



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 20.6 Thursday, February 6, 2014

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

District Library Board selects Thrun Law Firm to handle bond, election

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At a special, 41-minute meeting Jan. 28, the Belleville Area District Library Board unanimously selected the Thrun Law Firm to handle its bond and election services.

Board members said they felt Thrun would be less costly than Varnum, the other firm being considered.

Thrun said for the \$15-20 million bond proposal, its fee would be \$26,250 for a \$15 million bond issue and \$31,750 for a \$20 million bond issue. The fee would come out of the bond funds.

If the separate bond and operational millage proposals fail, there would be a bond counsel fee of \$1,600.

Varnum quoted a fee of \$20,000-\$25,000 for a \$15-\$20 million bond, but there are extra fees, including if the financing is "not consummated" a billing of \$350/\$260 per hour for attorneys' time spent.

The board's building committee had met Jan. 24 to consider law firms and make a recommendation to the board, but said it didn't have enough information and rather than make a decision, sent the names of the two law firms to the full board so the board could decide.

Board chairman Mary Jane Dawson then gathered detailed information on the Thrun and Varnum firms and presented them to the board at its Jan. 28 meeting.

Joy Cichewicz, chairman of the building committee, wasn't at the Jan. 28 meeting, but the board was informed she favored the Thrun firm.

The law firm had been suggested by board attorney John Day who said Thrun is working with the Novi schools where Day is a parent volunteer on an oversight committee.

When asked for his opinion, Day said bond counsel is a specialized form of law and most of all the bond counsels in the state will do the work and whichever one they pick, they'll get good quality.

"My guess is Thrun is a little cheaper,"

Day said, adding he is not sure how it will all shake out and the two could end up close in cost at the end.

He said the bond might pass and the millage for operating costs might not and you could end up having money to build, but not to operate.

In the few days between the Friday and Tuesday meetings, Thrun was able to present a formal proposal that spelled out the flat rate costs, but Varnum's reply was general and depended on obtaining more information.

Library board member Mike Boelter said he felt that, "Varnum has a lot of cookie jars."

He said he always likes to know how much things are going to cost, without any surprises.

Chris Iamarino of Thrun's East Lansing office is the attorney that furnished the information. He said his firm has had experience with bonds for district libraries in Flint, Caro, and Buchanan.

Thrun will be working with the library board's financial adviser Stauder Barch Associates on the bond issue/millage.

Closed-door session

John Juriga made a motion to go into closed-door session "to consider the purchase and/or lease of real property by the Belleville Area District Library Board." Boelter seconded.

"I thought there would be no more closed sessions," said Elaine Gutierrez and board members asked where she heard that. She said attorney Day said that, and others.

Gutierrez voted no to the motion, with all others present voting yes in a roll-call vote. Members Cichewicz and Joe Monte were absent and excused.

The *Independent* pointed out the site for the proposed library building has already been selected and asked what it is they are buying or leasing? When she got no reply, she asked if they would be working on the agreement with Sumpter Township for the satellite library and Dawson nodded her head yes. Meanwhile, Day said that he couldn't answer that question.



Victor De Libera, center, is the winner of the McBride Middle School 2014 National Geographic Geography Bee. At left is William Davis, who took third place, and, at right, Devin Phan, who took second place.

Victor De Libera wins Geography Bee at McBride Middle School

Victor De Libera is the winner of the McBride Middle School 2014 National Geographic Geography Bee.

Victor, an eighth grader, won the school Bee for the second year in a row and now has a chance to qualify for the state competition in Kalamazoo.

Devin Phan took second place and William Davis, third place.

The kickoff for this year's Bee was the week of Nov. 11, with thousands of schools participating around the United States and in the five U.S. territories.

The school winners, including Victor, will take a written test. The top-100 scores on that test will then be eligible to compete in the state Bee on April 4.

The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for state champions and teacher-escorts to participate in the Bee national championship rounds May 19-21.

The first-place national winner will receive a \$50,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the Society, and a trip to the Galapagos Islands, courtesy of Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic.

Award-winning journalist Soledad O'Brien will moderate the national finals on May 21. The program will air on television, but viewers will have to check local listings for dates and times.

VBT, Belleville police and fire lines down for 3 days

On Saturday, the Van Buren Township Police and Fire and City of Belleville Police and Fire general phone lines went out of service. Those wishing contact were advised, by a Nixle alert, to dial 911, which

was still in service.

On Sunday and Monday, the lines were still down as AT&T worked on the problem, which was off-site. By Tuesday morning they were functioning.

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<p>SMALL GLUTEN FREE PIZZA DOUGH SPECIALTY PIZZA</p> <p>\$8⁹⁹</p> <p>DOUBLE CHEESE EXTRA w/Coupon. Expires 3-31-14</p>	<p>\$3⁰⁰ OFF ANY LARGE CHICAGO STYLE PIZZA or \$2⁰⁰ OFF ANY SMALL CHICAGO STYLE PIZZA</p> <p>DOUBLE CHEESE EXTRA w/Coupon. Expires 3-31-14</p>	<p>2 LARGE PIZZAS with CHEESE & 2 TOPPINGS plus 8pc Bread Stix</p> <p>\$16⁹⁹</p> <p>DOUBLE CHEESE EXTRA w/Coupon. Expires 3-31-14</p>

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Keystone Academy teachers, administrators list salaries for 2013

These are the teachers and administrators of Keystone Charter Academy of Sumpter Township and their annual salaries as reported in the Fall 2013 Michigan Registry of Educational Personnel.

Godfrey, Keturah Melissa	\$82,800
Mazzoni, Sherri L.	\$67,886
Henry, Paula Diane	\$61,738
Eifert, Michelle Rae	\$58,546
Hartsock, Katherine A.	\$58,102
Montri, Sheila R.	\$55,636
Kaplan, Andrea Lee	\$54,631
Layton, Amanda M.	\$52,857
Taunt, Jamie Marie	\$52,832
Reed, Stacey Elizabeth	\$52,376
Mallari, Robyn S.	\$51,860
Kopy, Cacey Denise	\$49,955
Wood, Carolyn S.	\$47,311
Heisner, Amy Christine	\$46,205
Ball, Laura Annette	\$45,864
Williams, Corey Michael	\$45,628
Zeuty, Bridget Burke	\$44,610
McNulty, Michelle Lynn	\$44,609
Harnish, Dustin D.	\$44,531
Hamilton, Katherine Lynn	\$44,511
Peters, Heather Marie	\$44,473
Priest, Vickie Lee	\$43,649
Chuang, Cindy	\$43,407
Novak, Jaclyn J.	\$42,439
Green, Laura M.	\$42,181
Chauvin, Kelly Renee	\$42,132
Nalepa, Stacy Lynn	\$41,245
Carty, Elsbeth Marie	\$41,206
Kujala, Laurie	\$40,032
Lumbardo, Andria K.	\$40,000
Anderson, Stephanie S.	\$39,000
Chambers, Ryan David	\$38,907
Carpenter, Jared Anthony	\$38,507
O'Brien, Molly Elizabeth	\$38,494
Williams, Amy Kathlene	\$38,494
Brennan, Monica Mary	\$37,814
Fincher, Jaclyn M.	\$36,067
Sharp, Chelsea	\$36,009
Kelly, Meagan E.	\$35,935
Watson, Shyvonne D.	\$34,000
Zeuty, Eric Edward	\$21,145

Teachers and administrators in the State of Michigan are required to be named and their wages listed in the Michigan Department of Education's Registry of Educational Personnel (REP) database, so that was the information provided to the *Independent* in response to its Freedom of Information Act request for wages and benefits of employees for Keystone Charter Academy.

These teachers and administrators working at Keystone Academy are hired and paid by National Heritage Academies in Grand Rapids. Under the law, NHA is not required to give out any more information than what is in the REP listing.

NHA did not list the names or salaries of support personnel, such as paraprofessionals

or recess aides, because they were not required to do so by law.

Keystone is a free, public school academy serving 784 students in grades K-8 and operating under a charter contract issued by an authorizing body – Bay Mills Community College.

Keystone Academy Board has entered into a services agreement with NHA, an educational service provider.

Through this services agreement, NHA is responsible to provide for the day-to-day operations and staffing at the school including the school's leadership team and teachers.

Consequently, Keystone does not have any employees.

Also, the *Independent's* FOIA requested a report of employee benefits. NHA, a private company, does not have to reveal individual benefits nor give any information on how much employees may or may not pay for benefits.

But, NHA did include a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Medical PPO Plan Benefits-at-a-Glance for Sept. 1, 2013-Aug. 31, 2014.

Among the benefits, annual deductibles in-network are \$250 per member or \$500 per family, \$10 copay for general services, \$75 for emergency room, and \$100 for inpatient admission, among others.

-- Rosemary K. Otzman, Editor

Midnight prowler going through cars that are left outside unlocked

Residents in the area of Edgemont and Greylock streets in the City of Belleville have found that their parked cars have been entered during the night recently.

And, there are lots of footprints in the snow at all the entered vehicle and the footprints seem to match.

One resident of Edgemont Street said on Jan. 28 they hadn't locked their cars. She said her daughter came out in the morning to find all the contents of her vehicle's glove compartment strewn out on the seat and the \$4-\$5 in change left in the console was gone.

Another vehicle parked outside at that house had money taken from where it was stashed in the "side slot" of the car.

Also, a 12-15 pound bag of dry cat food was missing.

Another man had a container with \$75-\$100 in quarters taken from his car.

Belleville Police Officer Jeffrey Wickham took pictures of the matching footprints in the snow.

Slider Eating Challenge to earn funds for Mich. Winter Special Olympics

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Slider Eating Challenge at the BYC at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 11 is just one of the many events set over the next few weeks to earn money for Michigan Winter Special Olympics.

Former Van Buren Township Public Safety Director Mark Perkins is part of the Wertz Warriors who have been working to help Special Olympics for years.

He and Greg Boyer, both Van Buren Township residents, raise \$3,500 a year and take part in the annual 1,000-mile snowmobile ride throughout Northern Michigan to raise funds for Special Olympics. That ride started last Sunday.

The annual Polar Plunge into Belleville Lake will be held at noon on Feb. 22 at the BYC, 831 E. Huron River Dr. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m., with the parade of costumes starting at 11:45 a.m. and a celebration after the plunges.

Dave Katz is chairman of this year's event, email katz.david.b@gmail.com or call 313-460-2604 for more information. There are 30 Polar Plunges scheduled in 2014 in Michigan to earn money for Special Olympics.

Slider Eating Challenge

Perkins said Wertz Warriors held a Slider Challenge at a bar in Canton last year and it was a blast. Now, they are trying it in Belleville.

He said they usually get about 15 people

Clarification:

Jan. 26 fire on S. Biggs Street was not 'pipe-thawing' as first reported

The Jan. 26 afternoon fire at 121 South Biggs Street in the City of Belleville was not a "pipe-thawing" incident as reported in last week's *Independent*, said homeowner Yvonne Bowling.

The *Independent* got that information for the story from the police chief. There was an assumption that it was thawing of pipes since there was a torch and pipes involved and there were many frozen pipes at homes and businesses that weekend.

Bowling said she left for work and her girlfriend was doing some plumbing work on the bathtub. She found it hard to turn the wrench on a pipe and went next door, thinking her neighbor, a welder, might be able to apply a little heat to get the connection open.

He came over with a torch and five seconds later the fitting came apart, Bowling reported.

to participate in the eating challenge. Scott Jones got involved and BYC is hosting a buffet at \$10 per person, Perkins said. A cash bar is available.

Participants must raise a minimum of \$100 for Special Olympics to enter and there are prizes for the top two fund raisers. All challenge participants get T-shirts and bragging rights.

The winner gets a prize and trophy. The current record is 14 burgers.

Participants have 30 minutes to eat as many sliders as they can and must eat everything that is on the slider: bun, meat, cheese. Burgers are roughly the size of "White Castle" burgers. If you throw up, you're disqualified.

The public is invited to cheer on their favorite challenger.

For more information or to register contact Kathy Boyer, (734) 981-6960, or kngboyer@yahoo.com.

The Slider Eating Challenge is presented by Woman's Life Society Chapter 827 – Chicks 4 Charity, Wertz Warriors, and the BYC. Woman's Life will match up to the first \$500 raised.

There also will be a Chinese Auction and 50/50 raffle.

All proceeds will benefit Michigan Special Olympics.

Special Olympics Michigan provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for thousands of children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Bowling said they didn't notice at first that a spark had gone into the wall where insulation with paper on the back was installed.

The girlfriend saw smoke coming out of the shower head and called the Belleville Fire Department. Bowling said it took a half hour for the fire department to show up, but actual dispatch records show otherwise.

She said she was told no water was put on the fire immediately. Belleville Fire Department called Van Buren Township Fire Department and it took them 15 minutes to get there, Bowling said. She said there were four big fire trucks at the fire.

She said an hour after the fire started, water was applied, but fire fighters say that is incorrect.

According to the official dispatch records,

(continued on page 19)

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Letters

In VBT: No one receives more than they deserve

To the editor:

Thank you once again (6th year) for offering the wage and benefits findings in your tabloid for all of the Van Buren Township Employees. I would also like to offer my thanks to these individuals for providing excellent service to the residents of this community (and anyone else) who may have needed the assistance of these wonderful public servants.

I would also like to recognize those individuals who performed a secondary service in the Public Safety Department as "On-Call Fire Officers," my family and our property is well protected by these dedicated individuals.

No amount of money could ever compensate for a life lost to a fire or criminal activity, but I am reassured to see that our civil servants are reasonably paid for their labors and no one has received more than they deserve.

Now if Governor Snyder would only return the state surplus tax money that he has robbed from Michigan municipalities (revenue sharing), and our state public school districts (education funding), perhaps we might be able to restore some measure of self-sufficiency to our communities.

I don't need a .35% deduction from my state income tax. What I do need is for the rapid repair of our roads and highways, bridges and overpasses, sewer and water systems, transportation and light-rail systems, and fewer emergency managers and crooked politicians mispending the 4.25% of Michigan State Earned Income Tax that nearly everyone pays.

CeJay Marshall
Van Buren Township Republican
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Thanks to the Road Angels who rescued me

To the Editor:

After work and grocery shopping I was driving on the N. Service Drive on Monday afternoon (Jan. 27).

Unfortunately, I found a patch of ice. The next moment my car spun 180 degrees and it landed diagonally on a snow bank.

After climbing out the passenger door, I began to attack the snow bank and huge ice chunks with my shovel.

I prayed for help. Suddenly, I looked up and saw the Domino's pizza delivery guy walking toward my car to help me.

A few minutes later three more guys arrived. The guy with the pickup truck pulled me out with a tow rope at the back of the car. The other guys pushed from the front of the car.

Many thanks to these Road Angels who rescued me.

Gratefully,
Judy

Bring outside artists in to paint local murals?

To the Editor:

Once again, I find the politics here in Belleville funny; with myself and Bob Mytych, accomplished mural artists, the word in the paper, the powers that be, are considering outside artists to paint any potential murals here in the city.

Thanks for supporting local artists!

Bob Balderston
Belleville

Editor's Note: Actually, at the Jan. 15 meeting of the Belleville Downtown Development Authority a member of the audience suggested the DDA Mural Committee might invite a well-known muralist to speak with them.

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More Letters

BACA grateful to Reggie Miller for funds

To the Editor:

As part of her election platform during her 2012 run for Van Buren Township Trustee, Regina (Reggie) Miller pledged to give back to the community by donating her salary to a number of local community organizations.

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts was one of the organizations that Trustee Miller pledged to help. Trustee Miller did indeed donate one-quarter of her salary last year to BACA and she continues to fulfill her pledge into the second year of her tenure as BACA has recently received another generous donation from Trustee Miller.

The board and membership of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts expresses their sincere gratitude to Trustee Miller for her generosity.

Belleville Area Council for the Arts

Harris, Phillips graduate from Walsh College

Latanya Harris of Van Buren Township and Adrian Phillips of Belleville graduated from Walsh College on Sept. 16. Harris earned a Master of Business Administration degree and Phillips earned a Master of Management degree.



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Obituaries



Marcellus Veronica (Sears) Matthews

MARCELLUS V. (SEARS) MATTHEWS

(August 30, 1923 - February 2, 2014)

Marcellus Veronica (Sears) Matthews, age 90, a lifelong Belleville, passed away Sunday, February 2, 2014 at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, Michigan. She was born in Belleville, Michigan, daughter of the late George & Elizabeth (Boyer) Sears.

She is survived by three children: Dianne Ard of Toledo, Ohio, Jody Ihlenfeldt of Belleville, Michigan, Timothy (Elizabeth) Ard of Milan, Michigan; ten grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; and a sister Dorothy Schroeder of Idaho.

Marcellus was preceded in death by five brothers: Bart Sears, Stanley Sears, James Sears, Anthony Sears, and Casper Sears; eight sisters: Genieve Busha, Lorraine O'Brien, Elizabeth Mida, Monica Mendey, Hazel Kosadner, Johanna Brooks, Florence Akans, and Alberta Fair.

She was a devout member of St. Anthony Catholic Church along with a minister of the Eucharist, a member of the Senior Citizen Group, and a teacher of catechism. Marcellus just recently retired from the Belleville Fisher Library with just over 10 years of service. She enjoyed going to church, most of all she loved spending time with her grandchildren as they played a game of gin rummy.

Visitation was Tuesday, February 4, 2014 from 3-8 P.M. and Wednesday, February 5, 2014 from 12-8 P.M. at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing & Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, Michigan. A funeral mass will be Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 1 P.M. at St. Anthony Catholic Church 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, Michigan with interment to follow.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign her on-line guestbook and share a memory for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Charles Harsch

CHARLES HARSCH

(March 22, 1936 - January 30, 2014)

Charles Harsch, age 77, of Belleville, MI, passed away Thursday, January 30, 2014 at his winter home in Phoenix, AZ.

On March 22, 1936 God blessed the home of Charles and Leah (Hall) Harsch of Mishawaka, IN, with a son. A graduate of Mishawaka High School, he attended Purdue University and embarked on a career of product design in the aviation and automobile industries. During his time working at Bendix Corporation in South Bend, IN, he met his future wife, Elaine Fredericks. On May 10, 1958 they married. Over the years God blessed them with 5 children. Mr. Harsch is survived by his wife of 55 years, Elaine Eleanor (Fredericks) Harsch.

"Chuck's" life centered around his family. He taught his boys by working on home improvement projects and automotive upkeep. Vacations included visiting the grandparents in Indiana and winter trips to Northern Michigan. Throughout the years he was always involved in his local church, enjoyed keeping active with rollerblading, volleyball, and travelling. He was also an avid reader and puzzler.

Out of their love for each other, Chuck and Elaine were blessed with 5 children: Steve (Kim), and Scott (LaNae) both from Belleville, MI, Sheryl (George) Pylar of Cincinnati, OH, Stacey (Gerhard) Kaiser, of Linz, Austria, and Shawn of Huntington Beach, CA.

His love and commitment to family was central in his adult life. There was no time more

important than time spent with family. He is loved and respected by 16 grandchildren Amy, Steven, Leah, Garrett, Bridget, Kristin, Ryan, Ashleigh, George, Elena, Emma, Thomas, Daniel, David, Elisabeth and Jacob; and 4 great-grandchildren Alivia, Addison, Gracelyn and Natilee. He was joyfully awaiting the arrival of 2 more great-grandchildren this summer. Chuck is also survived by a sister Norma Denney of Ohio. He was preceded in death by his parents. The family will receive friends on Thursday, February 6, from 12-3 p.m. and 4-8 p.m. at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, 42682 Ecorse Rd., Belleville, MI. Funeral Services will be conducted at 11 a.m. at the church on Friday, February 7. A funeral procession to Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock, MI will follow.

In lieu of flowers the family asked that contributions be made to Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, 42682 Ecorse Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 or Hospice of the Valley, 1510 E. Flower St., Phoenix, AZ 85014-5656. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

JUSTIN EDWARD CORNELL

(June 14, 1984 - January 30, 2014)

Age 29, of Belleville. Survived by mother Helene Niewiadomski, grandmother Nellie Rose O'Connell, twin brother Jeffery Leduc, three step-brothers. Services were Feb. 1 at Brown's Temporary Funeral Chapel.

MARIKO HUDSON

(March 11, 1929 - January 27, 2014)

Age 84. Died Monday, January 27, at home with her loving family at her side. Cremation has taken place. A complete obituary will appear at a later date. For more information contact Janowiak Funeral Home, 699-6000.



ALPHONSE JOHN VEERKAMP

(June 3, 1917 - January 31, 2014)

Alphonse John Veerkamp, age 96, a lifelong Belleville resident, passed away Friday, January 31, 2014. He was born Sunday, June 3, 1917 in Decatur, Indiana, son of the late George & Ida (Redelman) Veerkamp.

He is survived by six children Darlene (Luther) Viers, Carol Edwards, Linda Owens, Pat Veerkamp, Barbara (David) Rayburn, and Tony Veerkamp; 15 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Alphonse was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years Mary Veerkamp and son John Veerkamp.

He worked at the Willow Run Bomber Plant in 1942 before he was called to serve with the Army in WWII. There he was awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart reassuring his love to serve his country. Alphonse retired from Ford Motor Company Ypsilanti Plant in 1975. Alphonse was devoted to his family especially his children and grandchildren.

Visitation was Sunday, February 2, 2014 from 3-8 P.M. and Monday, February 3, 2014 from 10-11 A.M. followed by an 11:00 A.M. funeral service at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, with Father Thomas Cusick officiating. Interment followed at Washtenong Memorial Park Ann Arbor, Michigan. Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association and would be greatly appreciated.

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

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Obituaries



Peggy Burnett Lipe

PEGGY BURNETT LIPE

(March 8, 1961 – February 3, 2014)

Peggy Burnett Lipe, 52, of Harrietta, MI, passed away Monday February 3, 2014 after her battle with pancreatic cancer. Peggy was born March 8, 1961 to the late William and Grace Burnett. She graduated from Belleville High School in 1979. Peggy enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, being a grandmother, catering events, and hunting. Peggy was a loving, devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend.

She is survived by her husband David Lipe, daughter Nicole (Edward) Schultz, son Ryan (Keri) Lipe, stepmother Shirley Burnett, siblings Robert (Roxanne) Burnett, William (Susan) Burnett, James (Robin) Burnett, Steven Burnett, Laura (Kevin) Hibbard, Bruce (Joy) Burnett, Sharon (Gene) Yordy, Sue Lipe, and Rodney (Stue) Dana, six grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will take place at Hall Holdship Funeral Home in Manton. Visitation will take place on Friday February 7, 2014. Funeral will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2014. For times and directions please visit www.hitesman-holdship.com. In lieu of flowers Peggy asked that you make a donation to her surviving family. Please share your memories of her on Peggy's Facebook page.

ANDREW CHRCEK

(September 7, 1936 – January 24, 2014)

Age 77 of Sumpter Township. Born in Yugoslavia. Owned Jubilee Construction. Survived by wife Glenda, son Jeffrey, daughters Sherri and Andrea, 9 grandchildren, sisters Julie and Ann. Janowiak Funeral Home.



Ann Cottingham

ANN L. COTTINGHAM

Ann Lenora Cottingham, 77, a lifelong resident of the same house in the City of Belleville, passed away at her home January 21, 2014. She was born in July 1936, and graduated from Belleville High School in 1954.

She retired after a career at the Ford Motor Co. Ann is survived by her Black Lab, Tinker, who has gone to a new home with a family that has children and a lot of room to run. She also is survived by her neighbors Brian and Laurie Rodgers who were like her family.

Ann loved animals and neighbors remember her feeding the birds and squirrels so they wouldn't be hungry.

The Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office is seeking Ann's next of kin.

VBT defendant Jessie Williams jailed again for failing drug test

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

Drugs continue to be a problem for Ypsilanti resident Jessie Aurelias Williams, 28. Williams had been free after posting a \$25,000/10% bond set at his Oct. 19 arraignment and then continued by 34th District Court Judge Brian Oakley.

When Williams showed up at Detroit's 3rd Circuit Court, Frank Murphy Hall of Justice on Nov 22, for a calendar conference he failed a drug test and was ordered held by Judge Craig S. Strong raising his bond to \$250,000/10%.

Williams was arrested by Van Buren Township Police Officer Alexander Schulz on Oct. 18 outside the BP gas station at 11175 Haggerty Road. At the preliminary examination Officer Schulz said he found \$1,400 in cash and a large bag of what he suspected to be crack cocaine in William's side pocket and a small amount of marijuana.

Williams is charged with second offenses to two controlled substance laws: possession of cocaine less than 25 grams and possession of marijuana.

On Friday, Jan. 10 Williams appeared again before Judge Craig S. Strong for a hearing on the search that was conducted when he was arrested. Williams was brought to the courtroom from the Wayne County Jail wearing green jail scrubs.

Officer Schulz was not in the courtroom to answer questions from William's court-appointed attorney Kumar Palepu. A motion to reschedule to Jan. 14 was ordered in hopes the officer will be available.

Judge Strong, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Malena Taylor, and William's attorney Palepu went into Judge's Strong's chambers and returned with a possible plea arrangement in the case.

Palepu offered a guilty plea to Count 1 Possession of Cocaine less than 25 grams with a dismissal of Count 2 for Possession of Marihuana and Habitual Offender with a sentence of one-year probation.

Judge Strong said the People would agree to the plea with the first six months of the probation in the County Jail.

Williams had been released from prison on April 14 after serving nine years for two drug charges, three armed robberies, and one unarmed robbery, all in Washtenaw County.

A jury trial on the current charges remains set for Feb. 5.

Sumpter Seniors set annual Black History Celebration for Feb. 28

Everyone is invited to the Sumpter Township Seniors' annual Black History Celebration at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, at the Sumpter Community Center Gym, 23501 Sumpter Road.

RSVP by Feb. 21 to 461-9373. Cost is \$4, which includes food and refreshments. The meal is potluck, so bring a dish to pass.

Sumpter man seeking his money back charged with felonious assault

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Daniel Lovell Keener, 17, of Sumpter Township, was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon – felonious assault after allegedly drawing a gun on a man he said owed him money.

Sumpter Township Police Detective John Toth said on Jan. 26 there was a dispute over some money and the 32-year-old man who allegedly owed the money was at his home.

Keener, who said the other man owed him money, came to see him. Then another friend came over and asked what was going on.

That's when Keener allegedly pulled a gun on the victim, demanding his money. The victim dialed 911 on his phone while Keener allegedly kept him covered.

Then Keener left and when Officers Danielle Buccelato and Joe Balowski arrived they were able to track Keener to his home.

The amount of money involved is from \$20 to \$100, Det. Toth said. Both men live in Holiday West mobile home park.

The preliminary exam in the case was set for Feb. 5 at 34th District Court in Romulus.

Valentine projects for kids this Saturday at Bayou Grill downtown

Join the Bayou Grill and the Belleville Area Council for the Arts this Saturday, Feb. 8 from noon to 2 p.m. for the "Bayou Grill Alligator Artists Kids Club" at the Bayou Grill, 404 Main Street in downtown Belleville.

This month's featured artists, Angelica Renaud and Becky Hasen, will be guiding the kids through special Valentine's Day-themed make-and-take projects.

All materials will be provided and pizza and a beverage for the participating Alligator Artists will be included.

For more information or to register, call the Bayou Grill at 734-697-2300. Pre-registration is not required, but is appreciated.

Drop In Registration

Open to **ALL** young men 5th-8th grade around the Belleville Area & BHS High School Students (9th -12th grade)

Monday, February 10, 2014
6:00pm-8:30pm
BHS Media Center

ALL forms and money will be due this evening

Contact bellevillelaxboosters@gmail.com to receive a new player packet

Detroit lacrosse will be available to purchase equipment

Van Buren Urgent Care is offering Physicals to Belleville Lax players for \$20.00

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VBT DDA agrees to pay \$17,000 for Tucker Insurance sidewalks

By Diane Madigan

Independent Special Writer

After discussion at its regular meeting Jan. 28, the Van Buren Township Downtown Development authority voted to allocate \$17,000 for front sidewalks at the Tucker Insurance Agency's proposed new building.

The discussion began with a letter sent from Tucker Insurance to the DDA asking for financial aid for a water main

DDA Executive Director Susan Ireland had sent the letter to attorney Robert Schwartz and Wade Trim engineer Dave Nummer for their opinions.

"The attorney's recommendation is that funding a water main is not in keeping with what they would normally do because of who it benefits," Ireland said. "It benefits, the property owner, the water department and the neighborhood which is not in the district."

Attending the meeting were architect Wayne Hoppe, property owner Thomas Tucker, and Harlan Davenport of Davenport Brothers Construction.

Hoppe presented drawings of the proposed 5,700-square-foot building.

According to VBT ordinances, Tucker has an obligation to create a loop to the water system on the site to prevent water from stagnating, providing fire protection with two additional hydrants, and better flow.

Engineer Nummer said the water department has agreed to pay for 250 feet to connect the system from Jeannette to the Tucker property leaving the developer to cover the costs for 752 feet of water main.

Nummer could not provide a cost of the

water main, but Davenport estimated the water main cost to the township as roughly \$25,000 and Tucker an additional \$69,000, with costs being negotiable depending on soil factors and permits.

According to Davenport, sidewalks on the South Service Drive site are also required, estimating the 1,000 feet of sidewalk costs at \$16,881.

The DDA agreed with the attorney that a water main did not benefit the district. Director Ron Blank said the DDA had conversations a couple of years ago about financially helping businesses locate within the DDA district.

"I know what's coming down the road and the State is going to ask, *Did it benefit the entire DDA district?*" Ireland said. "In the past, we have said 'No' to a lot of people."

Director Mark Laginess said if there's not a water pressure issue, the benefit to the district is not as strong.

"But, we have two sidewalk extension projects and would like to see sidewalks extended through the district to improve accessibility," Laginess said.

"We've paid big money to put up a billboard asking people to come here to build," said Director Ed Miller.

Directors Richter, Bird and Atchinson said this may be setting up a precedent as they all had to pay for their own sidewalks.

Atchinson, said the reason he wanted to be on the DDA was to develop business in Van Buren Township and didn't see this as a bad precedent.

Belleville Road Improvement and Signalization Project

During its one-hour, 10-minute meeting, the DDA also amended the construction engineering estimated costs of the Belleville Road Improvement and Signalization Project to include inspection and material testing by Wade Trim instead of Wayne County, saving \$12,703.

According to engineer Matt Stacey from Wade Trim, Wayne County said it didn't have the time or the resources to do inspection and material testing and it needed to be a part of Wade Trim's package.

The DDA approved the revision of engineering costs for construction

engineering to include inspection and materials testing according to MDOT requirements, not to exceed \$30,000.

Engineer Nummer said normal engineering costs range from 15-20% of the project. When asked by the *Independent*, Ireland said Wade Trim's charge for the signalization project is \$325,000.

Belleville Road Improvement

The DDA also discussed and adopted a resolution to enter into an agreement with Wayne County for road improvements on Belleville Road from just south of I-94 South Service Drive to Tyler Road.

In the resolution, the DDA agreed to provide \$1,200,380 to Wayne County for the DDA's participation in the total project cost. At the time the agreement is signed, the DDA will provide half of that amount, \$600,190, to Wayne County as a working capital advance.

Belleville Road Sidewalk

Ireland reported the township has received the recorded deeds for the sidewalk project on Belleville Road from Tyler Road north to 8701 Belleville Road. Wade Trim has submitted the sidewalk drawing to Wayne County for approval for a spring bid and construction.

Wayne County Zoo Millage

Ireland also reported that the Zoo Authority

and the Detroit Zoological Society have filed appeals seeking to recover the tax increment revenues captured by TIFs (DDA and LDFA) dating back to Dec. 1, 2008.

Belleville/Ecorse Road Intersection Landscaping

Ireland said landscaping will be back on the drawing board upon completion of construction of the Belleville Road fence, between Harmony Lane and Sunrise.

Meeting Attendance

"Supervisor Combs had asked to be excused for training of some sort," said Ireland to explain Combs' absence from the Jan. 28 meeting.

Combs had registered to attend the Michigan Township Association annual conference in Traverse City Jan. 28-31, but did not show up at either the DDA or the MTA meeting.

Karin LaMothe, executive assistant to Combs and the DDA recording secretary, also was absent from the meeting with no notice being announced.

On Jan. 28, Supervisor Combs had closed the township hall for another snow day.

Also absent and excused from the meeting were Directors Robert Bechtel and Joe Baskin, Jr.

200 swimmers take part in Belleville High School's 'Tiger Invite'

By John Cast

BHS Pool Manager

Not since the Belleville High School coaching days of Sam Vicchy came to a close, has Belleville hosted an aquatic event. That is, until last month.

Saturday, Jan. 25, Belleville Swimming hosted its first invitational swim meet, called "Tiger Invite." Teams from the surrounding area were invited to participate in this aquatic adventure.

From all that were invited, nine teams attended; Belleville, Monroe, Ypsilanti, Redford Thurston, Fordson, Dearborn Edsel Ford, Wyandotte Roosevelt, Crestwood, and Taylor Co-op. Those swimming numbered 200 strong.

As an invitational meet, team scores were not kept, and all events were swum as timed finals. The emphasis was to have swimmers enjoy themselves and swim events they normally would not swim.

Medals were awarded to those finishing 1-8 and ribbons 9-16.

In spite of our lousy weather, this meet was a huge success with five new pool records set in the following events: 200IM, 50 Free, 100 Free, 500 Free and 400 Free Relay. Monroe High School has the honor of now holding these pool records.

Our goal is to host this same format with the same meet name in the future. Next school year girls' swimming will be added, followed by middle school swimming.

This meet would not have been a success had it not been for the efforts of Belleville Swimming parent's group and BHS.

The Belleville Swimming Parents' group was well represented by both current swimmers and alumni swim parents and we would have been lost without their help. Parents handled meet programs, tee shirts, and concessions and a big thank you goes out to them.

A strong thank you to Van Buren School District employees who cleared our parking lot, sidewalks and athletic wing. We received nothing but praises from our many visitors all day. Visiting parents and swimmers left our facility very impressed and anxious to return.

Upcoming Meetings

- Saturday, Feb. 8 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees special work/study session, 8:30 a.m., Denton Room at township hall, to discuss strategic planning.

- Monday, Feb. 10 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., Belleville High School Commons.

- Tuesday, Feb. 11 – Van Buren Township September Days Endowment Committee, 11 a.m. Also, VBT Local Development Financing Authority (LDFA), 2 p.m. Also, VBT Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7 p.m.

Huron Soccer Association
(New Boston)
Is Accepting Boys & Girls Ages 5-19 For Their Spring 2014 Season. To Register And For More Information, Visit www.HuronSoccer.com

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Audit shows City of Belleville 'on sound financial footing'

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At Monday's regular city council meeting representatives of Plante Moran presented the financial audit of the City of Belleville for the year ended June 30, 2013.

And, they said, the audit by Alan C. Young & Associates had no management letter attached because there were no deficiencies or suggestions for improvements.

Plante Moran does the financial work for the city, which has about a \$2.2 million general fund.

The audit showed the City of Belleville is on sound financial footing, which, they said, couldn't be said five years earlier.

The short-term financial indicators are good, said Brian Camiller, CPA and Senior Manager of Plante Moran, but the pensions are just 60% funded and, "What you would like to do is address those liabilities."

He said the water/sewer budget needs long-term planning for needs that should be put into the rates.

Camiller said the city should consider preparing a one-year budget, plus a looser budget for a second year and a five-year financial forecast.

Kelly Howey, the Plante Moran consultant that replaced Molly Goike as Belleville's financial officer, said the budget process in the city will begin at the end of February. The new BS&A program team is currently training employees in that new system.

The Plante Moran team pointed out other post-employment liabilities of several million. They said the city should note the unfunded liabilities and predict capital costs and improvements to find out what it will need in the future and then set money aside.

"It's great to get a positive audit report," said Mayor Kerreen Conley, "even though we don't have \$8 million in the bank like Van Buren Township does."

The city does have positive fund balances in each of its funds, with a general fund balance of \$682,769, which is 33% of its general fund. State guidelines suggest 17%.

In other business at Monday's 45-minute meeting, the council:

- Unanimously approved having Belleville Fire Chief Brian Loranger sign a Fire Intergovernmental Agreement with Van Buren Township, as presented by VBT Fire Chief Dan Besson. The city agrees to automatically send a fire engine with at least 750 gallons of water to VBT when a working fire erupts at Mobile Manor, 600 Sumpter Road, or Van Buren Estates, 17100 Lohr Road, where fire hydrants are only outside the mobile home parks. In exchange, VBT agrees to automatically send its 75' aerial ladder truck to working fires at all commercial and high-rise residential structures in the city. VBT and Sumpter Township recently signed a similar agreement. Chief Besson said the fire departments cooperated in the past, but this puts the immediate cooperation

in writing which makes all involved more eligible for governmental grants;

- Approved \$70,982.66 in accounts payable and the following departmental purchases in excess of \$500: to BS&A Software, \$772, to support the building department; to David Brown Funeral Home, \$4,102 for storm damage to monument from cemetery budget; to Hennessey Engineers, \$8,260 for S-2 Grant work, from water budget; to Morton Salt, \$4,343.53 for road salt from Major/Local street funds; to RICOH, \$3,070.12 for copier agreement and \$515.17 for copies; and to SLC, \$547.72, for parts, from water budget;

- Learned three items will be on the Feb. 18 agenda: Amending Fee Schedule,

VBT Board finally able to give 14 service awards to 13 employees

At its Jan. 14 meeting, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees finally was able to give 13 employees honors for their years of service.

David Champagne received two awards for his years as a fire fighter and police officer, so there were 14 awards.

The employees first were scheduled to be honored at the Dec. 17 board meeting, but the meeting was cut short because of a strong natural gas odor and high CO2 readings. The honors were postponed.

Honored at the Jan. 14 meeting were:

- Fred Yono, 35 years, police officer;
- Terri Brooks, 25 years, public safety dispatcher;
- David McNally, 20 years, public safety dispatcher;
- Michael Papin, 20 years, police sergeant;
- John Hayden, 20 years, fire fighter;
- David Champagne, 10 years, police officer, and five years, fire fighter;
- Teri Rea, 10 years, public safety dispatcher;
- Amy Smith, 10 years, police officer;
- Elizabeth McCormick, 10 years, fire fighter;
- Ryan Barry, five years, police officer;

Review of Snow Removal Ordinance, and Fire Practice/Training Wages. On the March 3 agenda, the council will review and amend the Animal Control Ordinance;

- Heard Councilman Tom Fielder give a report on Western Wayne County Juvenile Justice and how it appears the prosecutor's office is not following through on juveniles arrested by police. He said the plan is to take this up at the next meeting of the police chiefs group;

- Heard resident Ken Voigt commend the work of city employee Marilyn Sayo who contacted him in Florida when water use on one of his properties spiked to 1,600 gallons after the first big freeze. (It turned out to be a frozen water line that burst.)

- Michael Rini, five years, police officer;
- Lacey Marcotte, five years, fire fighter; and

- Sally Donaldson, five years, public safety dispatcher.

Dispatcher McNally was the only honoree to attend the meeting. Champagne and Rea indicated they were working that evening.

Pvt. Aaron A. Good returns from Chaplain's Assistant training

Pvt. Aaron A. Good of Belleville has returned from completing his advanced individual training for the Michigan Army National Guard.

Good completed his basic and advanced individual training at Ft. Jackson, SC, where he learned his skill as a Chaplain's Assistant.

Good was a 2011 graduate of Belleville High School. Good is the son of Alex and Lisa Good of Belleville.

City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said the new meters monitor the use and kicks out an alert when use is more than it should be;

- Heard Councilwoman Kim Tindall announce that the Council of Western Wayne has appointed Belleville Mayor Conley as its treasurer; and

- Heard the *Independent* ask what they are going to do about replacing Director of Public Services Keith Boc when he retires on his 50th birthday, Feb. 28. Mayor Conley said she and City Manager Kollmeyer have been working on that and will announce a plan and then post the position.

Tyler students collect donations for FMAR

During the month of December, Jill Johnson's first graders at Tyler Elementary School decided to help the animals in the Friends of MI Animals Rescue shelter located in Belleville.

"We found out that the animals needed food and toys and stuff and we just wanted to help," said one student. "We wanted to get a lot of stuff, so we asked the whole school to join us!"

Join them they did, as the students brought in food, toys, and more pet supplies that were soon piled high outside Johnson's room.

Pat Clemens, the Events Support Coordinator for the FMAR shelter, came to pick up the donations and said he was amazed by the students' generosity. He brought two of the dogs from the rescue and gave the students some first-hand experience with the animals that they helped.

"We are very grateful to these kids," said Clemens. "They gave from the heart so our animals can have better lives. It is wonderful to see such a proactive group!"

Clemens said FMAR is always looking for volunteer dog walkers. Anyone interested should visit www.fmar1.org.

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New Boston, MI

Saturday, February 22, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Register by calling: 734-753-9048 or by
email: churchoffice@stpaulsnewboston.org

A light lunch and refreshments will be provided.
There is no cost for admission, but any donation
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Immediately following our free seminar, entitled
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February 19, 2014 at 6:30 PM

FREE ADMISSION & FREE GOURMET MEAL!
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You will learn how Hormone Imbalances can affect your sleep cycles, carbohydrate cravings, and fat burning - Why "Counting Calories" doesn't work for belly fat - Learn the Biggest Mistake that people make with Exercise that prevents weight loss - WHAT REALLY WORKS for permanent loss of belly fat and bulges. Safely. Healthfully!
(Yes, this is for you men, too!)

Presented by spirited speaker and wellness expert.

Dr. Lisa Sullivan, Puro Medicine
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Feel free to bring a guest! Call now! Seating is limited! Free Meal!

City Council OKs big St. Patrick's Day party on Fourth Street Square

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

A big St. Patrick's Day Party will be put on by Egan's Irish Pub on the Fourth Street Square on Monday, March 17, with the bar opening at 7 a.m.

At its regular meeting Jan. 21, the Belleville City Council unanimously approved use of the city's square for the event, which will run from 7 a.m. March

17 to 2 a.m. March 18.

A big tent will be put up, maybe on March 15, to close off all of the Fourth Street Square, except for the walkway next to the Bayou Grille.

John Winter said the tent will be the same one used by the Bayou for their wedding in 2012.

A bar will be out in the tent along with a stage for Irish bands. The last band

is scheduled to start playing at 10 p.m. Jennifer Winter said they are acoustical bands so it shouldn't be loud enough to bother the neighbors.

Councilwoman Kim Tindall asked if Egan's has talked to the neighbors and they said they haven't except for John Burke, next door. They are sure insurance agent Ryan Taylor, two doors down, won't mind.

They did talk to the Bayou Grill, across the square from them, and the Bayou said they might like to do a Mardi Gras event out there.

There are plans for a public address system and porta-potties outside.

Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor said the city will have to do a diagram for the Michigan Liquor Control Commission who will be asked to grant a permit once the city approves the event.

Chief Taylor said he talked to the LCC earlier that day and the event has to have a barricade in place to keep the party inside and so people can't roll up the side of the tent and get in and out.

Winter said they plan to have a contingency diagram with a snow fence if it's warm enough for that or it can be heated, if necessary, if it's cold.

Councilman Tom Fielder asked about security, and Winter said he didn't want to call them "bouncers," but he would have security. Everyone at the event will have to be at least 21 years of age and everyone will have to show identification to get a wrist band, he said.

Mike Renaud, a member of the city planning commission, asked if there is that big a demand for them to open the bar at 7 a.m. on a Monday morning.

Winter said the demand on St. Patrick's Day is unbelievable and in Detroit people start lining up at the Irish pubs at 5 a.m.

Renaud asked if this will interfere with the annual St. Patrick's Day event held by Johnny's restaurant and Winter said he has

talked to them and their event is always on a Saturday. It will not interfere.

City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said the DPW, police chief, and fire chief have all approved the plans.

Councilwoman Tindall asked the council to think about the tradition they're setting in discussing the sale of alcohol on city property. She said the Fourth Street Square is not a park.

Winter said the city already has approved serving alcohol in the square by approving the Bayou wedding held there.

Council members pointed out that was a private party, but Councilman Tom Fielder reminded them the council did approve an outdoor café ordinance.

The vote was unanimous to approve the event.

In other business at the 36-minute meeting on Jan. 21, the council:

- Unanimously re-elected Councilman Jack Loria as the council's Mayor Pro Tem;

- Approved a resolution to approve the SMART Specialized Services Operating Assistance Program for fiscal year 2015 for a grant to be used by the Belleville Area Senior Transportation Committee;

- Heard Mayor Kerreen Conley say the council members got information on snow removal ordinances in their packets at the meeting and can study the information before discussing it at an upcoming meeting;

- Approved accounts payable of \$776,365.92 and the following departmental purchases in excess of \$500: Blue Ribbon contracting, 2" water line fix, \$2,150; Clearzoning, site plan review, \$474; Environmental Quality, sewer cleaning/CCTV, \$5,829.73; Farmer Underwood, sand, \$950.12; MI Taser Distributing, taser, \$878.64 from Drug Fund; and SMART for vehicle repair, \$1,344.68;

- Heard Councilwoman Tindall thank Chief Taylor for getting a 50% grant -- about \$400 -- to purchase a taser. City Manager Kollmeyer said it was from Michigan Municipal Risk Management and Chief Taylor knows how to get those grants; and

- Heard DPS Director Keith Boc explain the bill for \$7,000 he has sent to DTE for damage made by their contractor to a 2" water service line in front of Contract Welding. DTE sent the bill on to its insurance company. The incident happened on Christmas Eve and he and two other DPW members worked until midnight.

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Community Chorus sets Baked Potato Dinner for Saturday, Feb. 22

The Belleville Community Chorus invites everyone in the tri-community to a Baked Potato Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 22, at Open Arms Lutheran Church, 7865 Belleville Road.

Serving is 5-8 p.m. Minimum donation requested is \$5. Tickets are available from any chorus member or at the door.

Bring your friends and enable your local chorus to continue presenting excellent concerts to the community. For more information, call Geof Bush at (734) 645-0235.

Belleville Chamber to lunch in Romulus with two State Reps.

Guest speakers at the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce's Feb. 24 noon luncheon will be 21st District State Representative Dian Slavens, D-Canton, and 17th District State Representative Bill LaVoy, D-Monroe. The luncheon will be held at the Romulus Athletic Center, 35765 Northline Road, Romulus. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$15 for chamber members and \$20 for non-members.

Reservations must be made by Feb. 21. Contact the chamber at (734) 697-7151 or email info@bellevilleareachamber.org.



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Understanding the Law



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

Greetings! As we continue to brave this bitterly cold, snowy, and icy winter we would like to remind all of you to carry a valid policy of Michigan No Fault Insurance. It seems like an off the wall reminder, but the fact is that, (1) the risk of motor vehicle collisions increases in bad weather, and, (2) approximately 19% of Michigan drivers are uninsured.

In Michigan, you are required to carry a no-fault policy of insurance on your motor vehicle. However, as we all know, no-fault insurance can be very expensive. For one reason or another, sometimes people let their policy lapse or refuse to purchase a policy in the first place.

What happens if you find yourself in a motor vehicle collision, and you are uninsured? The quick answer is, it depends. But stated another way, you might be in a whole lot of trouble. Without no-fault insurance, you might be ordered to pay out of pocket for the personal injuries that you caused to the other driver and their passengers, via a lawsuit brought against you by the other driver's insurance company. As you can imagine, a judgment to reimburse the medical bills of the other driver and their passengers can be absurdly expensive, often in excess of \$100,000. An uninsured motorist involved in a motor vehicle collision can risk losing their home, personal property, and other valuable assets.

We realize that this is a chilling scenario, but it is a realistic one that happens all too often. Even if you have no-fault insurance, it is always wise to periodically check the status of your policy to confirm that it is active. I know this comes as a shocker, but sometimes insurance companies make mistakes, which can cost you everything.

If you would like further information regarding this issue, or any other issues that you are having, please contact us at (734) 699-7360.

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

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Architect gives report on proposed new library to Friends group

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Library architect Dan Whisler gave an illustrated report to Friends of the Belleville Area District Library on Saturday as part of the group's annual meeting.

Thirty-five members and guests were present for the Friends' business meeting that preceded Whisler's talk and 25 stayed to hear about plans for a new 50,000-square-foot library on the DNR/Spencer site just north of the Belleville Bridge in Van Buren Township.

Also, Whisler gave the first public presentation of preliminary plans for a satellite library in Sumpter Township that is part of the District Library Board Agreement signed by officials from the City of Belleville and Van Buren and Sumpter townships.

Under the Agreement, if the main library is built north of Hull Road, Sumpter will get a satellite library. If the main library is built south of Hull, VBT will get the satellite library, under the Agreement.

"Sumpter Township got somewhat of a raw deal," Whisler said of the library Agreement that states Sumpter would have to provide a building for the satellite.

"If Van Buren Township had the satellite, it didn't have to provide the building" under the Agreement, Whisler said.

At first, Sumpter wanted to provide for a satellite the former Wayne County Medical Building that it purchased. But it is of modular construction and wasn't suitable to carry the weight of stacks of books, Whisler said.

He said they contemplated the PNA Hall, but then that was sold to the Moose.

Elwell Elementary School, that was demolished by the school board last summer, was suggested by some Sumpter residents as a site, but the library board considered it too far north to be suitable.

Whisler said the library board has been talking with Sumpter Township officials about using 2,000 square feet of empty space at its community center that was vacated by Head Start.

"We still have to negotiate with the township board," Whisler said, adding in the Agreement, the district library would spend a minimum of \$200,000 to renovate that part of the building.

He said an agreement with Sumpter has to be finalized before the library project cost is finalized, so the ballot language can be voted on April 8 by the library board.

The construction bonds for a new library and an operational millage proposal are expected to be put before voters on the Aug. 5 primary ballot.

The cost of the new library has yet to be announced, but at the last library board meeting it was noted the board is looking at bond proposals from 20 to 25 mills.

On Saturday, Library Director Deb Green said the amount needed for operation of the new building is still being determined, but would be more than 1 mill and less than 2 mills.

To make the former classrooms in the

Sumpter community center suitable for a satellite library, Whisler said the wall in between them would have to come down to make one large room.

He said the police department, at the end of the hall, would be walled off, with a door installed for easy emergency access.

Whisler said there is a garden to the east of the library rooms and that wall could be opened up to the garden.

Also, there is a former classroom used as an exercise room, east of the library area, and, "If we can get access to that exercise room, we can have 3,400 square feet of total net space," Whisler said.

Whisler said there is a small closet next to the hall that has a bunch of exposed pipes wrapped in asbestos.

Sumpter's community center was once a school building that was abandoned by the Van Buren Public Schools once Sumpter schools were consolidated. Sumpter Township bought the building for \$1 and it now houses the senior center, police department, a credit union, and a gymnasium and kitchen.

Whisler also talked about plans for the DNR/Spencer property that he had discussed before at library board meetings.

He said once the bond issue is passed, he can get into the specifics in designing the structure, but the final plans should be pretty close to what he's showing now.

When asked about the pathway along the water that ends at the eastern end of the site at a fishing site, Whisler said there had been talk of having a gate at the end with a code so members of the subdivision along Harmony Lane could have access to the path, but the general public could not.

"We haven't had conversations with the association, but if I was in the sub, I would welcome access to the pathway that I could walk to the Belleville Bridge," Whisler said.

Dale Harrison said at certain times of the afternoon, traffic is backed up all the way to Five Points in the City.

"If the library is here or south or north, the traffic doesn't necessarily change," Whisler replied.

"Physically, you can't get into Belleville now at 4 p.m.," Harrison said, noting many people avoid Belleville Road in the afternoon.

When pushed about the traffic problem, Whisler said the library will have to follow what the road commission says.

Whisler said the bond will be written so the site is not named so if it has to be changed it could be, but the budget numbers will be cast in stone.

As Belleville Area Library Board chairwoman Mary Jane Dawson introduced Whisler at the beginning of his presentation, she said at one point the library plans "hit a bump," so she contacted the Governor's office and "he was able to smooth things out."

She said there will be more information released over the next month by mail and meetings.

Friends elect Yarbrough to lead

Nakenya Yarbrough was elected president of the Friends of the Belleville Area District Library at Saturday's annual meeting.

Former president Tony D'Onofrio was elected vice president; Bonnie McRitchie, secretary; and Rick Cichewicz, treasurer.

Membership chairman Marty Wilson reported in 2013 the Friends had 106 individual members and 24 life members. The membership brought in \$3,482 in dues and donations.

Book sales for 2013 from the entry shelves, program room, and quarterly sales totaled \$7,691.70.

President D'Onofrio, who presided over the annual meeting, presented plaques for the following special awards:

- Michelle Wlock, Volunteer of the Year;
- Rick and Joy Cichewicz, Members of the Year; and
- John Juriga, Lifetime Achievement Award.



Michelle Wlock, right, was honored as Volunteer of the Year by Friends of the Library president Tony D'Onofrio at Saturday's annual meeting.



John Juriga, right, was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by Tony D'Onofrio, outgoing president of the Friends of the Library.



Rick Cichewicz, right, accepted the Members of the Year Award from Tony D'Onofrio, left, for himself and his wife Joy Cichewicz, who had to work Saturday and couldn't be present for the annual Friends meeting.

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Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Zinoman, the statue with the red sweater that stands outside Zino's Pizza at the corner of Bemis and Sumpter roads, evidently was snatched last weekend, but may have been returned to the owner before anyone noticed.

Saturday evening, a motorist driving in the area of Sherwood and Wear roads called police about a traffic hazard in the intersection.

Sumpter Police Officer Joe Balowski was dispatched to the scene and recognized the obstruction as Zinoman. He loaded it into the trunk of his patrol car and took it back to Zino's. Sumpter Police said there was some question as to whether or not Zino's even knew their statue was gone before it was brought back.

Drop-in registration for **Belleville Lacrosse** will take place on Monday, Feb. 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Belleville High School Media Center. The program is open to all boys in grades 5-8 around the Belleville area, and BHS students in grades 9-12. All registration forms and fees will be due on that evening.

Email bellevillelaxboosters@gmail.com to receive a new player packet. Detroit Lacrosse will be available to purchase equipment. Van Buren Urgent Care on Belleville Road will be offering physicals to Belleville Lacrosse players for \$20.

Drop-in registration for **Van Buren Area Little League** will be held from 3:30-5:30 p.m. on Saturdays Feb 8 and Feb. 22 at the Van Buren Township Hall. Also, from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesdays Feb. 12 and Feb. 26 at McBride Middle School. There also will be an open-to-the-public board meeting on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 3:30 p.m. at township hall.

Tiffany Q Bra Boutique has moved to downtown Belleville at **510 Main Street** and is now open for business. Right now Tiffany Q is featuring a white bra sale with 40% off. Call ahead to schedule a fitting

at (734) 547-0477. They're open Tuesday through Friday, from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit www.tiffanyqintimates.com

Valentine's Day is coming up quickly and the folks at **Edible Arrangements** on Belleville Road at Tyler have the perfect idea if he or she doesn't care for flowers or candy. How about an edible bouquet of chocolate strawberries, pineapple, or other fruit? Check them out at www.ediblearrangements.com. They deliver too. Call (734) 391-8176.

U-Lock-It Self Storage on Rawsonville Road, a mile south of I-94, is offering a special deal on 5 foot x 10 foot rental units -- buy 1 month get second month free. U-Lock-It features 24-hour guarded access, completely paved premises, surveillance cameras, indoor and outdoor storage, and all kinds of plans and contracts. Call (734) 482-1502.

Remember to shop local for this Valentine's Day -- Feb. 14. This area features everything from fine restaurants and eateries to flower shops, hair salons, and so much more.

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

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Feb. 6** -- Join the Evening Book Group at the Belleville Area District Library at 7 p.m. to discuss "The Roots of the Olive Tree" by Courtney Miller Santo.

• **Friday, Feb. 7** -- Friends Family Theater Free Movie, 7 p.m., with Bounce House, in Youth Center, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road at Bemis, Ypsilanti. Featuring "Love Surreal." All movies tentative. Confirm or questions: (734) 482-5074. Previews: www.friendsfamilytheater.com

• **Wednesday, Feb. 12** -- At 7 p.m., teens and adults are invited to share popcorn and a movie (a 1999 comedy adaptation of Shakespeare) then stick around for the discussion at the Belleville Area District Library. They aren't able to advertise the name of the movie, but if you call the library at 699-3291 they'll tell you. Rated PG-13.

EQ reports on repair to torn liner at hazardous landfill in Van Buren

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

At the Jan. 15 regular meeting of the Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, Mike Takacs, from the Environmental Quality Company (EQ), gave a PowerPoint presentation on the repair to the damaged landfill liner at the hazardous waste facility on the North I-94 Service Drive.

In June 2012 a field technician reported an abnormal water quality measurement at an area outside the primary landfill liner, he said.

Further testing was run concluding water at the site had come in contact with waste or waste materials. The water was contained within the secondary liner of the landfill, Takacs said.

Commissioner Dave Wilson interjected, "There was never in any danger of entering ground water at the site or having any effect on the community."

Takacs said an action plan to address the leakage was developed and in January 2013, phase one of the repairs was completed. During the summer, EQ painstakingly excavated the top of the dike to determine how water was bypassing the retention layers. The State was on site to observe a large portion of this work, Takacs said.

Looking for damage to the primary liner, technicians discovered three rips that roughly corresponded to teeth on a backhoe.

Takacs reported the liner was damaged by a backhoe that had previously been used to bury an electrical conduit along the top of the dike that services air monitoring stations.

During the repair of the primary liner, an excess accumulation of liquid was discovered.

They "had a bad feeling," Takacs said.

EQ installed some instruments called piezometers that measure water levels in the landfill. They found the level of water in the landfill was above the level of the dike, which was totally unexpected.

According to Takacs, drainage pipes in the landfill are cleared by high-pressure jet cleaning on a bi-annual basis. It was determined that this cleaning process did not adequately clean all of the pipes in the system.

One suspicious pipe was identified and a blockage of scale was found in the pipe. Once the pipe was cleared, the piezometer levels fell to dry in a few weeks, Takacs said.

Changes to the drainage-cleaning procedures and leak-detection systems were made to prevent blockages of the drainage system in the future.

VBT Trustee Jeff Jahr, who sits on the Environmental Commission, said he believes that once the landfill is closed it becomes passive. He asked, in 50-75 years from now who is going continue this active maintenance?

Takacs replied: "The post-closure period includes money for yearly maintenance. Portions of the site have 30-year, post-closure maintenance. Other areas of the site require maintenance in perpetuity."

"The State requires post-closure funding in the amount of maintenance required in perpetuity."

"Eventually this thing will dry up to where it's not producing leachate. At that point the cover systems will need to be maintained forever."

Takacs said a final report was submitted to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in December 2013. A conference call was scheduled for Friday, Jan. 17 between MDEQ and EQ to discuss the report.

During his presentation Takacs said, "In accordance with the host community agreement, EQ is to keep the township informed of events at its landfill."

Wayne Disposal, Inc. is a 500-acre, EQ facility located next to Willow Run Airport off the North I-94 Service Drive in VBT. It opened in 1957.

It is the only commercial hazardous-waste landfill in Michigan and one of only seven of its type in the United States.

The landfill is a disposal site for waste containing dangerous materials such as heavy metals. Most of which it receives comes from clean-up projects for industrial waste. No nuclear waste or radioactive waste is accepted.

At the end of the Jan. 15 meeting, the *Independent* asked if a copy of the final report was sent to VBT. Takacs said it wasn't, but he would send a digital version to Arthur Mullen, VBT Director of Planning and Economic Development.

Mullen said he would have it in his files, but didn't offer a copy to the newspaper, saying the *Independent* could request a copy from the State under the Freedom of Information Act.

When pressed, Mullen said he would keep a copy in his file to help out the local media.

More Letters

Thanks for attending our annual meeting

To the Editor:

The 2014 officers and board members of the Friends of the Belleville Area District Library would like to thank all of you who braved the weather to attend our Annual General Membership Meeting on 1/25.

It was an enjoyable afternoon of meeting and visiting with so many of our community members. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at future library events.

Bonnie McRitchie

Public Relations/Secretary

Friends of the Belleville Area District Library

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, Jan. 26:
0111 – suicide or attempt, Maple Dr.
0431 – loud party complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1009 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.

1113 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Southport
1155 – harassment call, Lake Pointe Blvd.
1200 – harassment call, S. Woodbury Dr.
1620 – property damage accident, I-94 S. Service Dr. / Rawsonville
1623 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / EQ
1709 – narcotics crime, Village Green Ln.
1732 – larceny, Wildbrook Dr.
1828 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.

1945 – private property accident, N. Woodbury
1954 – larceny, Westlake
2041 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr. / Haggerty Rd.
2307 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.

Monday, Jan. 27:
0020 – suicide or attempt, Oak Ln.
0443 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.
0741 – property damage accident, Bemis Rd. / Renton Rd.

0746 – personal injury accident, WB I-94 / Haggerty
0810 – disturbance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1030 – panic alarm, Brookside Dr.
1043 – malicious destruction of property, W. Huron River Dr.
1146 – suspicious person, Quirk Rd./Chatsworth
1359 – private property accident, Ecorse Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
1720 – private property accident, Belleville BP
1747 – fraud, Sumpter Rd.
1751 – malicious destruction of property, Hull Rd.
1812 – malicious destruction of property, Hannan
2026 – fraud, Jeremy Rd.
2231 – property damage accident, NB Belleville / EB I-94

Tuesday, Jan. 28:
0957 – property damage accident, Boulder Pond Blvd. / Savage Rd.
1059 – personal injury accident, EB I-94 / Rawsonville Rd.

1125 – property damage accident, Michigan / bypass
1147 – juvenile complaint, Van Buren St.
1205 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave.
1206 – property damage accident, Michigan / bypass

1237 – property damage accident, Michigan / bypass
1459 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.

1506 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1612 – suspicious person, Martinsville
1639 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1822 – private property accident, Tavistock Dr.
1908 – larceny, Milton Dr.
2309 – property damage accident, Lighthouse

Wednesday, Jan. 29:
0123 – family trouble, Oak Blvd.
0455 – breaking & entering, Marina Dr.
1209 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Dellor St.

1238 – suicide or attempt, Sumpter Rd.
1243 – private property accident, Haggerty Rd.
1349 – fire investigation, Haggerty
1603 – property damage accident, Harmony Ln.
1717 – property damage accident, Tyler/Hannan
1724 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis
1810 – fraud, Gilmore St.
1844 – larceny from auto, Ivy
2122 – family trouble, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2154 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville Rd.
2202 – disturbance, Belleville Rd./Tyler Rd.

Thursday, Jan. 30:
0123 – suspicious person, Main/Denton
0904 – breaking & entering, Old Michigan Rd.
1236 – fraud, S. Woodbury Dr.
1525 – fleeing and eluding, Spruce Ln.

1526 – assist fire dept., Spruce Ln.
1538 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Owen
1538 – property damage accident, EB Ecorse/E of Denton
1753 – assault & battery, Rose Blvd.
1810 – property damage accident, Pinewood Ln.
1857 – assault & battery, Hull Rd.
1918 – personal injury accident, EB I-94/Haggerty
1936 – harassment call, Morton Taylor Rd.
2011 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Hannan Rd.

Friday, Jan. 31:
0554 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Haggerty

0727 – larceny from auto, Mantauk Ct.
0757 – disturbance, Village Green Ln.
0804 – private property accident, Rawsonville Rd.
0828 – suspicious person, Country Walk Blvd.
0920 – assault & battery, I-94 Service
1228 – assault & battery, Parkside Dr.
1242 – fraud, Country Walk Ct.
1348 – property damage accident, Jackson St.
1422 – welfare check, Chinkapin Dr.
1434 – assist fire dept., Chinkapin Dr.
1438 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
1645 – suspicious person, Hoeft Rd./Bog Rd.
1709 – assault & battery, Belle Villa Blvd.
1708 – private property accident, E. Huron River
1714 – juvenile complaint, Denton Rd.
1903 – shots fired, Country Walk
2002 – harassment call, Belle Pointe Dr.
2037 – noise complaint, Parkwood Manor
2044 – assault & battery, Oak Ln.
2206 – suspicious vehicle, LKQ
2347 – malicious destruction of property, Liberty

Saturday, Feb. 1:
0001 – assault & battery, Parkside Dr.
0150 – follow up, Parkside Dr.
0208 – assault & battery, Robson Rd.
0234 – breaking & entering, Oak Blvd.
0255 – larceny, Kirkridge Park Dr.

0936 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.
0943 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
0949 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Belleville
1014 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1151 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
1430 – missing person, Lighthouse Dr.
1515 – personal injury accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1545 – malicious destruction of property, Lighthouse Dr.

1605 – harassment call, Maple Dr.
1754 – property damage accident, Belleville
1929 – property damage accident, WB I-94 ramp / Belleville Rd.
2032 – suspicious situation, Haggerty Center
2045 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Also on this week's log are 64 traffic stops, three of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 26:
0301 – larceny, Loza Ln.
0927 – citizen assist, Main St.
1157 – assist fire dept., Biggs Ave.
1922 – assist fire dept., Bay Pointe Dr.
1959 – warrant arrest, Main St.
2039 – agency assist, Wear Rd.
2211 – warrant arrest, Main St.
2225 – warrant arrest, Main St.

Monday, Jan. 27:
0155 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr./N. Biggs Ave.
0344 – welfare check, S. Liberty St.
0900 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
0915 – assist fire dept., Church St.
1049 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1432 – background investigation, Main St.
1518 – parking complaint, W. Wabash Ave. / South St.
2319 – assist fire dept., Robbe St.

Tuesday, Jan. 28:
0032 – warrant arrest, Main St.
1339 – misc. complaint, S. Edgemont Ave. / E. Huron River Dr.

1826 – vehicle lockout, Chase Bank
2147 – welfare check, Carmell St.
2227 – suspicious situation, Robbe St.
2343 – suspicious vehicle, Roland St./Angola St.
Wednesday, Jan. 29:
0804 – panic alarm, Belle Villa Blvd.
1214 – larceny, S. Edgemont Ave.
1355 – all other traffic, Huron River/Elwell
1453 – assist citizen, N. Liberty St.
1737 – agency assist, Sumpter/Bemis
1853 – animal complaint, Henry St.
2029 – intimidation threat, Wabash Ave.
2045 – property check, E. Huron River Dr.
2108 – vehicle lockout, Greylock St.

Thursday, Jan. 30:
0042 – property damage accident, Robbe St. / S. Edgemont Ave.
0419 – assist fire dept., Estrada
0955 – fraud, E. Huron River Dr.
1102 – disorderly conduct, S. Edgemont Ave.
1128 – follow up, Holly Ln.
2155 – suspicious vehicle, Henry

Friday, Jan. 31:
0516 – suspicious situation, Belle Villa Blvd.
0806 – information, Main St.
0806 – information, Main St.
1033 – harassment call, Main St.
1247 – property damage accident, South St./Main
1249 – fraud, Main St.
1507 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.
1515 – property damage accident, Main St.
1537 – hospice, Menlo Park Dr.
1547 – assist fire dept., Henry St.
1618 – information, Wabash Ave./South St.
1730 – assault & battery, Belle Villa Blvd.
1759 – follow up, Robbe St.

Saturday, Feb. 1:
0417 – suspicious situation, Belle Villa Blvd.
1136 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2044 – agency assist, N. Aberdeen Ct.

Also on this week's log are 15 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 26:
0122 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0134 – citizen assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0439 – shots fired, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
0604 – property damage accident, Wear/Clark
0958 – property damage accident, 44000 bl. Arkona Rd.

1040 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville / Willis
1436 – suspicious incident, 47000 bl. Harris Rd.
1459 – well-being check, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
1530 – animal complaint, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1607 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1844 – felonious assault, Texas
2028 – well-being check, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.

Monday, Jan. 27:
0051 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0103 – suspicious vehicle, Bemis/Elwell
0955 – fire dept. assist, Iowa
1021 – accidental damage report, Elwell / Oakville Waltz Rd.
1113 – fraud complaint, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.

1144 – fraud complaint, 46000 bl. Weimer Rd.
1301 – family trouble, Arizona
1303 – civil dispute, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1514 – property damage accident, Clark/S. Huron
1931 – harassment complaint, Rustic Ln.

Tuesday, Jan. 28:
1242 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1317 – well-being check, New Mexico
1835 – abandoned vehicle, 8300 bl. Rawsonville
2339 – suspicious person, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.

Wednesday, Jan. 29:
0711 – citizen assist, Clark/S. Huron
1030 – suspicious incident, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1243 – mental health commitment, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1249 – alarm, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1402 – civil dispute, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1417 – animal complaint, California/Arizona
1429 – ordinance violation, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1734 – assist other agency, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1859 – warrant arrest, out of township
1906 – subpoena service, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
1929 – assist other agency, Wayside
1939 – subpoena service, Texas
1948 – subpoena service, Texas
2127 – suspicious incident, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2141 – assist other agency, Country Club

Thursday, Jan. 30:
1112 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
1151 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1225 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Paris Rd.
1244 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1340 – suspicious incident, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1453 – alarm, 40000 bl. Wear Rd.
1556 – harassment complaint, Redwood
1713 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1941 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.

2101 – property damage accident, Willow / Sherwood

Friday, Jan. 31:
1059 – assist other agency, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
1414 – assist other agency, Carriage Ln.
1510 – warrant arrest, Bemis/Savage
1526 – fraud complaint, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
1554 – animal complaint, Rustic Ln.
1646 – well-being check, 21000 bl. Fenster Rd.
1650 – civil dispute, Edgewood
1750 – suspicious vehicle, Rustic Ln.
2220 – warrant arrest, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
2246 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
2337 – property damage accident, 23000 bl. Carleton West Rd.

Saturday, Feb. 1:
0319 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0737 – suspicious incident, 23000 bl. Sherwood
1047 – suspicious incident, Sumpter/Bemis
1611 – civil dispute, 25000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1707 – property damage accident, 42000 bl. Judd
2103 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
2209 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Willow
Also on this week's log are 10 follow-up investigations, 25 miscellaneous details, 88 patrol checks, and five traffic stops.

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Belleville fire

(continued from page 3)

The call was received by the Belleville Fire Department at 11:56 a.m., toned/dispatched at 11:57 a.m., the first unit was en-route at 12:09 p.m., with arrival at the scene at 12:13 p.m.

Van Buren Fire was requested at 12:18 p.m.; Sumpter was requested at 12:40 p.m. Fire was under control at 1:17 p.m. and fire fighters cleared the scene at 2:24 p.m.

Van Buren Township Fire Department dispatch records shows they were dispatched at 12:18 p.m., en-route at 12:18 p.m., and arrived at 12:25 p.m. Fire was under control at 1:17 p.m. and fire fighters cleared the scene at 2:24 p.m.

According to Huron Township dispatch, Sumpter Fire Department was toned out at 12:40; responding 12:45; arrived 12:53; and cleared at 2:24 p.m.

"My house is totally wasted," Bowling said, adding it will be seven months before she is able to get back into it. She said it might be better just to knock it down and start over. She said it looks OK from the outside, but inside it is terrible.

She said there is no basement in the house and the fire went up inside the walls to the second floor. She said she shuts her bedroom door when she goes to work to keep the cats out, so almost everything in her bedroom is salvageable, except for the mattress.

There is water damage throughout the

lower level, Bowling said.

As for the cats, her friend caught one and took it outside at the beginning of the fire, but firemen wouldn't let her go inside to look for the second one until everything was all over. Later, the second cat was found safe, hiding behind the dryer.

The original report was that this was a weather-related fire caused by someone trying to thaw out the pipes with an open flame. Bowling said that is not what happened.

Since the fire was inside the walls and not visible, fire fighters said it was difficult to determine where to start, but once they started fighting the fire, they saved the house.

The *Independent* regrets printing incorrect information about the cause.

-- Rosemary K. Oztzman, editor



Ask Angela

By Angela Nettro

I am here to answer questions pertaining to buying or selling real estate. Send your questions to "Ask Angela," c/o *Belleville-Area Independent*, 152 Main Street, Suite 9, Belleville 48111 or send me an email at nettroandco@comcast.net. I'll answer questions in this column.

Question from Cheryl in Stockbridge:

I recently bought a government- foreclosed manufactured home on a multiple-acre parcel. Only cash terms were available. So I purchased the home to sell to my son. Since my son does not have cash, he is trying to get a mortgage, but wants the title and some sort of affidavit. I received a covenant deed at closing. Can you explain why the bank is asking for a title and affidavit instead of just the deed I received at closing?

Answer: Cheryl, many government-foreclosed properties provide a Covenant Deed which is not a Warranted Deed.

When a manufactured home is first bought it has a title of sale, as an auto, since it is not real estate. When the manufactured home is affixed to land, the sale title with the legal description of the land is surrendered to the State of Michigan with a fee for the filing of an Affidavit of Affixture for Manufactured / Mobile Home. The affidavit is recorded as public record.

Thus, the Manufactured/Mobile Home becomes a part of the real estate with the land. The lender needs to have this in order to provide a real estate mortgage on the home.

If you never got the Manufactured title, check with the Secretary of State for help in obtaining it, so that you can file the Affidavit of Affixture. The process should take a month to six weeks to complete.

Best of Luck getting your home certified with the land.

-- Angela

Angela Nettro/Real Estate Broker

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Museum lecture series: 'Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History'

The Belleville Area Museum will host Susan Nenadic as she presents, "Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History" at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20.

This presentation is part of the museum's Third Thursday Lecture Series.

Nenadic has degrees in history and English and taught at Saline High School before retiring in 2004. The lecture will focus on women whose actions significantly altered American history and society.

Museum Director Katie Dallos said, "Mothers bring your daughters (and sons), wives bring your husbands. It should be an interesting and enlightening evening!"

Pizza and light refreshments will be served at 6 p.m. RSVPs at 697-1944 would be greatly appreciated.

This event is sponsored by the Belleville Area Historical Society. Entry is free for members of the Belleville Area Historical Society; \$3 per person for non-members.

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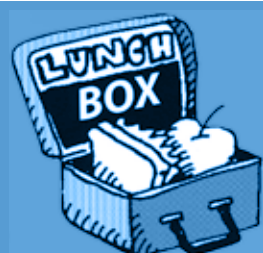
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