



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 20.11 Thursday, March 13, 2014

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

VBT DDA considers regional detention pond

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

At its regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 25 the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority discussed the mysterious agenda item "Consider approval to investigate potential new project" which turned out to be a request from Director Susan Ireland to have Wade Trim look into a regional detention pond for the DDA district.

Engineer Dave Nummer from Wade Trim referred to DDA members' comments at the previous meeting, where according to Nummer the DDA is looking for projects that help to improve development and encourage growth within the district that will help to fund additional DDA projects.

"One of the major complaints that impedes development is the Wayne County storm water ordinance being onerous, taking up a lot of room on the site and it is rather expensive," Nummer said.

He said that DDA member Craig Atchinson has a feel for the costs, after seeing costs for a project he is considering have probably \$500,000 of pipework just to comply with the storm water ordinance.

Atchinson said a retention pond does him no good because he loses parking space. He said his most valuable asset is a parking spot.

Nummer suggested finding a place that would put a portion of the DDA district into compliance with the storm water ordinance by building a regional detention pond.

When businesses come in to develop, they would build on the property and build their local storm sewer to drain into the regional detention pond. Water quality improvement and detention would take place at that location rather than on each individual parcel.

(continued on page 16)



Photo courtesy VBT Fire Department

It took a lot of hands on deck to make the annual Polar Plunge a success on Feb. 22, when volunteers got in costume and jumped into Belleville Lake at the BYC clubhouse (the former Moose Lodge). The jumpers earned about \$43,000 for Michigan Special Olympics, according to local coordinator David Katz. Some of the professionals who were present to make sure everything went off safely were, from left: Firefighters Tim Craiger, Bronson Campbell, Ryan Smith, Josh Worth and John Hayden; Battalion Chief Ron Folks (orange suit); Fire Lt./Police Officer Ryan McCormick; Firefighter Patrick Laskaska (in front of McCormick); Firefighter Kurt Driscoll; Firefighter David Brouillette in his LandShark costume; Captain Anthony Karver; Police Officer Jeff Stanton; Police Sgt./Firefighter Mike Moening; Firefighter Chris Roy; and Fire Lt. Curtis Lunsford. Firefighter Brouillette was representing the Dive Team with his LandShark costume and he won first place. The costume was designed by Firefighter Lacey Marcotte and her mother April.

VBT Board considers what to do about begging ordinance

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

There were three township ordinances on the agenda of the March 4 regular meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees.

Two were to be amended to comply with current state law, but the third was to be repealed because it had been challenged by

the American Civil Liberties Union.

The First Readings to amend ordinances on retail fraud and purchasing, consumption, and possession of alcohol by persons under 21 were passed unanimously by the board. The two amendments are expected to be back for their Second Reading and adoption on the March 18 board agenda.

But any action on the ordinance on begging that the ACLU said was unconstitutional was postponed until it could be fully discussed in a board work/study session, possibly on March 17.

Trustee Jeff Jahr, who is an attorney, said he wanted to discuss other options than the repeal that the township attorney

recommended because there was a second suggestion by that attorney.

That was to write an ordinance against aggressive solicitation.

Jahr also wanted the township attorney and the public safety director present to help with the discussion. Neither was present at the March 4 meeting.

VBT Supervisor Linda Combs introduced the repeal recommendation to the board.

"The ACLU said our ordinance is unconstitutional and our attorney drafted an amended ordinance and sent it to the ACLU" but the ACLU still didn't like it,

(continued on page 15)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

School Board OKs contracts for Sinking Fund upgrades

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At Monday's regular meeting, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approved four contracts for \$1.18 million in Sinking Funds to upgrade school infrastructure in time for classes next fall.

Eric Dumont, of Plante Moran CRESA gave an overview of the projects that have been completed or are in their final stages from the 2013 Sinking Fund.

Then he went over plans for use of the 2014 Sinking Fund.

Voters approved the Sinking Fund in November 2008 and the tax brings in from \$1.2 million to \$1.5 million a year, Dumont said, adding it reduces strain on the general fund when problems arise.

Board members agreed they wouldn't be able to afford upgrades to the schools and be proactive without the Sinking Fund approved by voters. That money can be only used for building upgrades and repairs throughout the district.

The district had gone out for bids on the 2014 projects and on Monday the board approved:

- \$559,845 contract to Fuller Mechanical for the Owen Intermediate School Mechanical System and Controls Upgrade Project. The other bidder, Conti Mechanical, had bid \$634,798;

- \$316,228 contract to DeMaria Building Company for the Owen and McBride Toilet Room Project. DeMaria had bid \$196,390 for Owen and Davenport Brothers had bid \$210,514. DeMaria had bid \$119,838 for McBride and Davenport had bid \$128,150. The district took the low bids and combined the projects. They are rebuilding eight student toilet rooms at Owen and six at McBride;

- \$107,814 contract to low-bidder Allied Building Services for the Owen and McBride School Classroom Lighting Fixture Replacement Project. There were four bidders on the Owen and McBride projects and the two schools were combined in Allied's contract; and

- \$192,356 contract to Hewitt Co., Inc. for the Owen Glass and Glazing Replacement Project. The other bidder was Peterson Glass Co. at \$330,032.

Board Treasurer Sherry Frazier voted against giving the toilet room project at McBride and Owen to the low bidder and said she was in favor of using local businesses.

"Davenport Brothers are more than capable," she said.

"I wouldn't want to defend that to taxpayers," said Board Vice President

Martha Toth, pointing out that the Davenport bids were \$23,000 higher.

Dumont said in discussions after the bidding Davenport stood by its bid.

Frazier said it would give a lot more goodwill in the community if they chose Davenport.

"We're following our policy," Toth said, adding that a local bidder had to be within 5%.

"I don't care about policy," Frazier replied.

"This is closer to 9%," said Trustee Scott Russell.

In discussion about the Owen glazing bids, Dumont said Hewitt was able to bid lower because Peterson is a union company.

Trustee Russell asked how Dumont was able to attribute the higher bid to union labor and Dumont said in the formal sit-down with contractors you are able to find out where the differences are.

"One of the bigger factors is labor costs," Dumont said.

"Did I mention we're in Michigan and Michigan is a union state?" Frazier said to Dumont. She admonished Dumont for mentioning union costs and asked him not to mention the union next time.

In other business, the board:

- Approved a three-year, \$41,400 per year contract with The Guidance Center for its Head Start classes to move into six vacant classrooms at Haggerty School for classes this fall. Head Start will use the classrooms plus two offices and one parent room, totaling about 6,900 square feet of the facility and share space for the kitchen, gymnasium and playground. There still are 11 vacant classrooms at Haggerty School. John Perfetti, Director of Properties for The Guidance Center, and Rebecca Ross, administrator at Haggerty, were present to answer questions;

- Approved getting a new web provider for the 2014-15 school year, moving from SchoolFusion, which no longer does updates, to School Wires, at a cost of \$19,340, with an expected E-Rate reimbursement of 70%. School Supt. Michael Van Tassel said there had been a lot of frustrations with their current system;

- Unanimously approved another contract year for School Supt. Van Tassel, extending his contract until June 30, 2016. Trustee Kathy Kovach said Van Tassel would automatically get another year if they did nothing, but she wanted to show the board's support by voting on his contract. "I appreciate what Mr. Van Tassel has done in a pretty short time," she said. "We can show our support and appreciation by



More than 40 students at McBride Middle School have been preparing their rendition of "Hooray for Hollywood," a comedy by Tim Kelly. Performances will be 7 p.m., Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m. Friday, March 14, and 2 p.m. Saturday, March 15. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$4 for students 8th grade and younger, senior citizens, and Belleville High School students with ID.

voting to renew his contract for another year," she said and then made the motion, which was seconded by Frazier;

- Received copies of the 2009 Final Bond Audit Report for the high school construction project. The report has been filed with the state and was due within 120 days of substantial completion of the project, which was Oct. 10;

- Approved the retirement of 22-year teacher Lizabeth Martin from Belleville High School as of April 1; and approved the resignation of Holly Ulrich, a one-year teacher at Haggerty School, as of Feb. 28;

Four district library board seats up for election in November

Four, four-year terms on the Belleville Area District Library Board will be filled at the General Election Nov. 4.

Expiring are the terms currently held by Christina Brasil, Mary Jane Dawson, Elaine Gutierrez, and Joseph Monte.

Those residents of the city of Belleville and townships of Van Buren and Sumpter who wish to seek a seat on the library board must file an Affidavit of Identity and a nominating petition with Wayne County by 4 p.m., July 17.

A \$100 nonrefundable fee may be filed instead of a petition.

Jacob Soja earns business degree at Western Mich. U.

Jacob Matthew Soja of Belleville was presented with his Bachelor of Business Administration degree during December graduation ceremonies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. He majored in Integrated Supply Management.

- Presented a certificate of appreciation to Vice President Martha Toth to mark her attainment of Level 3 status after taking 208 credit hours of classes from the Michigan Association of School Boards;

- Heard Toth give a legislative update on pending state bills that affect education; and

- Heard Trustee Russell announce that "Little Red Riding Hood" is being presented Friday at Owen Intermediate School. He said his daughter was playing the grandmother.

Community Chorus Cabaret is March 16

The Belleville Community Chorus will present its sixth-annual Cabaret performance at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at Open Arms Lutheran Church, 7865 Belleville Road.

The program features chorus members in solo, duet and ensemble versions of pop, oldies, show tunes and more. Although the concert is free, donations to support the chorus are encouraged and welcome. Food and refreshments will be available.

For more information, call (734) 660-0797 or go to www.Bellevillechorus.org.

Adam Forster named to Benedictine U. Dean's List

Adam Forster of Belleville was among 846 students at Benedictine University named to the Fall 2013 Dean's List.

The Dean's List recognizes full-time students who achieve a 3.5 grade point average or above.

Benedictine University is an independent Roman Catholic institution located in Lisle, IL just 25 miles west of Chicago.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Library Board Oks \$19.05 million bond question for Aug.

At Tuesday's three-hour meeting, the Belleville Area District Library Board voted 6-1 to present a \$19,050,000 bond issue to voters in the August primary election.

That's \$18,757,930 for construction of a new library, plus financing fees. Elaine Gutierrez voted no, stating she wanted to wait until all the figures were in. The 20-year bond issue would need 1.08 mill for the first year and 0.96 mill average.

But that's not the whole story. There will be a second ballot question for operating funds. The library currently gets .7 mill to operate and that's not enough for a new library, which will be 45,000 square feet and need more staff to run it.

Although the board's timetable calls for it to accept the ballot language at its April meeting, the operational figures weren't ready to present at its March meeting on Tuesday. Library Director Deb Green said her deputy director, Mary Jo Suchy, has been working on the operational figures and she's been out sick for a week.

The board set a special meeting for 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 26, to discuss operational expenses and a resolution for purchase of the DNR property for a library site.

Gutierrez, with many years in real estate, is not happy with the steps in the resolution and questions how they can be moving forward without the site assured.

One library millage campaign is on its way to your voting booth.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

We are sorry to hear that the *Belleville Lake Current* has ceased publication as of the March 6 issue after close to four years of publication. Its first issue was May 17, 2010.

In last week's column, I suggested people let their favorite Van Buren Township elected official know how they would like to see the township spend the annual royalty payments from EQ/Wayne Disposal that have just started coming in. It will be a maximum of \$325,000 a year.

I received an email from Marie Cutler, Service Coordinator of National Church Residences over at Columbia Court in the city of Belleville.

She wrote: "... I do have a suggestion. The Wheels for Independence was reduced to 3 days a week instead of 5 days a week. I work at Columbia Court in downtown Belleville, which is a senior apartment building. Most of my residents do not have transportation.

"With this being a small town, most of the options available in other bigger cities/towns are not available here..."

I sent on her suggestion to VBT board members, but told her they probably can't help because Columbia Court is in the city of Belleville and VBT will probably want to spend its money in its township.

City of Belleville officials are about to start wrestling with their new budget, so this suggestion could help them see needs in their Belleville community.

Two ladies have contacted me about recent scams. One got a postcard from "National Parcel Services" which offered \$50 worth of free jewelry. All you have to do is call

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



an 800 number and give them your credit card number to pay the \$8.95 shipping and handling fee.

The lady is warning her friends and asked us to warn our readers, and stressed that people should not give out their credit card numbers for something like this where they did not initiate the contact.

The other lady got a letter with her name and address hand-printed on the front, but with no return address. The letter had bulk mailing postage put on by a machine. That was her first red flag. She and her husband had run a business and they had sent out items by bulk mail.

There was a handwritten comment at the top of what looked like a page cut out of a magazine urging her to order a wrinkle cream. Again, you had to use your credit card. This lady is warning her friends about it, too.

Neither lady wished to be identified.

Charles Tackett of Van Buren Township, who has a Michigan Medical Marijuana card to help treat his injuries from service in Vietnam, would like VBT to move forward now that the Michigan Supreme Court has paved the way.

On Feb. 6, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that local officials in Michigan may not ban the use of medical marijuana within their boundaries – a landmark ruling expected to overturn local ordinances in Livonia, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills,

and Lyon Township.

On July 22, 2011, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Wendy Baxter issued a 29-page opinion in which she dismissed the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) lawsuit against the City of Livonia, supporting the City's zoning ordinance that prohibits uses, such as marijuana production, that violate Federal law.

The Van Buren Township medical marijuana ordinance approved in 2010 was based on the Livonia Model, and it also said anything illegal under federal law is illegal in VBT. At the time, board members voiced concern that if Livonia lost its lawsuit, VBT would be vulnerable to suit.

Charles would like to see a dispensary in VBT, possibly at the Farmer Jack location, which has been vacant for years.

VBT Lt. Charles Bazy said he was talking to some people from Bloomfield Hills who said they had heard there were Snowy Owls at Willow Run Airport and they were looking for them. Lt. Bazy said he told them he has seen coyotes and turkeys and great horned owls, and lots of eagles, but no Snowy Owls at that airport.

FYI: I Googled "Snowy Owls" and found lots of pictures of them at Willow Run Airport. They are beautiful and they are here.





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BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

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Letters

A public thank you to those who helped me

To the Editor:

A Public Thank You:

While on my way home from work the evening of Saturday, March 1 -- during the last snow storm -- my tires lost traction on the Rawsonville Road exit of eastbound I-94, and my car spun out, almost hitting one of the large signs by the sides of the road.

My car ended up stuck in the snow and two people were kind enough to help me: A woman with a bag of kitty litter (it really does work!) and a young man with Beats headphones. They were so helpful with getting my car un-stuck, and so kind to me during a frightening/daunting situation.

This letter doesn't even begin to express my gratitude, but they both refused to tell me their names or addresses, so this is the only way I know to thank them, and I sincerely hope they see it and realize what a significant impact they made.

Experiencing the kindness that still exists in the world firsthand is very overwhelming and I will be sure to follow the advice they both gave me: Pay It Forward.

Shari Strauss
Belleville

Birthdays

March 1 -- Joann Roberson
March 5 -- Rose Griffin
March 9 -- Kayden Burton
March 18 -- Kimberly Kennedy

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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First United Methodist sets Lenten programs

To the Editor:

When I first moved to this area I remember being amazed at how many churches there were in this small community.

Now that I have lived here over nine years and travel though Belleville, Van Buren and Sumpter daily, I am proud that we have so many different opportunities to worship.

I have written this to tell you about just one. At the First United Methodist Church this Lenten season we are offering a small group Bible study based on the Mark Batterson book "Draw the Circle: A 40 Day Prayer Challenge" with an optional book "Praying Circles Around Your Children" also by Batterson.

Nearly every single day we have a study going on. For example, beginning Sunday evening, March 16, at 6 p.m. Susan Walker will be hosting one of these studies for adults right at the church, 417 Charles St., while the youth group will be doing their lesson from the same book.

(The youth does not begin their study until the 23rd).

These studies are ongoing through Lent and are open to everyone. If you can't commit to any single day know that you are welcome to drop in on any small group and everyone will be "on the same page."

Both books are available in the church narthex right by the lakeside doors for a suggested donation of \$10 per book. For more information contact me at KellyB527@Yahoo.com.

Thank you,
Kelly Boelter, Sumpter Township

Next Belleville Day in Florida is Feb. 4, 2015


To the Editor:

Sixty Belleville residents and past residents attended the Belleville Day in Florida event at the Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club in Hernando, FL on Feb. 5. Sam and Sandra Vicchy hosted the event where everyone had an excellent buffet, renewed acquaintances, and met new friends in a wonderful country club atmosphere.

Next year's Belleville Day in Florida is scheduled for Feb. 4, 2015 at the same location. Those expecting to be in the area at that time are asked to contact the Vicchys at 352-726-9132 or sjvicchy@aol.com to get on the mailing list to receive all information for this annual event. Sam Vicchy, Hernando, FL

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Obituaries



Dorothy Jean Scott

DOROTHY JEAN SCOTT

(July 12, 1938 - March 9, 2014)

Dorothy Jean Scott, age 75, of Canton, MI, passed away Sunday, March 9, 2014 at Oakwood Hospital-Annapolis Center, Wayne, MI. She was born July 12, 1938 in Salyersville, KY, daughter of Lloyd and Ruth (Vanderpool) Gullett.

Dorothy worked for Ford Motor Company at the Saline, MI plant for several years. She enjoyed ceramics, crocheting, knitting and quilting and won numerous ribbons at various fairs across the state.

She is survived by two sons Kenneth Sheeks of Belleville, MI and Michael Sheeks of Canton, 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, also her brother Carl Gullett.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements were by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Memorial contributions may be made to Mooseheart at <http://www.moosecharities.org/store/Wish/MooseheartCtr.php> or American Diabetes Association, and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a story for her family to treasure.



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Obituaries



Rachel Dolores
Lewandowski

RACHEL DOLORES LEWANDOWSKI

(December 30, 1927 - March 8, 2014)

Rachel Dolores Lewandowski passed away in the early morning hours of March 8, after a courageous battle with lung cancer. She was at home, surrounded by her family. She was born December 30, 1927, in Detroit, MI, daughter of William & Bessie (Gullion) Benson.

Commonly known as Dolores, by family and friends, she was loved for her sense of humor and optimistic outlook. Even in her final days, she was still entertaining her family and caregivers, despite the tremendous pain she was in. Her positive presence will be greatly missed.

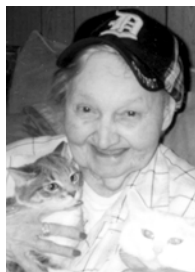
Dolores is survived by her loving husband of 65 years Frank, daughter Cindi (Lewandowski) Price, daughter-in-law Debra Cully, her brother Ray (Shirley) Benson, sister-in-law Joan Styers, and brother-in-law Alan Lewandowski. Dolores has 3 grandchildren, Tera (Jeremy) Thompson, Jeffery (Kristin) Price, Jr. and Kate Price. She also has 2 great-grandchildren Caleb and Cully Thompson.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her son Terry in 1981, and her son-in-law Jeff Price Sr. in 2011.

Dolores has been cremated. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. A Memorial Service celebrating her life will be held at the Belleville Presbyterian Church, 11900 Belleville Rd., Belleville, MI. 48111 on Saturday March 15, 2014 at 11:00 am with Rev. Gregory Zurakowski officiating. A luncheon will immediately follow the service.

Memorial contributions may be made to Belleville Presbyterian Church and would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at www.davidebrownfh.com.



Geraldine Smith

GERALDINE H. SMITH

(April 11, 1928 - February 11, 2014)

Passed peacefully in her Belleville home. She liked drawing, fishing, Strawberry & Elvis fests, and all gatherings. Anywhere she went she was loved by many. She loved spending time with her grandchildren. She loved her cats: Chi-chi and Queeny. She was a homemaker for her surviving children: Brian Khan, Elaine (Scott) Faubion, and Bennett Smith. She is survived by six grandchildren: Amanda (TJ) Steeb, Joshua Khan, Ambera Booth, Jonathan Booth, Ben and Danielle Faubion; four great-grandchildren: Destiny, Isabella, Selena, and Corbin, born 3-8-14. Also survived by three sisters-in-law: Annie, Betty, and Joan. Geraldine was preceded in death by her loving daughter Bonnie Smith and loving sister Lorraine Samowsky. There will be a Memorial Service at a later date.

ROBERT 'BOB' MIDDLEDITCH

Robert "Bob" Middleditch, age 70, of St. Petersburg, FL, passed away suddenly on March 6, 2014. Born in Detroit, MI, he spent most of his life in the Belleville-Ypsilanti area. He worked at GM powertrain of Ypsilanti for over 30 years, retiring in 1999. He spent the last 13 years in Florida enjoying the warm weather. He was preceded in death by his parents Howard and Jerene (Sherf) Middleditch and stepmother Bess Middleditch. He is survived by his brother Cullen (Ursula) Middleditch and sister Floyann (Marc) Anderson along with many nieces and nephews.



Jeffrey Allen Moose

JEFFREY ALLEN MOOSE

(December 25, 1963 - March 7, 2014)

Jeffrey Allen Moose, age 50, of Sevierville, TN, formerly of Wayne, MI, passed away Friday, March 7, 2014. He was born December 25, 1963 in Ypsilanti, MI, son of James Robert & Sarah McCartney (Drysdale) Moose, Sr. Jeff served his country in the U.S. Air Force for 3 1/2 years. He enjoyed target shooting, and loved listening to music in his car.

He is survived by six siblings: Deborah Kopsolias of Wayne, MI, Wendy (Ken) Keiger of Ohio, Kimberly (Rodney) Rowe of Jackson, MI, John Moose of Tennessee, Pamela and James Jr. of Belleville; also numerous nieces, nephews, and friends. Jeff was preceded in death by his parents, also a sister, Cynthia Kapek on June 27, 2005.

Visitation was 2-5 PM Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing & Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, with a 5:00 PM funeral service. Cremation rites were accorded.

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

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Upcoming Meetings

• Thursday, March 13 - Keystone Academy Board of Directors, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Monday, March 17 - Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, work/study session, 7 p.m., Administration Building. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, March 18 - Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, regular meeting, 7 p.m.

• Wednesday, March 19 - Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. Also, City of Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, VBT Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.

• Tuesday, March 25 - Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m.



CAROL S. GUENTHER
(July 29, 1935 - March 10, 2013)

*Gone from our sight,
Forever in our hearts.*

-- Kenny, Vonda, Steve, Clyde,
& her sister Margaret

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More Letters

VBT needs better begging ordinance

An Open Letter to the Van Buren Township Officials:

While I cannot personally attend many meetings, I did watch the live TV broadcast of the last (March 4) Van Buren Township board meeting. My immediate attention was drawn to the issue regarding the ACLU's "TEST CASE" referred to as the township's "Begging Ordinance."

This ordinance (Sec. 58-180. Begging) states: "No person shall wander about and beg, or shall go about from door to door of private homes or commercial and business establishments, or shall place himself in or upon any public way or public place, to be or receive alms for himself."

Talk about antiquated! That ordinance was drafted long ago, in more innocent, trusting days. Most certainly, it was before the threatening ACLU came on the scene!

Today, we are living in a very dangerous age; if we are to be safe, we don't dare leave our doors unlocked or our garage open, whether we are at home or away. In these times, we cannot permit or trust strangers on or about our premises. We residents do not want, nor can we trust, strangers (solicitors or beggars) at our doors, lurking around our premises, or looking in our windows!

At the March 4 board meeting, Supervisor Combs stated that the ACLU is looking for a "test case." Trustee Hart stated that the ACLU's communication to the board sounded, to him, like "harassment"

"Harassment" is putting it mildly! The ACLU is universally known for not merely "harassment," but outright UN-American, UN-Christian tactics, domineering, arm-twisting pressure, and lies, resulting in crippling assaults to individuals, companies or organizations who dare to stand up for justice and freedom.

Unlimited funding, staff and attorneys, they seek "weak links" as easy prey, and, more often than not, "weak links" LOSE! I have been following the ACLU's track record for many years, all the while studiously keeping records of their UN-

American and UN-Christian lawsuits.

Be assured that when the ACLU observes just *one weak link* they will jump at the opportunity to "get their foot in the door"--or, as Supervisor Combs said, "They could use us as their test case." The question is: Do we officials and residents exhibit strength or weakness? The ACLU is, *for now*, "testing the waters" in Van Buren Township!

Yes, I agree that Van Buren Township needs to earnestly and tirelessly study and come up with a new, more aggressive begging/soliciting, conduct ordinance. You, our elected officials and servants (including our entire tri-community), owe it to us, the citizens and taxpayers, to draft an ordinance that will clearly and unquestionably prevent any and all unfavorable/unwanted beggars and solicitors into our communities.

With certainty, you should let it be known that we have laws and ordinances which will clearly prohibit loitering, "snooping," or begging/soliciting, thus, protecting our residents' lives and properties.

In closing, I want to remind you that this, the ACLU's "test case" (sounds innocent, right?) is their commonly used, well-known strategy of getting their foot in the door -- testing the waters!

Also, I would like to commend you, Rosemary, with opening this discussion in the *Independent*. It is refreshing and enlightening when residents are invited to debate/discuss important issues. It is a great service to all of us.

I am hopeful that our adjoining communities of Belleville and Sumpter will take notice and also invite comments from their citizens and voters when like issues arise.

God Bless America.

Thank you,
(Mrs.) Ruth E. Bleeker
Belleville

Need a Library? You tell me

To the Editor:

Need a Library?

You tell me! It's certainly not for books that this "Taj Mahal" was designed. There are meeting rooms, adult computer rooms, children computer rooms, craft rooms, rooms

for relaxing and rooms for coffee. This reads more like a Community Recreation Hall to me.

I have alluded to more than one library made available in this community by its constituents in previous letters, ergo I will forego any repetition of fact for the number available in elementary, middle, high schools plus the Wayne County Community College, Senior Centers, and Adult Education. Then add Washtenaw Community College, Eastern Michigan University, Wayne State University, Oakland University, University of Michigan, and on and on and on.

We live in the "Information Age" where knowledge, information, history, "how to," and trivia by the score are rapidly available at our finger tips, not only on the computer, but the iPads, Kindles, wi-fi, and Smartphones.

We just acquainted ourselves with the Smartphone and are astounded at the wealth of information and the ability of these little silicon cells. Of course, we have to ask the younger generation how to operate the plethora of tasks and rapidity of information collection. And it seems we are among the last to get on the "information train!" It seems this hardware is in everybody's hands - as texting is the in-thing along with Facebook, Twitter, and some new ones.

So, who needs a library? I guess if one wants to "sponge" off the taxpayers, meet their friends for coffee, and scan the internet there may be a need. I have a friend who takes great delight in checking out FREE DVD movies and music. And we wonder why Blockbuster went out of business?

Then there is the free baby-sitting that disguises itself as "early development" or "book awareness" or any of the myriad of titles or semantics engendered in a concept that it takes a village to raise a child. No, it

doesn't -- it takes parenting!

The BADL [Belleville Area District Library] has seen fit to move out of the City of Belleville, which is only attributable to an over-inflated concept of the importance of being (in BADL words) "...the best and most outstanding library and facility in the country."

I really wouldn't mind this if the rest of the country were helping to pay for it!

Just how is this debacle being foisted upon the taxpayers who have some OTHER BOND payoffs due? Library Bonds? VOTE NO!

Sincerely,

Cornell Anton, Jr.

City of Belleville

Hats off to those who work out in the weather

To the Editor:

Hats off to all the workers who must work outside repairing broken water pipes, clearing ice-clogged streets, and spreading salt to make it safer for us to drive to our destinations.

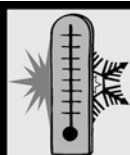
Let's give a cheer to the linemen, firefighters, first responders, and police officers who respond to our needs in all types of weather.

To all the angels who work in our medical systems striving to keep us alive. Also, to the bus drivers who carefully transport our children to and from school. Our future leaders are in good hands.

Let us stop and say thank-you to all who serve the community and do a GREAT JOB! Kudos to all!

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Minding Your Business

with Bob Mytych



The Wayne County Fairgrounds is holding an **Irish Corned Beef Dinner** this Saturday, March 15, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Fairgrounds, located on Quirk Road just north of the N. I-94 Service Drive. The cost is \$12 per person with the proceeds going to the upkeep of the Wayne County Fairgrounds, a non-profit organization. Call (734) 697-7002

Frosty Boy is now open for the season and owner Mike Foley would like everyone to know that, for the third straight year, there's no price increase at Belleville's oldest ice cream parlor. Frosty Boy is now serving non-dairy Sorbet, sugar-free yogurt, and its traditional ice cream treats and specials. Call (734) 699-7188.

Sam's Bar at the corner of Bemis and Savage Roads is offering fish and seafood specials all day every Friday, featuring shrimp platters and all-you-can-eat cod. There's also New York Strip Steak. Enjoy karaoke on Saturdays, too. Carry-outs are also available by calling (734) 699-8526.

The public is invited to the **Belleville Soup Project** this evening, March 13, at the Belleville High School Commons (cafeteria). A soup dinner will be offered for \$15 per ticket, two for \$25, and will include a presentation of new ideas for the downtown Belleville area by the BHS New Tech students. The audience will then get a chance to vote for the winning project with the proceeds going towards funding the project. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the presentation at 6 p.m. The event is sponsored by the **Belleville Downtown Development Authority**, the **City of Belleville** and **Belleville High School**.

The food pantry at **Belleville Church of**

God on Hull Road is once again offering free non-perishable and perishable food packages on Thursday, March 20, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. To receive some food, call **Joanne** at (734) 697-1142.

The **Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce** is holding its first **Spring Trade Show** this Saturday, March 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Belleville High School. A variety of exhibitors will be displaying their products and services. The event is free and there will be lots of giveaways. Snacks and refreshments will also be available. Vendors can still get in by calling (734) 697-7151.

Affordable Vet Clinic and **Dr. Melanie Dukes** are offering **Low-Cost Vaccine Clinics** all day on Wednesday, March 26, and Saturday, April 5, at their business on Sumpter Road across from the Secretary of State's office. No exam is required but pets must be in good general health. For a list of vaccines and prices, see their ad in today's

paper and call (734) 699-3800.

The **Belleville Chamber of Commerce**, **Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan**, **Richard & Patricia Donahey Club**, and **Romulus Club** are organizing the **2014 Golf Outing** fundraiser on Friday, May 16, at the Pine View Golf Course in Ypsilanti. Golfing tickets are \$100 per person with many other sponsorship packages available. Visit the chamber's website at www.Bellevilleareachamber.org or call **Karen LaBelle** at (734) 697-7151.

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

Frozen Leprechaun charity party to feature events on frozen lake

It's that time again: St. Patrick's Day weekend!

The Belleville Lake Water Ski Club is putting on its annual Frozen Leprechaun Charity Party at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 15, on Belleville Lake off Horizon Park and at Johnny's Grill.

The last two years featured water skiing in frigid Belleville Lake, with \$20,000 raised for the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation.

This year the Educational Foundation will again be the beneficiary.

The charity party will feature events on the frozen lake, plus raffles for a tablet computer, MIS camping tickets, Tiger tickets, an autographed baseball, water skiing toys, dental/cosmetic work and many other items from local businesses.

Court Watching

Jeremy Schuh bound over to circuit court on stolen credit card case

By Diane Madigan

Independent Court Reporter

Jeremy Schuh, 33, has been bound over to circuit court on charges of stealing a credit card out of a vehicle in Washtenaw County and using it at the Van Buren Township Meijer store on July 18.

On Feb. 26, Schuh appeared for a preliminary exam before Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green at 34th District Court in Romulus. Schuh was delivered to court by VBT police from Washtenaw County Jail where he is being held on three pending home invasion cases.

Known as a habitual offender that has escaped from prison, Schuh was brought to court wearing a Washtenaw County jumpsuit and handcuffs. Additional police officers were brought into the courtroom as he stood beside his court-appointed Legal Aid attorney Mark Procida.

He waived his right for a preliminary exam and Judge Green bound Schuh over for a March 5 arraignment on the information at 3rd Circuit Court.

Celebrate 10 Years of Living and Giving Local with the Van Buren Civic Fund & Van Buren Township's 178th Birthday



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VBT Environmental Commission hears report from RACER

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

At the regular meeting of the Van Buren Township Environmental Commission on Jan. 15, a report was heard on the RACER Trust activities at the former General Motors facility at Willow Run.

Grant Trigger, RACER Clean-up Manager, gave the report.

As a result of the GM bankruptcy, the RACER (Revitalizing Auto Communities Environmental Response) Trust was formed with a budget of \$750 million. The main Willow Run site has a remediation budget of \$35 million and the site on the south side of Tyler Pond has an additional \$8 million.

The 321 acres are in what is referred to as the Willow Run site.

The 83-acre building built in 1942 is currently scheduled for demolition that is to be completed by Sept. 1, Trigger said.

After demolition the site is to be reconfigured and prepared for redevelopment. RACER has also signed a memo of understanding with Walbridge Development Co. to explore possible uses for the site that may include a connected/autonomous vehicle testing and development center.

Yankee Air Museum is proposing to acquire a 180,000-square-foot portion of the building in the southeast corner with parking in surrounding areas.

The purchase would include the two highly engineered hanger doors on the south side of the building used by the WWII bomber plant. The doors weigh 35 tons each.

Trigger explained any redevelopment on the site will retain the existing concrete slab as a cap over the contaminated material underneath.

Remediation Efforts

"There are 35-40 acres of contaminated ground water on the site," Trigger said.

A wastewater treatment plant is still operating to treat contaminated water from the site. When it rains, the storm water from the roof runs into a series of drains under the slab, combining with contaminated water that is already in the drains, he said.

According to Trigger, the \$1 million annual cost to run the water treatment plant is not sustainable. To reduce the amount of contaminated water that needs to be pre-treated, RACER plans to disconnect the storm water drains from the existing sewer system, draining the storm water to retention ponds and swales that would ultimately drain into Tyler pond.

A new underground water treatment system is being planned that will handle the contaminated water under the slab. Presently, all the water that is captured on the site is pre-treated and sent to the Ypsilanti Community Utility Authority (YCUA).

The planning process for this system is scheduled to be completed by Sept. 1.

The principle purpose of remediation is dealing with contamination below the slab and underground on the site, Trigger said.

After the presentation, Commissioner

Norm DeBuck asked what type of soil is under the slab. Trigger said it is a mixture of fill sand and clay with good drainage characteristics.

Chairman David Brownlee asked about contaminated water flowing off the property. Trigger explained that the system under the slab has many monitoring wells working as a ground water control system, capturing ground water as it flows from northwest to southeast under the slab.

Commissioner Tony Gibson asked about wetlands attracting birds and the airport. Trigger explained in subsurface-flow wetlands most of the water flow takes place underground. RACER will work with all environmental agencies as they plan the project.

Commissioner Dave Wilson questioned why there are now high levels of PAHs in sediment at the Tyler Pond, when a 2000 Stantec report indicated it was clean of

these contaminants. Trigger said, "If it's proven that contamination is coming from the GM site, it is our responsibility." He added, "We have in some instances found funds to address it."

(According to Wikipedia, PAHs occur in oil, coal and tar deposits and are often associated with oil spills.)

Tyler Dam Report

At the December 2013 Environmental Commission meeting Commissioner Wilson gave a very detailed report about the condition of the Tyler Dam, reporting that Washtenaw County wants to fix the road and the State of Michigan told Ypsilanti they need to fix the banks.

Commissioner Wilson has concerns about contaminants in the water at the site of the Tyler Dam and said he worries that if the dam were removed, contamination would flow into Belleville Lake.

Arthur Mullen, VBT Director of

Planning and Economic Development, advised the commission at the January meeting that VBT contacted Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo via e-mail to register concerns about the cancellation of the Ypsilanti Township Water Quality Advisory Committee, of which Commissioner Wilson had been a member.

Mullen said Stumbo was impressed with Wilson's knowledge and passion and respected his concern. She asked that Mullen and Wilson be part of the Tyler Dam study, Mullen said.

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All proceeds go to the upkeep of the Wayne County Fair Grounds, a Nonprofit Organization

VBT part-time Assessor Brandmier resigns, Frischman to take over

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Robert C. Brandmier, the contracted, part-time Level 4 Master Assessor for Van Buren Township, has submitted his resignation as of April 1.

Brandmier has accepted a full-time position with Green Oak Township in Livingston County.

At the March 3 work/study session of the VBT Board of Trustees, Assessment Coordinator Linda Stevenson introduced Level 4 Master Assessor Sharon L. Frischman of Ann Arbor as her choice to take Brandmier's place.

Stevenson told the board there are only about 150 Level 4 Assessors in the State and they all know each other. She said many are retired or otherwise not available.

Stevenson reminded them that she is the president of the Michigan Assessors Association and "pretty much knows who's out there."

She said Frischman had experience with Ypsilanti Township until 2009 and had worked with the GM facility, which corresponds with VBT's Visteon facility.

She was Ypsilanti Township assessor for eight years and left to start her own firm and now is ready for some contract work.

Besides having a Michigan Master Assessing Certification (Level 4) since 2001, she has been a Michigan Licensed Certified General Appraiser since 1993 and presently is a candidate for MAI designation at the Appraisal Institute. The MAI is considered the highest designation

you can get in the field in the valuation and evaluation of commercial, industrial, residential, and other types of properties, in order to advise clients on real estate investment decisions.

The contract being presented for approval at the March 18 township meeting is "the exact agreement" the township had with Brandmier, except for the pay.

Brandmier worked two days a week for \$4,800 a month. Frischman's contract calls for \$3,333 per month starting April 1. She will work with Brandmier until then without pay.

Brandmier will sign the assessment rolls before he leaves, Stevenson said.

VBT Environmental Commission studies recycling, noise

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

Chairman David Brownlee brought a plastic bag full of household trash to the Jan. 15 meeting of the Van Buren Township Environmental Commission meeting for a lesson.

The commission members gave their opinions on whether each item would or would not be recyclable.

Some items, such as pizza boxes, are now accepted as long as they are clean and the inner liner removed. Brownlee also said that clean plastics with a triangle symbol are accepted.

Should residents need more containers for recyclables they can purchase additional orange bins for \$10 or use up to a 32-gallon tote with a sticker available at the Van Buren Township Hall. For more information,

residents can call Jennifer Price in the Community Services Department at 734-699-8926.

Brownlee said residents interested in knowing what is acceptable for recycling can pick-up a Waste Management "Think Green -- Recycling Works" flyer at the Township Hall or visit the Waste Management website at: www.wm.com/thinkgreen/what-can-i-recycle.jsp.

Willow Run Noise Study

Environmental Commission members also heard a presentation by Commissioner Tony Gibson on a Willow Run noise study.

Gibson, who was nominated by former Supervisor Cindy King as a citizen representative member on a Federal Aviation Regulations study, said, "Anytime there are major changes in an airport's operation, the federal government requires a noise compatibility study on how the changes are going to affect nearby communities."

He said these studies began in 1992 at Metro Airport and resulted in a Noise Compatibility Plan (NCP) aimed at mitigating the effects of aircraft noise.

The Residential Sound Insulation Program (RSIP) was an initiative that was derived from the NCP. By participating with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Wayne County Airport Authority provided eligible homeowners with the benefits of sound insulation treatments free of charge.

Over the life of the RSIP more than 2,400 residential homes located in the communities of Romulus, Huron Township, Taylor, Westland, and Dearborn Heights were provided sound insulation treatments to reduce the impacts of aircraft noise.

Under the program, 265 homes closer to the airport were acquired. From 1997 to 2006 more than \$122 million was spent on RSIP. More than \$64,000,000 of that was provided by the FAA.

The study was closed in 2009 and Gibson was invited back in September 2013 when the Southeast to Northwest runway was closed at Willow Run Airport. Traffic from that runway was added to the Northeast to Southwest runway so the noise map needed to be expanded.

No houses in Van Buren Township qualify for the noise abatement program, he said. Lake in the Woods apartment complex in Ypsilanti Township will be able to receive Federal sound-deadening funds.

Gibson also said the federal government is going to spend \$5 million to build a Ground Run-up Enclosure at Willow Run Airport decreasing maintenance run-up noises by 75 to 80%.

More Letters

Van Buren Civic Fund gives grant to VBALL

To the Editor:

The Detroit Tigers have reported to spring training and we are starting to see robins returning, so that must mean the seasons are getting ready to change which means Springtime, which also means it's time for America's favorite pastime, Baseball!

These are not the only changes that are happening around the Belleville Community. The Van Buren Area Little League is in full swing with registration taking place, fund raisers being held and major improvements being done to the Beck Road Complex. But that's not all.

Thanks to the Van Buren Civic Fund, Van Buren Area Little League (VBALL) was approved for a \$12,000 grant that will be used to purchase new equipment, something that has not been done in a number of years. This grant will help provide new catching equipment, new equipment bags, new helmets with face shields, pitching machines and field chalkers.

The Van Buren Area Little League will also be providing every player this year with a complete uniform, including pants. In years past, players only got a hat, shirt, and socks. Once the major improvements are finished (new dugouts, play structure, pavilion and improvements to the concession stand) the Belleville Area Community will be one of very few communities to have a baseball and softball complex of this degree.

We all should be very fortunate to have the Beck Road Complex.

Registrations for the spring season of VBALL are still on-going and we are currently selling tickets for our March 15 bowling fund raiser. For more information on registration or the fund raiser please call (734) 260-6017 or go to www.vanburenarealittleleague.org.

As the president of the Van Buren Area Little League, I would like to personally thank each member of the Van Buren Civic Fund for approving the grant and helping fulfill our goals and visions for the upcoming season of Little League baseball and softball. Without your support and guidance these steps the board of VBALL are taking to improve Little League in our community would not be possible.

Thank you for fulfilling our dreams.
 Marc Littleleson
 President of Van Buren Area Little League

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

ORDINANCE NO. 3-4-14(3) CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY

First reading of Ordinance 3-4-14(3). Second reading for adoption will be held at the 7:00 p.m. regular Board of Trustees meeting to be held on March 18, 2014 in the Board Room, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan 48111.

The Charter Township of Van Buren ordains: Chapter 6 – Alcoholic Liquors, Article I In General, by amending Section 6-7, Purchasing, consumption and possession by persons under 21.

Effective Date: This Ordinance adoption shall be effective upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township.

This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting called and held on the _____ day of _____, 2014.

YEAS: Combs, Wright, Budd, Hart, Jahr, McClanahan and Miller.
 NAYS: None.
 ABSENT: None.

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance.

 Leon Wright, Township Clerk

 Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor

Adopted:
 Published: 3/13/2014.
 Effective:

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES March 4, 2014

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Absent and excused: None. Others in attendance: Sally Hodges (McKenna and Associates), Secretary Cline and an audience of five (5).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Hart moved, Wright seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: McClanahan moved, Wright seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Minutes February 18, 2014; Regular Board Meeting Minutes February 18, 2014; Appointment of James Williams, Van Buren Public School representative, to the Local Development Finance Authority with term to expire August 12, 2014; Voucher List of March 4, 2014.] as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Jahr moved, Hart seconded to open the public hearing to hear public comment on the use of fiscal year 2014-15 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Wright, Budd, Hart, Jahr, McClanahan, Miller and Combs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

Supervisor Combs opened the public hearing at 7:03 p.m. Supervisor Combs went to Sally Hodges from McKenna and Associates for an overview of the CDBG plan. Ms. Hodges stated this is the second of two public hearing held to hear public input for potential projects that would meet the CDBG funding guidelines with the first public hearing held in January. If the Board approves the project plan the township's application will be sent to Wayne County and Wayne County will hold a third public hearing.

The projects are as follows: Beck Ball Field for improvements in the amount of \$93,750, Public Services for Senior Citizen Services in the amount of \$9,375, Public Services for Youth Services in the amount of \$9,375, Planning for updates to Master Plan and Zoning Ordinances in the amount of \$6,250, Administration for staff to administer program in the amount of \$6,250 with total funding amount of \$125,000. The Developmental Services Department has received no project requests. Trustee Miller inquired if the Administration costs was for the entire program. Ms. Hodges stated yes. Mr. Delaney, a resident made the following comments and questions: Inquired why Director Mullen was not in attendance at this meeting; what is the completing upgrades to the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinances for and who will receive these funds and would it be the Planning consultant; how does this qualify for a project under the guidelines; sidewalks are needed on the North Service Drive by the two hotels; use funds for Public Safety; would like to see more information provided to public regarding the availability of CDBG funds; who to contact at Wayne County to discuss the CDBG programs. Supervisor Combs stated Director Mullin had scheduled time off; the rewriting of Zoning Ordinance was included in the Township Budget and this is to offset the expense. Ms. Hodges stated the intent of the Planning funds is to support the overall rewrite the Zoning Ordinance for the betterment of the community with the funds being spent in accordance of the law. Treasurer Budd stated some of Mr. Delaney's suggestions do not meet

CDBG requirements and this is for the 2014-15 CDBG funding noting there is still CDBG funds available from 2011-12 and Housing Rehabilitation; the CDBG funding has been advertised to the community; EDGE is where CDBG is administered through at Wayne County. Trustee Miller inquired how often does the Master Plan need to be updated and revised. Ms. Hodges stated by state statue the Planning Commission must reviewed every five years and explained the Planning Commission process. Supervisor Combs stated the Planning request does comply with use for CDBG funds and helps the community. Clerk Wright stated this is the second public hearing for public input and no other projects have been brought forward, also there is money available to assist residents for Housing Rehabilitation and sidewalks are being worked on by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Trustee Hart stated the Planning amount of money is small and the staff will receive guidance for the update to the Zoning Ordinance. Rosemary Oztman from Belleville Area Independent stated ten percent for Administration is allowed; however, this proposal by the township is using five percent for Administration and five percent for Planning and at the last DDA meeting it was announced the DDA had acquired the easements needed for the sidewalks to be built by the hotels on the North Service Drive. Ernie Tozer, a resident does not feel this is proper use of CDBG funds and the township should expand the list of projects.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing at 7:36 p.m.

Jahr moved Miller seconded to close the public hearing. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Miller, McClanahan, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Combs read a thank you letter from Van Buren Public Schools Superintendent Michael Van Tassel to Director of Public Safety Laurain and the Public Safety Department for their assistance during a recent emergency at Rawsonville Elementary School.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Delaney inquired if an amendment was received as requested during Work Study to the Retail Fraud Ordinance and are the changes to the ordinances tonight part of what the CDBG funding is to be used for. Mr. Delaney also commended Public Safety Director Laurain and Chief Besson for their work during the winter storms regarding the bad road conditions and assisting residents. Supervisor Combs stated the Board has received the update to the Retail Fraud Ordinance regarding the number of days and the ordinances are not part of the CDBG update to Rezoning Ordinances.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Wright moved, Hart seconded to approve proposed changes to the Salaried Employees Benefits Manual for new hires pension/deferred compensation contributions from twelve percent to ten percent. Carried.

Hart moved, McClanahan seconded to approve proposed use of fiscal year 2014-15 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, as presented. Carried.

Jahr moved, Miller seconded to postponed, for further consultation with attorney, the first reading of General Code of Ordinance 3-4-14(1) to amend the Code of Ordinances, Charter Township of Van Buren, Chapter 58 - Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article V Offenses Against Public Peace, by repealing Section 58-180, Begging. Carried.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to approve the

first reading of General Code of Ordinance 3-4-14(2) to amend the Code of Ordinances, Charter Township of Van Buren, Chapter 58 - Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article IV Offenses Against Property, by amending Section 58-147, Retail Fraud. Carried.

*(A copy of Ordinance 3-4-14(2) follows the minutes. Copies may also be obtained in the Clerk's Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road during normal business hours.)

Wright moved, Miller seconded to approve the first reading of General Code of Ordinance 3-4-14(3) to amend the Code of Ordinances, Charter Township of Van Buren, Chapter 6 - Alcoholic Liquors, Article I In General, by amending Section 6-7, Purchasing, consumption and possession by persons under 21. Carried.

*(A copy of Ordinance 3-4-14(3) follows the minutes. Copies may also be obtained in the Clerk's Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road during normal business hours.)

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor Combs made the following announcements: Fire Chief Besson provided winter tips requesting residents and businesses to keep fire hydrants visible and accessible by removing snow around fire hydrants, do not block emergency exits and keep the address visible; Daylight saving time starts on Sunday, March 9th also, remember to change your batteries in smoke detectors, for residents of Van Buren Township if they cannot afford a smoke detector call 734-699-8910 to request an application for a free fire detector; Have a problem with your road in Wayne County call 888-762-3273; September Days Senior Center is hosting the Elder Law and Advocacy Center meeting on Thursday, March 6th at 10:00 a.m.; Summer Day Camp registration has begun, also registration for Get Up and Get Active (ages 9-14) to be held on April 21st through 25th call 734-699-8921 for more information on Recreation events; The Belleville Area Museum Annual Quilt Show runs through March 29th; A quilt show lecture will take place on March 20th at the Belleville Area District Library; The

Friends of the Library is hosting a meeting with the Director of Public Works, Jim Taylor, on March 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library; Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Spring Trade Show on Saturday, March 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Belleville High School; The Willow Run Airport is attempting to break the world's record of the most Rosie the Riveters at one place on Saturday, March 29th; The Van Buren Civic Fund is hosting "Oh the Places You'll Go..." in Van Buren Township" on Saturday, April 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Atchinson Ford; Belleville Area Women's Club "Spring Flirt Fashion Show" on Wednesday, April 30th at the BYC Club House contact Kathie Steigerwald at 313-570-6115 or Becky Thornell at 734-231-7326 for tickets with proceeds to benefit Community and Education Fund; Wayne County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on May 3rd from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Wayne County Community College Western Campus located at 9555 Haggerty Road. Trustee Miller announced the Second Annual St. Vincent DePaul Charity Basketball benefit tournament will be held at Belleville High on March 29th between Belleville, Van Buren and Sumpter Police and Fire Departments.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Mr. Delaney stated handicap spaces are being covered with snow when being plowed and the township needs to look into an ordinance or enforcement of current ordinance. Trustee Jahr requested Public Safety Department look into this issue and provide a report to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT: Jahr moved, Hart seconded to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor
Publish: March 13, 2014

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

ORDINANCE NO. 3-4-14(2) CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY

First reading of Ordinance 3-4-14(2). Second reading for adoption will be held at the 7:00 p.m. regular Board of Trustees meeting to be held on March 18, 2014 in the Board Room, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan 48111.

The Charter Township of Van Buren ordains: Chapter 58 - Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article IV Offenses Against Property, by amending Section 58-147, Retail Fraud.

Effective Date: This Ordinance adoption shall be effective upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township.

This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting called and held on the _____ day of _____, 2014.

YEAS: Combs, Wright, Budd, Hart, Jahr, McClanahan and Miller.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor

Adopted:
Published: 3/13/2014.
Effective:

VBT Board

(continued from page 1)

she said.

Supervisor Combs said repeal takes two readings.

Trustee Phil Hart said it was his understanding that no one was cited under this ordinance to bring on this challenge.

"The ACLU is looking for a test case and if we enforced it they could use us as a test case," Supervisor Combs said.

Clerk Leon Wright said the attorney recommended repealing it and then revisiting it in 24 months after there is some case law.

"Let's not create a problem," Clerk Wright said.

Trustee Hart said some people look at the begging ordinance as harassment.

"There is no state law that says it is illegal," pointed out Treasurer Sharry Budd.

"The attorney says repeal it and re-approach it in 24 months," Clerk Wright repeated. "We're not having an issue, so why create an issue?"

"But you do have begging on every corner," said Trustee Reggie Miller.

Jahr said it could be that if the ACLU wanted to solicit funds, it would be prohibited by that ordinance.

"This ordinance is broad and general and not specific to survive a constitutional challenge," Jahr said. "Our attorney said we could prohibit aggressive solicitation ... We really don't have a problem. Our attorney suggests we repeal and look at it

Sec. 58-180. Begging.

No person shall wander about and beg, or shall go about from door to door of private homes or commercial and business establishments, or shall place himself in or upon any public way or public place, to be or receive alms for himself.
(Ord. No. 1-28-86, 2.06, eff. 2-5-86)

State law reference – Person begging deemed a disorderly person, MCL 750.167(1)(h), MSA 28.364(1)(h).

down the pike."

Jahr predicted that "fairly shortly there will be test case."

Clerk Wright said aggressive solicitation has been explained to him as when you say no to someone asking for money outside a store and he follows you to the store still begging and then approaches you again when you come out of the store and continues to ask for money.

Miller said she has been approached at freeway exits and she's called police to have the person removed. She said she was afraid police officers won't know how to enforce this.

Supervisor Combs said they could enforce the "disorderly conduct" ordinance.

Wright agreed if the board repeals the begging ordinance, police can enforce disorderly conduct.

Trustee Brenda McClanahan, a retired Detroit Police officer, said disorderly conduct is a misdemeanor that goes before the district court all the time. She said

begging can be a ruse to rob and assault.

In other business at the 78-minute meeting, the board:

- After a public hearing, unanimously approved use of \$125,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds for the 2014-15 fiscal year, with most of it -- \$93,750 -- going to complete improvements to the Beck Ball Fields. This includes new dugouts, new landscaping, new pavilion, and improvements to the concession building. Also allocations of \$9,375 each goes to partial payment of the Senior Director's salary and to Parks and Recreation program for youth. Also \$6,250 was allocated to completing updates to the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance and \$6,250 for reimbursement of the township staff time to administer the CDBG program. The CDBG budget was presented to the board by planning consultant Sally Hodges because VBT Director of Planning and Economic Development Arthur Mullen took two personal days off;

- Approved the appointment of James Williams, Director of Plant Operations, as the Van Buren Public Schools' representative to the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) with a term to expire Aug. 12, 2014. Former LDFA member Marcus Leon resigned his position with the school in December to take a position in Holland, MI;

- Approved changes in the Salaried Employees Benefits Manual as mandated by the state to cap pension/deferred compensation for all new hires to a maximum of 10% of one's base salary. The township had paid 12%. Combs said in order to get state funds, municipalities needed to comply; and

- Heard Combs read a letter dated Feb. 14 from School Supt. Michael VanTassel who thanked Public Safety Director Greg Laurain for sending a police car to Rawsonville Elementary School on Feb. 13 to show a police presence when the district faced emergencies at three facilities and the Washtenaw County Sheriff wasn't available for Rawsonville.

Closed-door session

After the work/study session on March 3, the VBT Board went into closed-door session with its attorney Kaveh Kashef of Clark Hill to discuss a privileged attorney-client letter about Visteon.

Court Watching:

Javon Ellis set for sentencing March 25 in U.S. District Court

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Javon Franklin Ellis is expected to be sentenced to from 20 years to life in federal prison when he goes before U.S. District Court Judge Denise Page Hood at 3 p.m. March 25, postponed from the Dec. 19 and March 4 previous sentencing dates.

Van Buren Township Police Lt. Charles Bazy said Ellis refused a plea agreement and demanded a trial in federal court. A jury trial began on Aug. 19, before Judge Hood in Detroit.

On Aug. 22, the case went to the jury. The jury deliberated for about 1½ hours before returning with a guilty verdict on all counts: felon in possession of a firearm, armed career criminal, and possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

Ellis was the person who was accused of buying a Colt .45 with laser sight after it was stolen in Van Buren Township Jan. 27, 2012.

Ellis was in the company of two other felons when he was arrested July 2, 2012 by Eastern Michigan University Police on charges of possession of marijuana and possession of the stolen handgun.

The felons with Ellis were Thomas Johnson and Sheldon Brummette, who accepted felony plea agreements for possession of a firearm and faced 10-year minimum sentences in federal prison.

The handgun Ellis had was stolen during the series of break-ins in the Denton neighborhood of Van Buren Township during the winter of 2011-12.

Lt. Bazy said the three arrests and federal sentences brought to an end the series of break-ins in the Denton neighborhood.

Lt. Bazy said even after Ellis' face was recognized from a surveillance camera set up by police that recorded a break-in, and his subsequent conviction by a jury, Ellis maintains his innocence.

"Reality leaves a lot to the imagination."
— John Lennon

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Understanding the Law



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

According to the calendar, it's "pothole season." This year seems to be particularly bad. In this article we will answer the one question that every angry motorist seems to have on their mind: "Can I sue the city/township/county of _____ (insert your municipality here) for the damages that a pothole caused to my motor vehicle?"

The short answer: Not easily. In Michigan, the general rule is that governmental agencies and employees are immune from tort liability when they are engaged in governmental functions. Meaning, good luck.

However, there are exceptions to the general rule when dealing with potholes. According to MCL 691.1402, "each governmental agency having jurisdiction over a highway shall maintain the highway in reasonable repair so that it is reasonably safe and convenient for public travel. A person who sustains bodily injury or damage to his or her property by reason of failure of a governmental agency to keep a highway under its jurisdiction in reasonable repair and in a condition reasonably safe and fit for travel may recover the damages suffered by him or her from the governmental agency."

However, in order to recover damages from the pothole you must first notify the governmental agency of the injury and the defect within 120 days from the date of the injury. Additionally, you must prove that the municipality had actual or constructive notice of the defect in the road before the accident occurred. Meaning, you need to show that the municipality knew or should have known about the pothole and simply took no action to repair it.

If you find yourself in the above scenario, call your Attorney. 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 they will cover legal issues commonly faced by Belleville-area residents. Their goal is to help you better understand the law.

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VBT DDA

(continued from page 1)

Nummer said he believes it will be more economical to build one large facility to help to maximize available property. Nummer also suggested the DDA would be able to advertise that a portion of the district is already in compliance.

Nummer said there have been project proposals in the recent past that have failed because there was not enough room to meet the Wayne County Drainage Ordinance.

There were many questions directed to Nummer about size, costs, location, maintenance, and increasing storm water capacity along Belleville Road. There were also concerns about setting precedence in the district.

Nummer explained this is just a concept and may service 10-20 properties. It is called a regional pond because it services more than one property in the DDA district.

It would be the first regional detention pond in Wayne County and would be owned and maintained by Wayne County, Nummer said.

From a cell phone in the middle of the table came the voice of DDA member Bob Bechtel asking if the pond would be for retention or detention.

Nummer said the pond would be for detention. He said the difference is that *retention* is held permanently with no outlet and in *detention* ponds the water is held for a certain period of time to slow the water down.

The DDA agreed to further investigate the potential for a regional detention pond.

From the audience, Arthur Mullen, VBT Director of Planning and Economic Development, said, "I just want to amplify the need for this. Pretty much every time a developer comes to VBT, one of their biggest questions or concerns is how to deal with storm water.

"There is a developer that wants to do a major industrial project and this will be an incredible asset to the district and Van Buren Township," he said.

Part-time Assistant for Ireland

Although the actual duties of Ireland's assistant are yet to be determined, the hiring of a part-time assistant sharing costs and duties between the DDA and the township's Building and Planning Department was discussed and approved.

DDA Chairman Jere Dolph said he could see where Ireland would need more clerical help and asked Mullen exactly what type of job content would be involved.

From the cellphone, Bechtel said when you have a subordinate with two separate bosses it can be very problematic.

"You need to be very clear as to our responsibilities to the employee and the employee's responsibilities so they are not confused. It's not impossible but it's not an easy task," Bechtel said.

Mullen said the township was unable to provide a budget for a full-time deputy director for him, which is direly needed. They budgeted for about a half-time position. Mullen said he would have a

hard time finding a person with the skillset necessary.

"It's going to be looking for a needle in a haystack," he said.

He said a lot of DDA districts have the planning director running it or the city manager is running the district.

"There is a lot of cross-over between the two departments and both of us need some help," Mullen said.

DDA member Mark Laginess asked if Ireland really needed an assistant and what are the costs?

Mullen said anywhere from \$50,000 to \$60,000, plus benefits.

Laginess asked Mullen what qualifications he was looking for and Dolph asked if they are going to hire from inside?

"Someone could apply but I'm not sure there is anyone qualified," Mullen said. "It would need to be a planner or a staff member, possibly from Detroit, that wants to move up to a Deputy position that deals with a lot of issues that I deal with.

"It will be a great opportunity because our skill set crosses over to what the DDA is doing," Mullen said.

Chairman Dolph said a job description is needed before the DDA can even look for a person and Mullen said the newly hired township Human Resources person is working on it.

Laginess said this is not an office-clerical position, but is a higher-level employee who can do a lot of project management work.

In the end, the DDA board approved hiring an individual to assist the DDA Executive Director, to be equally shared with the Planning and Economic Development Director. They are using the township's Human Resource professional to gather information to create two job descriptions and two separate employment agreements.

Signalization Project

Matt Stacey from Wade Trim announced a contract with Dan's Excavating has been awarded for the Belleville Road signalization project. The project is scheduled to start in the spring after the thaw with the signals south of Walmart driveway scheduled to be completed by July 2. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by Aug. 15.

Sidewalks

Wade Trim has submitted drawings to Wayne County for approval of bids and construction for the sidewalk on the east side of Belleville Road. The sidewalk will run from Tyler Road north to 8701 Belleville.

Drawings have also been submitted to Wayne County for approval of the I-94 North Service Drive sidewalk. There are two properties from Belleville Road to the hotels and easements have been received from Mr. Sloane.

Belleville Road Fence

The fence along Belleville Road between Harmony Lane and Sunrise has been installed. Clean-up and seeding will occur when the weather breaks.

Streetlight Banners

According to Ireland, the banners that were put up on the Belleville Lake

streetlights using a new type of mast arms have been destroyed and are hanging. Old Glory Flags and Banners will inspect the torn banners along the bridge and report their findings.

Absent from the 50-minute meeting was DDA member Joe Baskin, Jr. Absent and excused were DDA secretary Sophie Zoller and VBT Supervisor Linda Combs. DDA member Bechtel attended via cell phone.

Richard Jackson's jury trial on murder charge set for Aug. 7 in Detroit

By Diane Madigan

Independent Court Reporter

Richard Elmer Jackson, Jr., of Van Buren Township has a jury trial set for Aug. 7 at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

Jackson, 39, is charged with premeditated first-degree murder in the Dec. 17 death of his wife Travisteene in their VBT home.

At Jackson's arraignment on the information March 5 at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice, a final conference on the charge was scheduled for May 2 before Circuit Court Judge Gregory D. Bill.

13-week GriefShare program begins in Romulus on March 20

GriefShare, a 13-week, non-denominational program to help people deal with the death of a loved one, will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays, March 20 through June 12 at the Romulus Wesleyan Church, 37300 Goddard at Huron River Drive in Romulus.

For information on this Christian-based program, visit www.griefshare.org. For other questions and to register call the church at (734) 941-1511.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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HELP WANTED

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, March 2:
0113 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Coolidge St.
0129 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1017 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / I-94
1113 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1149 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Haggerty
1340 – private property accident, Belleville
1546 – suspicious person, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1723 – private property accident, Denton Rd.
1824 – assault & battery, S. Woodbury Dr.
1851 – traffic hazard, Haggerty/I-94
1053 – assault & battery, Lighthouse Dr.
2015 – warrant arrest, Van Buren St.
2109 – family trouble, Oak Ln.
2156 – narcotics crime, Westlake

Monday, March 3:
0026 – property damage accident, Riggs/Haggerty
0350 – robbery, Tyler Rd./Haggerty Rd.
0500 – operating while intoxicated, S. I-94 Service Dr./Quirk Rd.
0710 – missing person, Country Walk Blvd.
1259 – private property accident, Van Born Rd.
1332 – breaking & entering, Belleridge
1455 – assault & battery, Lake Crest Dr.
1624 – private property accident, Ormond Dr.
1624 – intimidation threat, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1651 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.
1728 – larceny, Village Green Ln.
2034 – private property accident, Southport
2044 – private property accident, Denton Rd.
2329 – breaking & entering, Anna Dr.
2345 – assault & battery, W. Archwood Dr.

Tuesday, March 4:
0444 – larceny from auto, Jeremy Rd.
0622 – personal injury accident, Haggerty Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1130 – mental, Lake Villa Dr.
1138 – larceny, Beckley
1314 – fraud, S. Bellridge Dr.
1511 – property damage accident, Patty Ln.
1549 – property damage accident, E. Huron River
1800 – PPO violation, Rogers Ave.
1956 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
2021 – disorderly conduct, Victoria St.
2152 – disturbance, Oak Ln.

Wednesday, March 5:
0924 – mental, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1037 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1048 – trespassing, Tyler Rd.
1049 – trespassing, Park Estates
1230 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Belleville
1306 – suspicious person, Jacobs Boots & Saddles
1417 – property damage accident, Belleville/Quirk
1424 – missing person, Main
1659 – shots fired, Hardwood Dr.
1716 – break & entering motor vehicle, E. Archwood Dr.

1814 – property damage accident, Sheldon Rd. / Van Born Rd.
1827 – private property accident, Belleville
1847 – fraud, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1918 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Charter Club Dr.
2004 – sexual assault, Harmony Ln.
2013 – suspicious situation, W. Archwood Dr.
2209 – property damage accident, S. Service / Diamondback
2335 – liquor violation, W. Huron River Dr.

Thursday, March 6:
0007 – shots fired, E. Sadie Ln.
0809 – breaking & entering, Holly Ln.
0828 – intimidation threat, Haggerty Rd.
1249 – fraud, Chloe Ct.
1317 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1437 – hospice, Van Buren St.
1449 – harassment call, Lake Pointe Blvd.

Friday, March 7:
0249 – noise complaint, N. Bellridge
1044 – fraud, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1156 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1213 – property damage accident, W. Huron River
1527 – disturbance, Belmont Dr.
1545 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2350 – arrest, N. I-94 Service Dr.

Saturday, March 8:
0014 – disturbance, Denton Rd.
0153 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0404 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.
0454 – assault & battery, Lake Villa Dr.
0741 – intimidation threat, Peachtree
1010 – harassment call, E. Cherry
1404 – property damage accident, Buchanan St.
1417 – malicious destruction of property, Haggerty
1439 – larceny, Rawsonville
1618 – private property accident, Patty Ln.
2004 – malicious destruction of property, Water's Edge Ln.
2138 – assault & battery, Holly
2256 – larceny, Rogers Ave.
2343 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Tyler Rd.
Also on this week's log are 170 traffic stops, 45 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 2:
0150 – suspicious situation, Main St.
0259 – family trouble, Clarence St.
0837 – assist fire dept., S. Biggs
0915 – assist fire dept., Greylock St.
1541 – intimidation threat, W. Columbia Ave.

Monday, March 3:
1218 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.
1304 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Owen St.
1349 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Owen St.
1918 – disorderly conduct, N. Liberty St.
1925 – property check, Harbour Pointe Dr.
2059 – disorderly conduct, W. Columbia Ave.
2203 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
2339 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
2352 – agency assist, Sumpter
Tuesday, March 4:
1335 – warrant arrest, Main St.
1631 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1700 – suspicious situation, Thornhill
1739 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.

Wednesday, March 5:
0020 – assist fire dept., Bay Pointe Dr.
0201 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
0848 – assist fire dept., Church St.
0923 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0943 – vehicle lockout, Charter One
1101 – harassment call, Main St.
1254 – assist fire dept., Owen St.
1420 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1518 – follow up, Main St.
1957 – agency assist, Marlowe
2047 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
2359 – warrant arrest, Main St.

Thursday, March 6:
0639 – assist fire dept., Santa Clara St.
0920 – E-911 hang up/investigation, W. Columbia
1317 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Owen
1325 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.
1408 – larceny, Sumpter Rd.
1411 – background investigation, Main St.
1550 – mental, Carmell St.
2207 – harassment call, Main St.

Friday, March 7:
0212 – assist fire dept., Liberty
0930 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.
0937 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1139 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1300 – larceny, Minimart
1448 – property damage accident, Main/High
1925 – traffic complaint, Martinsville/Savage

Saturday, March 8:
0255 – domestic assault, Breakwater Dr.
1326 – warrant arrest, Main St.
2058 – E-911 hang up/investigation, N. Liberty
2131 – traffic complaint, Huron River/Elwell
Also on this week's log are 23 traffic stops.

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699-9020**

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 2:
0944 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Timberpark
1112 – suspicious incident, Birch
1216 – ordinance violation, 21000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1233 – criminal sexual conduct investigation, Hampshire
1340 – citizen assist, 24000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
1439 – alarm, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.
1713 – well-being check, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1832 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.
1924 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

Monday, March 3:
0814 – alarm, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0822 – ordinance violation, 47000 bl. Executive Dr
0848 – neighbor dispute, Rustic Ln.
1011 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1204 – property damage accident, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1602 – citizen assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1604 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1644 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1711 – traffic hazard, Sumpter/Judd
1753 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2039 – assist other agency, out of township
2117 – citizen assist, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
2148 – suspicious vehicle, Texas
2304 – warrant arrest, out of township
2349 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Tuesday, March 4:
0056 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1230 – identity theft, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.
1249 – family trouble, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1323 – suspicious incident, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1352 – fraud report, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1459 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Willis
1620 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1707 – ORV complaint, 21000 bl. Fenster
1732 – disorderly person, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1917 – juvenile complaint, Timberlane Dr.
2237 – family trouble, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.

Wednesday, March 5:
0155 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.
0601 – suspicious person, 22000 bl. Martinsville
0711 – reckless driving complaint, Rawsonville / Bemis
1244 – suspicious incident, 47000 bl. Executive
1449 – suspicious incident, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1534 – fraud report, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1707 – no incident named, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
1721 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1936 – warrant arrest, 10000 bl. Willis Rd.

Thursday, March 6:
0136 – warrant arrest, out of township
1141 – subpoena service, Country Club
1224 – warrant arrest, out of township
1239 – ordinance violation, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1240 – property damage accident, Judd/Elwell
1626 – harassment complaint, 40000 bl. Willis
1807 – subpoena service, out of township
1956 – subpoena service, Country Club

Friday, March 7:
0032 – violation public health code, Willis / Sumpter

0719 – juvenile complaint, Timberlane Dr.
1054 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1200 – traffic hazard, Judd/Clark
1456 – suspicious vehicle, 9300 bl. Rawsonville
1852 – operating while intoxicated arrest, New Mexico
2053 – family trouble, Wyoming
2124 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Reed Rd.
2316 – family trouble, Carriage Ln.
Saturday, March 8:
0751 – civil dispute, 48000 bl. Timberpark
1406 – family trouble, Arizona
1441 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.

Also on this week's log are 11 follow-up investigations, 33 miscellaneous details, 88 patrol checks, and 28 traffic stops.

Belleville FD puts out oven blaze with fire extinguisher

Belleville Fire Chief Brian Loranger said a man got hungry at about 2:30 a.m. Monday and lit his oven to cook something to eat.

He had forgotten he had stored some things in the oven and they caught on fire.

Chief Loranger said the man's apartment, at the corner of Fifth and North Liberty streets, filled with smoke. Fire fighters were able to put out the oven fire with a fire extinguisher and didn't even have to take the hoses off the truck.

Fire fighters opened the windows and used a big fan to clear out the smoke. The rest of the apartment complex was pretty much unaffected, he said.



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Pet of the Week
Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue
“SCOUT”



We won't beat around the bush; **Scout** will be quite the handful as a family pet. He's a 1 year and 1 month old Australian Cattle Dog mix with an excited, very high energy take on life. **Scout** got little training or doggie manner work before coming to us and we believe spent most of his time kenneled with little people interaction. We are working with him on learning basic commands and good manners but he definitely needs a home with an experienced dog raising family who's ready and willing to put in the effort and time he will need to become his best self. His breed mix needs work and activity to be happy and well-mannered so training and agility work would be perfect outlets for his mental and physical high energies. **Scout** also has a lot of wonderful traits that help him shine as a potential family pet. He's incredibly friendly and social and really enjoys being in the company of people. His zest for life and readiness for having fun is highly contagious and almost impossible to not join in on. He's also just plain handsome with a feathery black, tan and white coat and a strong, toned physique perfect for any activity on the day's agenda. So although **Scout** will require some extra effort and time it's extremely probable he'll turn out to be a true blue friend you'll enjoy having at your side. Call today to meet him; he's neutered, vaccinated and micro-chipped. **734-461-9458**

**Belleville City Council
sets spring budget
sessions starting May 5**

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor
City Manager Diana Kollmeyer is going to present a proposed city budget to the city council at its May 5 meeting and then the council budget review sessions will begin. At the March 3 12-minute meeting of the

Belleville City Council, the schedule for the budget review sessions were set as:
• Monday, May 12, 6 p.m.;
• Wednesday, May 14, 6 p.m.;
• Monday, May 19, 7:30 p.m., regular council meeting when budget hearing will be set for June 2;
• Monday, June 2, public hearing and adoption of 2014-15 budget.
The city's fiscal year is from July 1 through June 30.
In other business at the meeting, the

council:
• Approved the mayor's appointment of City Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Long as Acting City Manager to serve in the absence or disability of the City Manager. DPS Director Keith Boc had held that position, but he has retired;
• Heard Councilman Tom Fielder announce that he has information on signage for the proposed Main Street/Fifth Street crosswalk but he would wait to present it until there was a full council present. That meeting held a bare quorum with Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria and Councilman Tom Smith absent;
• Approved \$99,903.60 in accounts payable and the following departmental purchases in excess of \$500: to Hennessey Engineers, \$3,191.50, for S-2 Grant project bid evaluation, administration and construction observation; to Absolute Heating, \$890 for emergency repairs to city hall boiler; to DEQ, \$2,000 in storm water discharge annual permit fees; and to Morton Salt, \$4,279.60 for salt; and
• Heard Mike Renaud ask from the audience about the "barrel on High Street." City Manager Kollmeyer said a manhole was off there for a day and once it warms up workers will caulk around it. Renaud asked about a truck parked in that area where the hitch sticks out.

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**Three Belleville students
named to Dean's List at
Arizona State University**

Three students from Belleville have been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2013 semester at Arizona State University in Tempe: Nicholas Burden, Jordan Eastman, and Carl Pellam.
Undergraduate students who earn 12 or more graded semester hours during a semester in residence at ASU with a GPA of 3.50 or higher are eligible for the Dean's List.

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BREAKFAST SERVED ALL DAY!

Homestyle Cinnamon French Toast Combo \$6.99
4 Slices of our homestyle cinnamon bread with 2 eggs and 2 bacon strips or 2 sausage links.

Lumberjack Cinnamon French Toast Combo \$7.99
2 eggs your way, two sliced bacon, two sausage links, sliced ham, and American Fries.

4 Slices of Homestyle Cinnamon French Toast \$4.99
2 slices of Cinnamon French Toast \$7.99
4 slices of Cinnamon French Toast \$8.99

Every Wednesday All Day!
Small Greek Salad with a Cup of Soup Only \$5.99
No Coupon Needed!

Every Thursday All Day!
Gyro or Chicken Gyro with fries Only \$5.99
No Coupon Needed!

Monday - Friday Breakfast Specials 6am - 11am
Starting at only \$1.99
No Coupon Needed!

FISH & CHIPS EVERY FRIDAY

SEAFOOD SPECIALS Every Wednesday & Friday ALL YOU CAN EAT FISH \$8.99

99¢ CONEYS EVERY MONDAY

No Coupons Necessary! Everyday Breakfast Specials

- Leo's Skillets
- Western Skillets
- All Meat Skillets
- Hamburger Skillets
- Philly Skillets
- Chicken Skillets
- Coney Island Skillets
- Country Skillets
- Veggie Skillets

Create Your Own Skillets All for \$7.99 each!

Every Wednesday & Friday

- All You Can Eat Fish -- \$8.99
- Fish Sandwich, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- 21 Shrimp Basket, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- Tuna Wrap, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- Tuna Melt, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- Lake Perch, Fries & Pop 2pc -- \$6.99
- Lake Perch, Fries & Pop 3pc -- \$7.99
- Lake Perch, Fries & Pop 4pc -- \$8.99

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- Professional and Courteous Consultation
- FREE Delivery
- We specialize in Diabetic Supplies
- Easy Prescription Transfer
- All Insurance Plans Accepted

Durable Medical Supplies & Equipment

- Wheel Chairs from \$189.99
- Walkers from \$29.99
- Cane Walkers (4 leg) \$18.99
- Wooden Canes \$9.99
- Crutches \$18.99
- Braces, Grab Bars, Accessories

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True Track Strips (50) .. \$19.99 Lancet 100 ct \$2.99
Syringes 100 ct \$9.99

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The RAC is 6 Years Old!

Join us as we celebrate the RAC's 6th Birthday!

Sunday, March 23rd
12:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.



FREE for Members
\$6 for Non-Members

In addition to all of our regularly scheduled activities, we will also have a bounce house, pool games, free fitness classes, contests, membership giveaways, and much more!

Special Membership Offer! Purchase a membership on March 23, 2014 and receive your choice of an additional 6 weeks added onto the end of your membership OR 6% off of your membership price! PLUS, you will also get 6 free group fitness classes, 6 free aquatic fitness classes, AND 6 lbs. added onto the starting weight of your Commitment Resolution for next year!