property damage accident, Michigan / Denton
1131 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Rawsonville
1150 – property damage accident, Rawsonville
1611 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1738 – malicious destruction of property, Tyler
1805 – missing person, Oak Blvd.
1849 – breaking & entering, Hannan Rd.
1918 – disturbance, Belleville
2030 – property damage accident, Twisted Rooster
Friday, Feb. 21:
0540 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Water’s Edge

0644 – traffic hazard, Rawsonville/Bemis
0704 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.
0702 – fraud, Meadows Circ.
0716 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.
0724 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.
0726 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.
0731 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.
0748 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.
1014 – malicious destruction of property, Denton
1127 – domestic violence, Rose
1229 – fraud, Oak Ln.
1542 – fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
1604 – fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
1611 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd.
1614 – disorderly conduct, Belleville Rd.
1734 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Bog Rd.
1826 – water leak found, Tyler/Haggerty
2226 – property damage accident, Lincoln St. / Jackson St.
2239 – mental, McBride Ave.
2255 – larceny, Haggerty Rd.
Saturday, Feb. 22:
0850 – private property accident, Monroe Ct.
1217 – local ordinance/soliciting, Michigan
1507 – missing person, Lighthouse Dr.
1520 – larceny, Birch Dr.
2041 – juvenile complaint, Lake Villa Dr.
2051 – larceny, Lake Villa Dr.
2145 – assault & battery, Vista Dr.
2159 – suspicious situation, Hull Rd.
2244 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.
2252 – mental, Belleville Rd.
Also on this week’s log are 137 traffic stops, 24 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 16:
0306 – E-911 hang up / investigation, N. Liberty
1004 – malicious destruction of property, Bedell
1106 – all other traffic, Spencer St./Sumpter Rd.
1853 – civil matter, Wexford Ave.
2020 – follow up, Arizona
Monday, Feb. 17:
0043 – parking complaint, Belle Villa
0416 – traffic complaint, Victorian Ln.
1142 – assault & battery, N. Liberty St.
1149 – welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.
1628 – suspicious vehicle, Aberdeen Ct.
2049 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
Tuesday, Feb. 18:
0022 – suspicious situation, N. Liberty St.
0140 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
1203 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
1248 – E-911 hang up / investigation, Sumpter
1607 – assist fire dept., S. Liberty St.
1847 – assist fire dept., S. Edgemont Ave.
Wednesday, Feb. 19:
0104 – suspicious person, Carmell St.
0146 – suspicious person, E. Columbia Ave. / S. Liberty St.
0847 – welfare check, E. Columbia Ave.
0859 – juvenile complaint, Edgemont
1014 – civil matter, Sumpter Rd.
1133 – found property, Savage Rd./Victorian Ln.
1240 – vehicle lockout, W. Columbia Ave.
1337 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1904 – E-911 hang up / investigation, W. Columbia Ave.
1923 – property check, Thornhill Ct./Victorian Ln.
Thursday, Feb. 20:
0946 – found property, Andrew’s
1040 – assist fire dept., Main St.
2144 – found property, Main St.
Friday, Feb. 21:
0032 – suspicious situation, Belle Plaza
0629 – domestic assault, Astor
0749 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter
1049 – domestic violence, Rose
1103 – motorist assist, Hull/Martinsville
1531 – malicious destruction of property, Belle Villa

1726 – suspicious situation, Charles
1822 – assist fire dept., Victorian Ln.
1841 – assist fire dept., Loza Ln.
2256 – malicious destruction of property, E. Thornhill Ct.
2323 – disturbance, Loza Ln.
Saturday, Feb. 22:
0124 – disturbance, Henry St.
0132 – welfare check, N. Liberty St.
0404 – civil matter, Menlo Park Dr.
1340 – lost property, Main St.
1429 – hospice, W. Columbia Ave.
2254 – assist fire dept., Potter Dr.
Also on this week’s log are 28 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 16:
0705 – suspicious vehicle, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
0804 – alarm, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
1326 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1348 – property damage accident, Sherwood / Judd
1413 – family trouble, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1630 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Willow Rd.
1723 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1735 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1817 – subpoena service, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1904 – citizen assist, 25000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2000 – property damage accident, 22000 bl. Bohn
2032 – threats complaint, Walnut
2310 – citizen assist, 41000 bl. Willow Rd.
2351 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
Monday, Feb. 17:
0709 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
0925 – fire dept. assist, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1019 – citizen assist, 45000 bl. Willow Rd.
1358 – civil dispute, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1429 – breaking & entering report, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1629 – harassment complaint, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
2027 – personal injury accident, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2242 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.
Tuesday, Feb. 18:
1007 – mental health commitment, California
1353 – warrant arrest, out of township
1522 – missing person report, 18000 bl. Sumpter
1927 – civil dispute, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
1954 – citizen assist, 41000 bl. Willow Rd.
Wednesday, Feb. 19:
0955 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1448 – harassment complaint, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1553 – trespassing complaint, New Mexico
1723 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico
2031 – property damage accident, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2058 – fire dept. assist, Knollwood
2231 – citizen assist, Sumpter/Clay
2339 – suspicious incident, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
Thursday, Feb. 20:
0014 – odor investigation, Karr/Judd
1057 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1343 – assault, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1406 – property damage accident, 41000 bl. Willis
1556 – suspicious incident, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1606 – civil dispute, Virginia

2026 – property damage accident, Clark/Judd
2111 – property damage accident, 40000 bl. Judd
Friday, Feb. 21:
0033 – threats complaint, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0703 – alarm, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
0725 – threats complaint, Walnut
0830 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0933 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1033 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1126 – animal complaint, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1502 – property damage accident, Dunn/Sumpter
1540 – harassment complaint, Colorado
1642 – citizen assist, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1643 – alarm, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1933 – suspicious incident, Greenmeadow
2003 – property damage accident, 46000 bl. Willow Rd.
Saturday, Feb. 22:
0222 – suspicious vehicle, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1013 – assist other agency, Nevada
1421 – suspicious vehicle, Karr/Wear
1528 – suspicious incident, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
1845 – suspicious vehicle, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2104 – assist other agency, 7400 bl. Rawsonville
2131 – suspicious vehicle, Fenster/Reed
2248 – juvenile complaint, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
Also on this week’s log are seven follow-up investigations, 17 miscellaneous details, 80 patrol checks, and 30 traffic stops.

Correction: Sandy Vicchy actually took Belleville Days photo

On page 19 in last week’s paper we gave credit to Peter Dodge for both pictures from Belleville Day in Florida. Peter did send us the photos, but he now tells us the group photo was by Sandy Vicchy, which she emailed to him. He didn’t want to take credit for the group picture because that wasn’t right. The picture of Bob and Phyllis Gray was by Peter and he’ll take credit for that.

All this is to say the credit line should have read “Courtesy of Sandy Vicchy.” We regret the confusion.

Rosemary K. Otzman, Editor

Birthday

March 3 – Patricia Ann Miller

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

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City Council

(continued from page 1)

and the city also had to replace six batteries in a fire truck the previous week for \$600;

- Approved the interlocal agreement creating the Western Wayne County Fire Department Mutual Aid Association and MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm system) Division;

- Discussed the city's Snow Removal

Ordinance and Policy, and decided the Fire Hall should be in a top position on the Policy priority list for snow removal instead of in a secondary position. They decided an educational program this summer will be undertaken to alert the citizens that when a snow emergency is declared, their vehicles have to be moved off the streets for snow removal. No ordinance was adopted as yet;

- Discussed amending the fee and fine schedule for Special Events because of Strawberry Festival problems with vendors using residents' utilities without permission. It was decided not to change anything at this time;

- Received from Police Chief Gene Taylor a proposed traffic control order to help solve the blocked roadway at Harbour Pointe subdivision caused by parking on both sides of the narrow streets;

- Approved City Manager Kollmeyer's recommendation on Civil Service Retirees Spousal Health Care that was added to the agenda at the meeting. For both Civil Service and union employees if a spouse isn't 50 by the time of retirement, the spouse is not eligible for health care until reaching 50. She recommended at age 65 the spouse has to take Medicare, or sooner if eligible. This is to control the legacy costs and clarify costs to the city, Kollmeyer said. Also the city will provide \$150 per year of service for supplemental Medicare A and B insurance for the spouse; and

- Approved \$88,682.59 in accounts payable



and the following departmental purchases over \$500: to Burhop's Collision, \$634.25 for police vehicle repair; to Michigan Association of Planning, \$625 annual membership (Building Department); to Oakland County Treasurer, \$2,382 for CLEMIS for police department; and to Western Wayne County Mutual Aid Association, \$2,220 for Hazmat, fire department.

The council did not approve \$18,955 in requested upcoming fire truck repairs by R&R, telling Fire Chief Brian Loranger that he had to go out for bids on the repairs since they were over \$5,000.

This special retirement cake was created by Mayor Kerreen Conley to honor Keith Boc on his retirement from city employment after 28 years.

District Library Board holds 34-minute meeting without architect, atty.

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The regular monthly meeting of the Belleville Area District Library Board met for 34 minutes without the presence of either the attorney or the architect to give updates on the plans for the upcoming library bond/millage vote.

Deputy Director Mary Jo Suchy said when attorney John Day said he could not attend the meeting, they told architect Dan Whisler that he didn't have to attend either. Both names were removed from the agenda at the meeting.

In other business at the meeting, the board:

- Heard board member John Juriga say that in a Feb. 3 meeting he attended he learned ballot information will be published in local papers in May;

- Heard Joy Cichewicz report on the Building Committee meeting where architect Whisler updated them on his tweaks of the library building design and information on how the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority can help them;

- Heard Juriga report that they got one bid for \$3,000 on the library roof repairs and are waiting for the bid from Mr. Roof for insulating the roof and possibly adding heat tape;

- Heard the recent library used book sale earned only \$189, which was very low for the sale. The weather was very bad that day;

- Heard Mike Boelter report on a seminar he attended with board chairman Mary Jane Dawson where an attorney spoke who ran or coached 34 millage ballot questions and 33 passed; and

- Heard Barbara Miller ask from the audience when the board is going to do a presentation in Sumpter Township, where a library satellite is scheduled to be placed. Chairman Dawson said she didn't know, but she will let Miller know when it is determined.

Pet of the Week

Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue

"DEXTER"



Big, handsome, energetic and lovable that's our **Dexter** in a nutshell! He's a 3 year old Boxer/Shepherd mix with a lot of energy and love he's not shy about sharing. We have found he's very well behaved at offsite events and likes to greet everyone with "Hello" licks to start things off on the right paw. **Dexter** will need a lot of time devoted to playing and being active to keep his energy level down so it's a good thing he loves playing chase and fetch outside and is very nice to take on walks. He will also need some training to better his doggie manners but listens well to corrections and seems very trainable. We do think a family with experience caring for a dog will make the best fit for him as his size and energy could easily overwhelm a new dog owner. We haven't seen any aggression towards other dogs on his part so a multi-dog household would likely be a good fit for him. He does seem a little too interested in cats so if feline friends are in the mix a careful period of introduction would be needed. **Dexter** also enjoys being around kids but may be too much for a household with very small children. Overall **Dexter** is a great dog now with the potential to be an amazing dog with a little effort and training once in his new fur-ever home. Call today to meet him; he's neutered, vaccinated and micro-chipped. **734-461-9458**



They're reading the Independent everywhere

PV2 Hannah Osborne is reading her *Independent* at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where she is getting technical training with the U.S. Army. She is a 2013 graduate of Huron High School in New Boston and enlisted in the Army on Sept. 3, 2013. Her parents, John and Angela Osborne of Wilmot Road, Sumpter Township, had the privilege of visiting her in mid-February and are very proud of her. Hannah completed basic training at Fort Sill, OK.

You are invited to submit a photo of someone reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions.

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us \$30 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$35 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.



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