



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 20.13 Thursday, March 27, 2014

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

## Court Watching:

### No more delays: Accused embezzler White to face felony exams April 9

By Diane Madigan  
Independent Court Reporter

On April 9, a preliminary exam will definitely be held or the exam will be waived to circuit court for disbarred-attorney/accused-embezzler Thomas A. White of Van Buren Township.

At White's eighth trip to 34<sup>th</sup> District Court concerning the five felony charges filed against him on Sept. 6 and the 15 additional felonies filed on Dec. 18, 34<sup>th</sup> District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green was definite.

No more delays – and the Prosecutor's Office is not paying to copy many pages of evidence because White's attorney says White can't afford it.

"This has gone on long enough," said Judge Green during the March 19 date set for the latest preliminary exam. "It needs to proceed."

She said White and his attorney Michael Vincent came into court on March 18, the day before the latest exam date, seeking a postponement. But Judge Green said she wanted everyone present who was planning to attend the March 19 session, so she denied that request.

Then, on March 19 she addressed attorney Vincent's motion that would waive fees for White and have the county pay some \$2,000 worth of copying charges for the evidence against White on the 15 felony charges.

Vincent has yet to review the evidence against his client in the charges filed Dec. 18 because of the problem of paying for the copying charges, which he didn't mention to the court until February.

Judge Green said there was a bond on file and her comment was to use the bond for

the copying, but then she found the \$1,800 bond had already been released. (That was \$2,000 minus court charges.) White's bond had been converted to \$100,000 personal recognizance bond, with no cash necessary unless he doesn't come to court as required.

She said she couldn't see why she should waive a couple of thousand dollars for White, given the charges against him.

Vincent said if there is going to be restitution, the money should go to the alleged victims not to the prosecutor's office. He wants to see what's there and what's not, as far as the evidence.

Vincent complained they are putting everybody "in hell and high water."

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Daniel Williams said there is \$2,000 worth of discovery and it would be a hard hit for the Prosecutor's Office to take that cost.

He said that Vincent is a retained attorney rather than appointed. If White had a court-appointed attorney, they would not charge for copying the evidence, he said.

Judge Green said there are legal bills being generated and paid by White and, while she has documents about White's bankruptcy, "There is no proof of indigency."

"Whatever my fees are is incidental," Vincent stated, adding he wasn't going to go there. He said White has no job and no income.

"I'm not Mr. Ficano. I don't control their budget," Vincent said of the Prosecutor's Office funding problems.

Judge Green said when a defendant is causing the prosecutor to pay these fees, "I have a really hard time waiving fees in this. I'm going to deny your request." Then she stated April 9 is the preliminary exams date.

Assistant Prosecutor Williams then

(continued on page 16)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Van Buren Area Little League President Marc Littleton, left, brought the new leaders of VBALL to the March 18 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees to introduce them to the board. From left are Tara Seward, secretary; Cindy Shepard, vice-president; Tara McDonald, concession stand; Roland French, player agent; Debbie Rucker, treasurer; and Mike Kerr, safety officer. Not present for the picture was Chanda Stewart, public relations. Little League opening ceremonies are planned for 9 a.m., Saturday, May 10 at the Beck Ball Fields.

### Belleville Zombie Run, B'ooVille to coordinate in October events

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

At the March 19 meeting of the Belleville Downtown Development Authority, Mayor Kerreen Conley gave a report on the March 13 Soup Project at Belleville High School that the DDA sponsored.

She said four groups of students from the NewTech program, working for extra credit, gave presentations on events that could be put on to bring people of all ages to Belleville.

About 100 members of the community ate a soup dinner together and then voted on the projects so they could present a \$500 prize. The winner was the Belleville Zombie 5K that will be coordinated with the DDA's B'ooVille event in October.

The winning Zombie 5K was presented by students Marissa Higgins and Brittany Jones.

(continued on page 16)



Airport Fire Fighter Michael Brohl took this picture of a two-foot-tall Snowy Owl at Willow Run Airport fire station this week. He said they have had these owls for the past two winters both at Willow Run and Detroit Metro airports. He said they checked with the DNR and found there was a bumper crop of Snowy Owls at the airports last year because of the weather in the Arctic that sent them south looking for food. And, experts say, they like to hang around airports because airports are similar to the tundra habitat where the birds breed.

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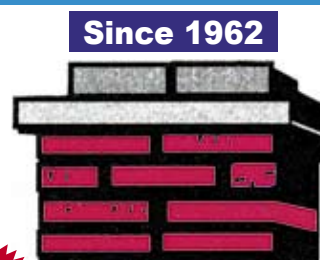
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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## Court Watching:

## Jared Ritchie, 18, bound over for shooting his brother in Sumpter

By Diane Madigan  
Independent Court Reporter and  
Rosemary K. Oztman, Editor

A preliminary exam was held March 19 for the teen who is accused of shooting his step-brother on Oct. 27 at their Sumpter Township home.

After hearing the testimony of the victim, who had been granted immunity from prosecution to testify, 34<sup>th</sup> District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green bound Jared Dean-Meeks Ritchie, 18, over to circuit court for trial or a plea deal.

Ritchie is charged with six felonies: assault with intent to murder, armed robbery, assault with intent to do great bodily harm, felony assault with a dangerous weapon, felony firearms, and discharging a weapon in or at a building.

Ritchie was scheduled to be arraigned on the information at 9 a.m., March 26 at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice.

This was the fourth try for a preliminary exam for Ritchie, who has been held at the Wayne County Jail since his arrest.

He was arrested by U.S. Marshals two days after the shooting when he got off a Greyhound bus in Tulsa during an escape attempt and then had to be brought back to Michigan. At his first exam date he was sent off for testing to see if he was psychologically able to stand trial.

After he was found capable to stand trial, the Feb. 26 exam was delayed because Sumpter Township Detective John Toth could not be present due to illness.

A March 12 exam date before 34<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Brian Oakley was delayed a week when police said they couldn't find the victim to testify.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Kristen Capling asked for a *witness detainer* for the victim William Ritchie, for not appearing for the March 12 third try for a preliminary exam.

Capling asked to have the case postponed because the victim has a civil attorney and is not happy testifying.

Jared Ritchie's court-appointed defense attorney David Lankford said, "On Feb. 26 the exam was not done because the victim was not in court. Even if he is negotiating an immunity agreement it isn't a concern today."

Detective Toth said prior to the exam, the victim wanted to press charges. Since then, the victim has been evicted, moved to another location where he was evicted again, has financial problems and is currently homeless.



Ritchie

"What I haven't heard is why he's not here," said Judge Oakley.

Toth said Ritchie's brother has a civil attorney and wants immunity from prosecution and there are other factors here.

"There usually are," Judge Oakley said.

Toth said, "On a search of the premises, they found a pole barn full of marijuana and \$13,000 cash." (Later Toth said he meant there had been \$13,000 cash there.)

Toth said he had met with the victim tracking him down through the VA hospital where he is receiving care.

Oakley ordered a *witness detainer* that could put victim William Ritchie into custody and told Capling to contact William Ritchie's attorney. Capling said Toth would try to find the victim.

By the time of the March 19 exam date, the victim William Ritchie was on hand with an agreement that he would be immune to prosecution. The agreement was worked out just before he was scheduled to testify.

### The victim testifies

In Judge Green's courtroom, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Ryan Lukiewski led William Ritchie through testimony that said he was shot by his brother Jared at about 5 p.m. on Oct. 27 when he came home to 23631 Elwell Road, where they lived together.

Ritchie said he came in the front door and put down the bag he was carrying. The Detroit Tigers bag contained \$13,000 in cash, he said.

Ritchie testified that 20' away, outside the closed sliding glass back door, he saw a figure squatting down with a shotgun pointing toward him. He didn't recognize his brother at first because the person had sunglasses on and he couldn't see his eyes, he said.

Ritchie testified he turned to exit the front door and as he turned he realized it was his brother.

He said he was slow in recognizing him because, "I didn't think that my brother would shoot me." He said he heard a large pop and shattering glass and his ears were ringing. He recognized it as a gunshot and his left arm was no longer useable.

"I couldn't see any blood, but I couldn't lift my left arm..." He said he leaned down and called out, "Jared, please do not shoot me."

He used his right hand to open the door and was running toward Elwell when he saw Jared in the open front door pointing the gun at him again. He heard another gunshot and felt it in his right arm.

Ritchie testified that an unknown person in a red truck stopped and took him to the closest fire department. Jared walked back

into the house, he said.

Ritchie said he lay down on the concrete at the Sumpter fire hall and waited for the ambulance for about two minutes. He told Sumpter police that his brother shot him and he "might have schizophrenia." Also he said he had left the bag with the money there and Jared was home alone.

He said an ambulance took him to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital where he spent 12 days, three of those in intensive care.

He described his injuries as a shattered humerus (upper left arm) and a collapsed left lung, since the first shot went through his arm and came out the front of his chest. The shot in the right arm left two large holes, but no broken bones.

Ritchie said he had two surgeries, one to repair the humerus with a metal rod and one to close the wounds in the right arm.

Ritchie testified that his brother knew he had the \$13,000 because he had told him a few days earlier. He said he told him in case anything happened to him, Jared could take the money and "be all right."

He didn't tell anyone else about the money, which was \$10,000 in \$100 bills and \$3,000 in \$20s. He said he carried the cash because he doesn't trust banks.

When defense attorney Lankford cross-examined William Ritchie, the witness said it wasn't buckshot in the shotgun. He said the doctor said it was a slug.

He also said that day he had been visiting friends and was gone one or two hours

## Court Watching:

## Judge Green dismisses credit card case for insufficient evidence

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

The case against Curtis Cooper Russ was dismissed by 34<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green after a March 19 preliminary exam because of insufficient evidence.

The charges were FTD (financial transaction device/credit card) stealing and FTD illegal sale, for using the card for a purchase at Meijer in Van Buren Township.

Donald Vann was the only witness testifying in the case and he told how several purchases he didn't make turned up on his credit card. The charges were made at the Meijer store in Van Buren Township where he shops for groceries.

Vann said no one else had authority to use his credit/debit card from TCF Bank, but purchases he didn't make were charged On Oct. 9 for \$884.87; on Oct. 9 for \$475.94; and Oct. 10 for \$475.94, along with charges

before returning home. He said he carried the bag with him because he had a bad feeling that day. He left his bag in his truck while visiting the friends, he said.

He said although he had a bad feeling, he and Jared had had no dispute and he felt very comfortable with his brother.

Lankford said police found the witness had a substantial quantity of marijuana growing and stored on his property.

Ritchie said it was within his rights since he was growing medical marijuana and had just 24 plants. He said he has had a medical marijuana card for a couple of years. He said he could not estimate the total weight of the marijuana on his property.

Lankford said with a search warrant police found marijuana in a freezer in the living room, in the blue and yellow bedroom, in a bucket in the hallway, and a bucket in the backyard. Ritchie said he was unaware of what police found.

He said he not only grew medical marijuana for himself, but he had patients.

Ritchie said Jared was living on the streets of Houston. His father was dead and the mother, they both shared, was unable to take care of him. So, he said, he gave his brother a place to live.

Judge Green bound Jared Ritchie over to circuit court on the six felony charges.

Police indicated there was still \$11,000 of William Ritchie's money in police custody. Jared spent the rest along the way to Oklahoma, they said.

on Oct. 12 and 19.

VBT Police Det. Ken Toney had a surveillance tape from Meijer's ready to run for Judge Green to show a man he said looked like defendant Russ exiting the Meijer store near the time of the illegal charges.

Judge Green got down from the bench to watch the video, but then backed off after she realized they were going to ask her to identify someone exiting the store.

"How does that make him guilty?" she asked.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Ryan Lukiewski said they did not have tape of anyone at the cash register at that time.

Court-appointed defense attorney David Lankford encouraged them to show the tape, noting all they will see is a large black man that was there at the same date and time of the crime.

(continued on page 18)

# OPINIONS

## Editorial

### Sumpter Twp. wary of library plans

On Tuesday afternoon, three members of the Belleville Area District Library board and its attorney met with two members of the Sumpter Township board and its attorney for one hour and 10 minutes to discuss plans for a satellite library in Sumpter.

Although the district library agreement said \$200,000 worth of improvements would be spent for the Sumpter satellite and Joy Cichewicz later said it would be \$1 million or more, the figure now is \$903,487.

Sumpter Township attorney Rob Young said the library board wants to negotiate a lease for a portion of the community center in case the library millage passes.

Sumpter Treasurer John Morgan said at Tuesday evening's township board meeting that he doesn't want the Sumpter satellite to be a depository for used stuff and faulty equipment. He would like to have a sophisticated media center.

"They haven't shown a whole lot of respect for us," Morgan said referring to the library board's past actions. Morgan also noted the library board unsuccessfully claimed ownership of about \$250,000 of Sumpter funds designated for library use.

Attorney Young suggested the township "trust and verify" the \$903,487 figure presented as being enough to set up the Sumpter library. Resident Mary Ban said she heard the architect talking about using old shelves, tables, and furniture in Sumpter and having everything new for the library on the lake. Trust & verify.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Over the weekend a reader called me to tell me a former Belleville resident was being featured on the C-Span Book Talk program. I was able to catch her presentation on her new book and it was wonderful.

It was Myra MacPherson, Belleville High School graduate with the Class of 1951, who must be in her 80s. Myra had been a political writer with the *Washington Post* and this is her fifth book.

The book is called "The Scarlet Sisters: Sex, Suffrage & Scandal in the Gilded Age." She said movie rights are being negotiated.

All her books are about real people and the sisters she writes about in this book are fascinating. I immediately got it on my Nook, so I will be reading it in the days to come. It was dedicated to the memory of her daughter and to her daughter's daughter.

I remember admiring Myra in high school when she was on the school newspaper and I was just a freshman. She's done very well in her career and was very charming on TV.

\*\*\*

Driving along Belleville Road, you may have noticed that one of the panels of the brand new fence along the Harmony Lane area had fallen, or been knocked, down. The Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority had paid to put up the fence.

DDA Executive Director Susan Ireland said after she got a \$950 bid to fix the fence, she went out to look at the job and thought, "I can do that."

Grabbing a toolbox from her car she placed her small toolbox on the sidewalk



and got to work. Someone stopped, not to help but to try to steal her toolbox saying he thought it fell out of the back of someone's truck.

After Susan's carpentry work, the fence is good as new.

\*\*\*

Speaking of VBT, when I wrote last week in this column about the employee who looked like he was in disguise with his growing beard, I called him Arthur Miller. WRONG. His name is Arthur Mullen. I apologize.

\*\*\*

On the Van Buren Public Schools web site there is a notice: "Due to the snow day on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, the last day of school is now Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>."

That is in response to 12 snow days this winter. The state "forgives" only six days, so the school district had to make up an additional six days.

Earlier in March, when the total was just 11 snow days, there was a letter from School Supt. Van Tassel on the website that said June 18 was the last day of school with final exams.

The letter said: "...While there is no doubt the extension of the calendar another week in June will be a hardship for some families, the additional days are critical for the continued educational growth of all the students in the Van Buren Public School District.

"Since attendance within each school must be above 75% or the day does not 'count,' I am respectfully requesting that, if at all possible, families adjust their schedules so that students are in school on all remaining days..."

\*\*\*

I've been advised that the BHS Distinguished Graduate program will be on Thursday, April 10, followed by a meet and greet for former Distinguished Graduates from 5 to 7 p.m.

Since 1998, when the school board approved the Distinguished Graduate program, the ceremonies have been held either on a Saturday or a Sunday, so relatives and friends of those honored could attend from afar. Things change.

\*\*\*

We received word that on Tuesday Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara, D-Belleville, was the first person to officially file as a candidate for the county executive's position in the Aug. 5 primary election.

McNamara and his supporters walked to the County Clerk's office from Hart Plaza after a noon flag-raising conducted by Vietnam Veterans Chapter 9.

Kevin lives in Van Buren Township and has been available to those who need the county's help.



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**BELLEVILLE - AREA**

**INDEPENDENT**

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## Letters

### Chief Taylor: Belleville's 'Andy of Mayberry'

Dear Chief Taylor:

My family and I want to wish you a very restful, happy retirement! You deserve many happy days!

I was so fortunate to be a principal and assistant principal at two schools in the City of Belleville under your watch. I want to thank you for all you did for our schools, our students, our teachers, our families and for me.

You always had time for our students, teachers and administrators – when I put in a call to the Belleville Police Department, you showed up immediately! When we had an issue at Edgemont or South Middle School, you were always there.

I fondly remember sitting in my office with you and many students – your sincere desire to help our kids was heartwarming! I recall all of your advice to the students, your calm voice, and the stories you told to make our students realize that you, too, were a person and you understood.

Many evenings and Saturdays when I was working in an empty building, you saw my car and checked up on me to make sure I was safe. You'd knock at the window and say, "Just checking to make sure you are o.k." Thank you.

A few years ago, you enlightened our Edgemont students, our families, and our community by bringing an elephant to our school! Our students, as well as the adults, learned so much -- a lot of learning that day and great memories for the kids! Thank you.

Police officers care about their community – few, however, embrace a community like you did. You were at community events day in and day out. Thank you.

Gene, I have always referred to you as "Belleville's Andy of Mayberry" – we are a better community because of you! Enjoy your days (and nights) and know that you will be missed!

Your friend,  
Karen Mida

Former VB School Administrator, teacher and proud community member

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## Visit the library and then vote YES!

To the Editor:

I would first like to commend the library board members who have given up years of their personal time to devote to improving our community. I don't know many people who would volunteer thousands of hours and willingly withstand punishing verbal and written attacks, to see a beautiful, and much-needed, new library come to fruition for the deserving residents of Sumpter, Belleville and Van Buren.

I want to share a few truths about the proposed new library:

1. In purchasing property from the DNR a stipulation is included by the DNR, that the purchased property must include a designated portion for the DNR to use for public recreation, namely the waterfront part of the library property. The DNR is the agency responsible for funding any building and/or capital improvements that the DNR wish to include in the shoreline easement and will **NOT** be funded with money from the proposed library bond.

2. The architect is a specialist in library design with 20+ years of experience, and as any good architect would do, he designs, presents to the board and to the public, discusses and implements ideas, suggestions and adaptations, and redesigns until we have a library that will fit the present and future needs of our tri-community. The board continually works to create the most library for the least amount of money. Remember, every board member is a property-owning, tax-paying resident of the tri-community. When a workable plan is agreed upon, then the board begins the daunting task of putting a bond proposal together through yet more meetings and work with experienced professionals.

3. Some additional facts:

• The library bond will **ONLY** be for the main and satellite libraries.

(continued on page 8)

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an argument is an exchange of ignorance"*


*--Robert Quillen*



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## Dawn Stansifer Stone receives 'Employee of the Year' award

Dawn Stansifer Stone of Belleville was recently presented with the "Employee of the Year" award at Expeditors International.

District Manager Michael Douglas and Operations Manager Jeremy Gamret made the presentation at the company's branch office near Metro Airport. Douglas stated that she was "one of the best in the industry at her job," which is Network Operations Agent in the Air Charter industry.

Stone lives in Harbour Pointe with her husband Mike and her son Kristopher and her stepson Michael, both of whom will graduate from Belleville High School in June.

Dawn, the daughter of Ron and Dee Stansifer, is a graduate of Belleville High School.



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# Obituaries



Walter P. Chudzinski, Jr.,

## WALTER P. CHUDZINSKI, JR.

(May 19, 1936 - March 24, 2014)

Walter Peter Chudzinski, Jr., age 77, life-long Belleville resident, passed away Monday, March 24, 2014 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, surrounded by his family, after a short illness. He was born May 19, 1936 in Belleville, son of Walter P. and Hazel Mary (Sweet) Chudzinski, Sr.

Walt was a member of Belleville High School Class of 1954 and a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville. He was a former member of the Belleville Jaycees and a volunteer for Sumpter Fire Department. He started Sumpter Collision in 1957 and retired in 1973. He then purchased 40 acres and converted it to create Houghton Lake Campground. He loved garage sales, visiting family and friends, going to the casino, and playing Poker Stars on his computer.

He is survived by his loving wife Kathalein "Kitty" (Mitchell) Chudzinski of 50 years; four children James (Shelly Brown) Chudzinski of Belleville, Ron (Erica) Chudzinski of Shelbyville, Indiana, Karen (Greg) Sturtz of Canton, MI and Susan (Tim) Galloway of Asheboro, North Carolina; 10 grandchildren Zachary and Alexander Chudzinski, Seth Brown, Trevor Chudzinski, John Pruitt, Kristyn, Rachel and Allyson Sturtz, and Josh and Jacob Galloway; a sister Marguerite (Al) Szuma of Tecumseh, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, 3 siblings in infancy, a brother Al Chudzinski, a sister Cecilia Johnson, also a grandson, Luke Charles Brown.

Visitation will be Noon-5 PM Thursday, March 27, 2014 at David C. Brown Temporary Funeral Chapel with a 5:00 PM Funeral Service. Deacon Peter Cornell will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to the wishes of the family would be appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a story for his family to cherish at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).



Bing Edward Morrison, Jr.

## BING EDWARD MORRISON, JR.

(April 20, 1958 - March 23, 2014)

Bing Edward Morrison, Jr., age 55, of Belleville, MI, passed away Sunday, March 23, 2014 at the VA Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born April 20, 1958 in the Philippines, son of Bing E. & Ellen Gail (Luther) Morrison, Sr. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army for over 15 years. He was a member of the NRA.

Bing is survived by his daughter Carrie (Eisa) Abusida of Ypsilanti, MI; three grandchildren Laith, Safiya and Rua; his mother Ellen Byles of Belleville; two sisters Tammie Lee (Douglas) Cooley of Evening Shade, Missouri and Patricia (William) Howe of Wonder Lake, Illinois; a brother Bobby Byles of Ovid, MI; seven nieces & nephews; also numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his father Bing Sr.

Visitation was 5-8 PM Tuesday, and 10-11 AM Wednesday, March 26, 2014 with an 11:00 AM Funeral at David C. Brown Temporary Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Pastor Scott Guenther officiated. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville. Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the family and would be appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to treasure at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).



Naomi E. Welch

## NAOMIE. WELCH

(October 31, 1925 - March 23, 2014)

Naomi E. Welch, 88, of Westland, passed away on March 23, 2014. Naomi was born October 31, 1925 in Bluff City, Tennessee. She was the daughter of the late James L. Dyche and Annasue A. (Barnes) Dyche.

Naomi enjoyed doing puzzles, playing bingo and playing card games like euchre and pinochle. She also loved spending time with her family.

To cherish her memory she leaves two daughters Suzann (Larry) Pennington of Romulus and Dorothy (Robert) Alsup of Somerset, Kentucky; one brother; Jack Dyche of Kokomo Indiana; nine grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one daughter Rebecca Marcotte, one brother James Dyche Jr., and one grandchild.

Friends gathered from 4 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday March 25, 2014, at Crane Funeral Home, 36885 Goddard Rd. Romulus, Michigan 48174, (734) 941-9200.

Those who wish may contribute to Angela Hospice. Online guests may leave condolences, share a photo, or light a memorial candle by visiting [www.cranefuneralhome.net](http://www.cranefuneralhome.net).

## Library to offer workshops on keepsake preservation, genealogy

The Belleville Area District Library, 167 Fourth Street in downtown Belleville, will hold a workshop on preservation of families' keepsakes for future generations and a four-week genealogist workshop.

The Preservation Workshop will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 29.

This workshop will be led by University of Michigan preservationist Shannon Zachary and will introduce participants to easy techniques for safeguarding books, photos, documents, and more.

Registration for the popular, four-week Genealogy 101 workshop with Ginger and Keith Bruder began March 24. Participants are advised to register early since space is limited.

The Bruders, who are genealogists, return to offer inspiration and advice on discovering family roots.

The four-week workshop will be offered in the library program room at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays on April 9, 23, 30, and May 7. The final meeting will feature special guest Mark Bowden, Coordinator for Special Collections at the Detroit Public Library.

For more information, call Hilary Savage, Adult Services Librarian, at (734) 699-3291.

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Mark Twain

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## More Letters

(continued from page 5)

• The DNR will be responsible for funding their desired lakefront improvements.

• There will be ample parking spaces to accommodate library patrons who may wish to take advantage of the wonderful vista that is Belleville Lake.

• The left turn lane in front of the library does not impede traffic but rather alleviates traffic back-ups as it extends from Quirk Rd to the I-94 interchange.

• Any reference to a "pedestrian bridge" refers to the bridge over I-94 that starts at Quirk Rd on the north service drive of I-94 and ends on the south service drive of I-94.

There was never a plan for a walk-over to the strip mall parking lot across the street.

• If the library simply closed its doors, as some suggest, we would **not** be able to borrow from **any** other library because we need to have reciprocity with them in order to do so.

• There is a multitude of information on the web site for the Belleville Area District Library. Go to the HOME page, click on ABOUT US, then click on BUILDING PROGRAM and you will be able to view a presentation by Anders Dahlgren, who goes into great detail, on what the considerations should be when planning for a library building project. There is also material regarding the building project that can be checked out by anyone who has a library card. If you are not sure how to find information, there is plenty of staff at **YOUR** library who are more than happy to help you use the resources available to make you an informed voter.

"To be persuasive we must be believable; to be believable we must be credible; to be credible we must be truthful. It is as simple as that." Edward R. Murrow

I have lived in Van Buren/Belleville since 1958, and have spent countless hours growing up and growing old in our little library, always enjoying the luxury of spending time enriching my world through the love of reading, and all for free. Over the years, I have also seen, first-hand, the deterioration of a building too old and too small for our growing community. The staff works tirelessly to keep the many patrons happy while they wait for: too few books (no space), too few computers (no space), the one quiet room (no space), and the one tutor room (no space).

I will be voting **YES on the LIBRARY BOND** and I urge you to:

1. Visit the Belleville Area District Library.

2. VOTE YES.

Most Sincerely,  
Bonnie McRitchie

**Editor's Note:** Bonnie McRitchie is secretary of the Friends of the Belleville Area District Library.

## Lions to raise funds with White Cane Week

To the Editor:

The Canton Lions will be raising funds needed throughout the communities Belleville and Canton on April 25-May 3. The Club will be working at the L. George's Coney Island on Michigan Ave, Holiday Market on Lilley Rd and Cherry Hill. They also can be found in the streets of Belleville during their upcoming White Cane Week drive for the blind and hearing impaired.

The Lions are assisting people in both communities during these hard economic times. They are called upon to purchase many pairs of eye glasses for kids whose parents cannot afford to buy them. They also sponsor a scholarship program which allows for the sight-impaired to attend college.

These programs along with Penrickton Center for Blind and Handicapped Children, Michigan Eye Bank, Leader Dog School for the Blind or Seedling who writes Braille Books are just a few that the club contributes to.

According to Lion Larry Wegrzyn, president of the Canton Lions Club, it takes many fund-raising events for the Lions Club to assist those in need. The Club holds fund-raising events such as a Euchre Tournament, Pancake Breakfast at the Canton Liberty Fest, Corn Roast in August during the Canton's Village Faire, to name a few.

The Lions are dependent on the public's contributions to complete all these worthy projects. We encourage the public to support our efforts and contribute what they can.

We're beginning our White Cane Week which is a spring project allowing the Lions to renew with the public the various needs the blind and hearing impaired have in life. It may be a low-vision reader or a cataract operation for the sight-impaired. The hearing-impaired need hearing aids or a hearing phone which allow them to have contact with their family and friends.

The Canton Lions Club is a group of men and women who identify needs within the community and work together to fulfill those needs. We are currently seeking new members to assist us with the needs in our communities. For more information or to get involved in something bigger than we are as individuals contact me.

Lion Bill Van Winkle

(734) 254-9404

[govbill1@wowway.com](mailto:govbill1@wowway.com)

"Start every day off with a smile and get it over with."

— W.C. Fields

## Women's Club seeks fashion show sponsors

To the Editor:

The Belleville Area Women's Club will be holding its Spring Fling Fashion Show on Wednesday, April 30, at the new BYC clubhouse, 831 E. Huron River Drive. This popular event includes a cocktail hour, dinner, money raffle, and silent and Chinese auctions. Dinner tickets are \$30 per person and raffle tickets \$1 each.

For many years the club has held this major fundraiser to award scholarships to seniors at Belleville High School. In 2013 three \$1,000 scholarships were given and the hope is to give at least five in 2014. To accomplish this goal, the club, a 501(c) 3, is looking for sponsors from the business community:

• Presenting Sponsor: \$2,000 - Four dinner tickets, logo and name on Main Banner and advertising.

• Gold Sponsor: \$1,000 - Three dinner tickets, name on sponsor banner and advertising.

• Silver Sponsor: \$500 - Two dinner tickets, name on sponsor banner and advertising.

• Bronze Sponsor: \$100 - Name on sponsor banner and advertising.

Tickets are available with any club member or call Kathie Steigerwald at (313) 570-6115 for tickets and sponsoring opportunities.

Becky Thornell and

Kathie Steigerwald

Belleville Area Women's Club

## Relay for Life sets events for May 31-June 1 at Quirk Park in VBT

This year's Relay for Life of Belleville will be held at Quirk Park, Van Buren Township, from 10 a.m. May 31, to 10 a.m. June 1.

While the event is still several months away, planning committees are currently recruiting more teams to join the event. Teams are often made up of co-workers, friends and family members. Many businesses, schools, organizations and religious groups also build teams.

Prior to the Relay event, team members raise dollars by fundraising and securing sponsorships. During Relay for Life, teams camp out overnight and take turns walking a track in an effort to raise awareness and funds in the fight against cancer.

At the event, the Luminaria and Survivor ceremonies offer time to remember those participants have lost and celebrate those who have won the battle, while the Fight Back ceremony gives participants a chance to make a personal commitment to take action against cancer throughout the year.

Those interested in starting or joining a team, may log on to RelayForLife.org and follow the links to the Relay for Life of Belleville page. Or on Facebook, RelayforLifeBelleville. If you are not able to join a team, log on to make a donation. For more information, call Steve Windom at (248) 663-3401.

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# Belleville Planners OK building site plans for Davenports, Kassab

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

The Davenport Brothers strip mall on East Columbia Avenue and the upgrades to Sam Kassab's building on Main Street both got site plan approvals at the March 13 meeting of the Belleville Planning Commission.

The Davenport Center project can proceed with its extra building for the Affordable

Vet office, a building added to the plan late in the process.

The center will include a new Secretary of State's office and the new location of the Charhouse restaurant with a 96'x45' area behind the building for outdoor seating near the railroad tracks.

At its February meeting, the planning commission gave Davenport approval to lay cement blocks on its expanded footprint,

but nothing more. Now the project can proceed unfettered.

At the March meeting, Architect Wayde Hoppe successfully addressed the ten items the commissioners listed as problems at the February meeting.

The second project on the agenda was presented by property owner Sam Kassab, since Kassab said his architect is still under recovery from thyroid surgery.

Kassab is renovating his vacant building at the city's entryway on Main Street near the Belleville Bridge.

"I've got a couple of people who want to rent and they are almost ready to leave me" because of the delay, Kassab said, referring to the time it is taking him to get city approval.

"I'm just remodeling the building and every single dollar is borrowed," he said. "And, the bank needs signed leases before they'll give me the money."

"We're OK with the building," said Commissioner Mike Renaud. "It's just we need to work with the parking."

Commission chairman Steve Jones told Kassab he was short on fulfilling the city's landscaping requirements and the parking layout.

"We're doing everything to help your project go forward," Jones said. "You have to make changes for landscaping and entrance" having only one entrance to the parking area.

Kassab said his architect will work with the city's planning consultant Jill Bahm of Clearzoning.

The commission voted unanimously to give Kassab conditional approval, pending Bahm's review of the drive, parking, and landscaping.

City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said when Kassab has met the conditions, Bahm and Jones can sit down and give the final approval.

"This will make that end of town much nicer," Jones said.

"I'm glad we got these two projects under way," said Renaud. "These two projects definitely are going to be good for the citizens."

Kassab left the meeting and there was some discussion about how Kassab hadn't mentioned his 14' sign. The sign permit is separate from the site plan review.

In answer to a question from the audience, Jones said Kassab said he is planning to resurface just a part of the parking lot he owns, with the rest being reserved for Phase II of his upcoming project along North Liberty Street.

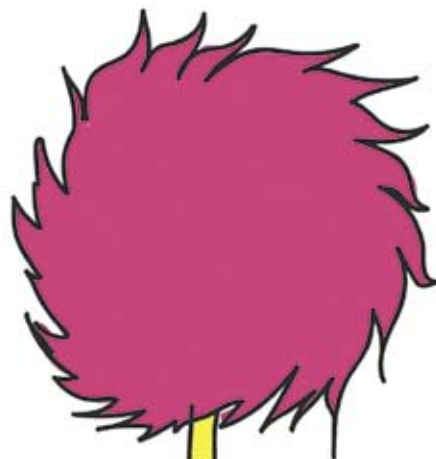
Then, Kassab re-entered the council chambers saying, "We forgot about the sign."

They explained it was a totally separate permit and he had to follow the ordinance. He said his architect will work with Bahm.

In other business, City Manager Kollmeyer reported that the city will be contracting with Hennessey Engineers to work with the DPW and Water departments, following the retirement of the city's DPW Director. She said Hennessey carries the water certifications necessary.

She also announced that Rick Rutherford, who has been a building inspector for the city for some time, will be interim building official and will do some ordinance enforcement.

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## Keystone Girls Varsity Basketball Division Champs



The Varsity Girls basketball team at Keystone Academy won its division title, the first time this has happened since Keystone opened. It was a thrilling victory game and the team went 12-0 for the season. The team is in the National Heritage Academies Southwest District and lost the championship game to East Arbor. From left in back are: Shelby Smith, Ashlynd Griffith, Hope Priest, Madison Marshall, McKenzie Davis, Aja Gaines, and Coach Janice Marshall. In front, from left, are Faith Spitznagel, Lexi Wilbond, Janessa Franklin, Alexis Mattingly, Ariel Gregory, and Kelsey McKnight.

## Keystone JV Girls team undefeated



The Keystone Academy Junior Varsity Basketball team went 10-0 during its season. In back, from left, are Assistant Coach Mike Davis, Isabelle Demolen, Madelyne Cronk, and Head Coach Jackie Fincher. In the middle row from left are Kennedy Clark, Alex Blue, and Lauren McKnight, with Lauren Marshall in the center in a blue headband. In the front row, from left, are Mikayla Demyan, Olivia Davis, Amber Morgan, and Nicole Dillmann.

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# LDFA turns down quick sale of its property to next-door developer

By Diane Madigan  
Independent Special Writer

At its regularly scheduled March 11 meeting, the Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority put the brakes on Planning Director Arthur Mullen's suggestion for sale of property the LDFA owns at 39545 Ecorse Road.

A request for purchase of the 1.16 acres was submitted by Frank Jarbou, the property owner to the east whose property had been rezoned C1 last year for development of a pig-launching facility.

The facility will be located on the western corner of the 39421 Hannan Road property and will monitor the condition of the Michcon gas pipeline running along Hannan Road.

Mullen said he believes the property at 39545 Ecorse Road is relatively undevelopable and he didn't see any reason to retain it, asking for a motion at the next meeting to approve the sale.

He said proceeds from the sale of the property would remain with the LDFA providing additional tax revenue to help make the Visteon bond payments.

LDFA member Doug Peters, an attorney, said he believed it is a valuable piece of land and recommended adjacent property owners be given the opportunity to compete.

He said even though it is a substandard lot it has a lot of frontage and may be worth more than its size suggests.

Mullen said he received three quotes appraising a different, similar parcel and would like to go with the lowest bid, which is \$5,000. He said he believes no one could build on it and the parcel has little value to anyone.

It is not on the tax roll and there is no assessment of its value, Mullen said.

Peters said he does not believe it is a good time to sell, in terms of the market.

"I know you want the deal to go through for whatever reason but my view, in five years this is going to be worth a lot more," Peters said.

If it is sold at all, he recommended it be sold at auction or be posted to the general public. Peters said he thinks it is of questionable legality to sell anything

without putting it out for a public bid.

"This leads to a rat's nest and is not the way to do business," he added.

According to a tax information search, Odish Jarbou is owner of seven properties on Ecorse Road in VBT and also owns the southeast corner of Hannan and Ecorse in Romulus. His mailing address is in Novi.

Mullen said there is no written policy for selling property in the township.

LDFA Chairman Michael Dotson recommended a process be developed for sale of property.

LDFA member Richard Gavalier, Vice President of Finance at Ricardo, Inc. based in VBT, recommended an inventory be taken and an appraisal of all the properties in the LDFA district be conducted.

"I agree. Develop a process for maximizing the value for the taxpayer," Peters said. "I have nothing against Mr. Jarbou. I don't know him. This is not personal at all. I'm just speaking as somebody who deals in real estate."

Gavalier said, "You're right. We have to have a process that's open so it doesn't look like... If we've learned anything from the city of Detroit this should be one of the things."

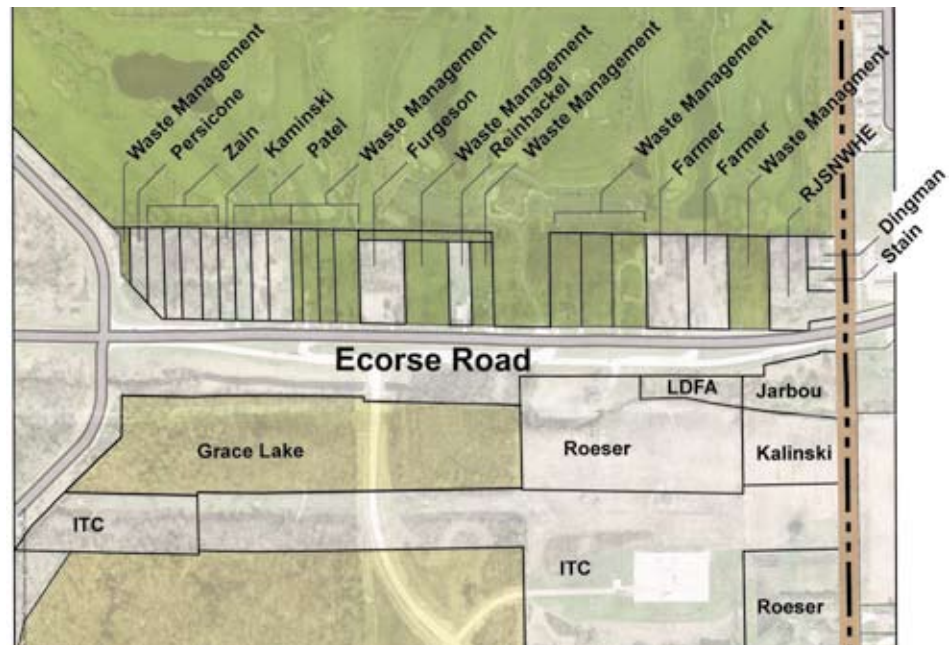
VBT Supervisor Linda Combs agreed, saying, "We need to know what we own and what it's worth."

## Sovereign Partners

Supervisor Combs also reported she had a conversation with Cyrus Sakhai, owner of Sovereign Partners the purchaser of the Visteon property. She said Sakhai told her he is much in favor of development on the property.

Supervisor Combs said she told him VantagePort (Aerotropolis) and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) are pushing sites within the VBT community that are available for development and she would give them Sakhai's contact information if they asked her.

Audience member Carl Johnson asked Supervisor Combs for information sought by Gavalier to possibly invest what's left of the Visteon bankruptcy settlement into higher yield accounts. Supervisor Combs said she had checked with the auditor who



said the LDFA is limited as to the types of investments it can make with the funds.

She said the law provides basically safe investments, such as CDs, money market, and government bonds. No real estate and no stocks and bonds.

"It is currently invested in the right type for this type of funding and we're doing the best we can as far as returns," Combs said.

James Williams, Van Buren Public Schools Director of Building and Grounds, attended the LDFA meeting for the first time, replacing Marcus Leon as a representative from the school district.

Absent from the meeting was member Leonard Armstrong. There were four audience members.

Prior to the start of the meeting Director Mullen said, "Per the attorney's recommendation," the group needs to turn in the confidential materials he was distributing so it could be destroyed.

## Closed-door session

The LDFA held a one-hour, closed-door session for a Visteon presentation led by attorney Kaveh Kashef from the Clark Hill law firm.



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# VBT Board hears Cobblestone residents tell of their investigation

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees is close to accepting a new agreement that will allow the owner of the lots to complete the failed Planned Residential Developments of Cobblestone Ridge Estates and Cobblestone Manor.

Before the board approves the new agreement with Sheldon Acquisitions, residents of Cobblestone Ridge approached board members at their work/study session on March 17 and regular board meeting March 18 to give them information from an investigation they conducted – and continue to conduct.

Karen Fort spoke of the foreclosures and tax liens on the properties in the development that they got from the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. She showed pictures of signs on the property, which are against the homeowner association bylaws since the owner of the lots refuses to be designated a developer.

Fort spoke of the dirt and rubbish left behind after buildings are completed, which makes it impossible to mow the grass.

Fort asked Supervisor Linda Combs when they can expect to get the signs removed and Supervisor Combs said she wanted to confer with township ordinance officers and have them take a drive out to the development to check it out.

Fort said in September 2011, the development changed hands. There are 113 lots and 45 occupied homes, she said, and there had been 27 months of no development at all.

She said association dues are \$50 per lot per month and so the owner of the undeveloped lots owes from \$85,000 to \$91,000, without penalties, to the association.

"It takes money to run an association," Fort said, noting they do snow removal and grass cutting for all the common areas.

She spoke of an email from Planning and Economic Director Arthur Mullen that said residents couldn't see the changes to the development agreement for their subdivision because of attorney-client privilege. At the work study session Mullen said he never said that, but they later produced the email he sent.

Supervisor Combs said she had a meeting set up with Brant Biarski, owner of the vacant lots, the following week and she would provide the residents with an update after the meeting.

Julianne Chard, also of Cobblestone Ridge, asked who is Sheldon Acquisition and who is the developer of Cobblestone Ridge?

Chard told of other developments in the state owned by the same group, including Stonebridge in Ann Arbor and others in Dexter, Sterling Heights, and Auburn Hills. They all have the address of 2617 Beacon Hills, Auburn Hills, so the same organization obviously runs all of them.

She said she has continually tried to be a participant in the changes being made to her neighborhood, but, "It's been a secret activity by the township who left the stakeholders out of it."

She said Mullen claimed it was a client-attorney privilege and the residents don't have a right to know.

Chard said she was told by the former economic development director that the transfer of the land didn't comply with condominium law so there's no developer.

"Is there a developer for Cobblestone Manor and Estates?" Chard asked.

"I haven't had time to determine who the developer is," Supervisor Combs said.

Chard said, "Mr. Biarski represented himself as the developer to two men who bought a house. They said Mr. Biarski told them Toll Brothers came in and filed bankruptcy. We get all kinds of stories."

Chard said the development started in 2005 and in 2012 all development activity expired. She said at that point it should have been turned over to the residents.

"Maybe we could have somebody come in with cash flow and good faith" to complete the development, Chard said. "Eventually it's time to cut bait. Pull your bait in, and go home."

At the work/study session Trustee Jeff Jahr had many questions on the agreement and the serious public safety issue with the open basements that were supposed to be secured by Jan. 1, 2013 and now are having that requirement extended to the end of summer 2014.

"After not having complied with a previous agreement, the residents have to go through another summer," of open basements full of water, Trustee Jahr said.

"If Mr. Biarski is successful in completing this project, we all are going to benefit ... playing hardball isn't going to work..." Jahr said. He said Trustee Phil Hart, who was unable to attend the meeting, is concerned about the escrow money being used for the township to put in sidewalks and the road – and he's concerned about that, too. "I have a real concern with that issue," Jahr said.

"I don't know where to begin," Jahr said, pointing out the math doesn't add up and Sheldon Acquisitions doesn't have the amount of money paid to the township that it's supposed to.

Township attorney Patrick McCauley said he thought that they had paid everything and he would check.

Jahr said if the owner goes under, the township doesn't have enough money to complete that project. Also, Jahr asked, why is the township issuing a certificate of occupancy when the agreement isn't complete?

After many questions at the work/study session it was pointed out that the person who provided funds for Sheldon Acquisitions ran a liquor store at 1003 Mack Ave. in Detroit.

Biarski wanted to know what relevance that had to the township. He said the store owner was kind enough to buy the lots and pay the \$53,000 in unpaid township water bills. He also filled the potholes.

"I'm the builder. I'm Trowbridge Homes," Biarski said.

Marvin Reed said he has lived on Beacon Trail since 2006 and a lot of things are going on.

"Brant is a nice guy, but he doesn't keep his word. He doesn't handle his business. Period..." Reed said.

Another resident said he has been a police officer for 25 years in Detroit. He and Marvin are coworkers.

"I'm not ready to move forward," Jahr said. "Those basements were to be completed a year ago ..."

Jahr suggested another meeting to consider the proposed new agreement and

the homeowners should be mailed notices so they can know about the meeting and attend.

In other business at the March 18 regular township board meeting, the board:

- Approved the second readings and adoption of ordinance amendments concerning retail fraud and alcohol purchasing, consumption and possession by persons under 21, to comply with current state laws;

- Approved the fire department's Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Belleville;

- Approved amending the Interlocal Agreement with Western Wayne County Fire Department Mutual Aid Association and MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) Division;

- Approved the Independent Contractor Agreement with Sharon L. Frischman as of April 1 to serve as assessor, following the resignation of Bob Brandemier;

- Approved resolutions approving annual permits with Wayne County for maintenance, pavement restoration, and special events;

- Approved a resolution to appoint a township resident to the Downriver Wastewater Treatment System Joint Management Committee;

- Heard Supervisor Combs read a letter from Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor to VBT Public Safety Director Greg Laurain commending VBT Sgt. Bart DeVos and Officer Pat Wehrman in their assistance to Belleville Police in catching a fleeing subject involved in an abduction;

- Heard Marc Littleton, president of the Van Buren Area Little League, introduce members of his VBALL team who were working to get the newly organized Little League under way. He presented VBALL t-shirts to board members and thanked the Van Buren Civil Fund for the donation of \$12,000 to purchase equipment for the kids for their safety. He invited everyone to the opening ceremonies of the season at 9 a.m., Saturday, May 10;

- Heard Chief Taylor commend the VBALL volunteers for all their hard work. He knows

(Continued on page 14)

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# VBT Board

(continued from page 13)

what it involves because he coached for 11 years. Taylor was present to say goodbye to VBT since he is retiring and to thank the community of VBT. He said when he started serving the City of Belleville in 1977, the VBT police department was part time and Belleville went out after midnight to serve the community. He said there have been bonds formed between city and township police officers over the years, with a difference of opinion sometimes. He said he has been told, "When hell freezes over, it's time for me to go and this year it did. This year, time to go." He was invited to the board table to shake hands with all the board members after his presentation; and

• Heard Treasurer Sharry Budd praise her deputy Sean Bellingham for stepping in to do a presentation on the work of the

treasurer's office at Owen Middle School earlier that day, when Budd found she "wasn't up to par." Bellingham's presence at Owen surprised his daughter, who didn't expect to see him there, and surprised Budd's grandson, who expected to see his grandmother there. She wanted to thank Bellingham on behalf of the township.

## Thursday night larcenies from autos bring alert

The Sumpter Township Police Department announced Friday morning that it has had several reports of larcenies from automobiles Thursday night along the 20000 to 23000 block of Sumpter Road. The Nixel alert said it appeared the suspect or suspects were targeting vehicles left parked in driveways, unlocked. Police advised residents to make sure to always lock their vehicles and never leave valuables inside. Also, call the police department if you see anything suspicious, no matter how minor it may seem.

## City of Belleville Public Notice

### Request for Proposal Services as Newspaper of Record for the City of Belleville



The Belleville City Council will receive sealed proposals for services as the newspaper of record for the City of Belleville until **7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2014.**

At that time, the proposals will be publicly opened and taken under consideration for action at a future City Council meeting.

Each proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the City Clerk and clearly marked "Services for Newspaper of Record". Proposals shall be submitted in the form of a cover letter which responds to the items below. Each item should be numbered as shown, and may be responded to in the body of the letter, or as a statement that the response is attached, with the attachments numbered appropriately.

In addition to the items below, the proposal may include any other information which the newspaper thinks would help the City Council to select a newspaper of record.

1. Name and Address of newspaper; phone number, fax number and e-mail address if available
2. Newspaper circulation and distribution area
3. Newspaper deadlines for legal notices, classified ads and press releases
4. Rates for legal notices and classified ads; and a statement as to how long these rates will be honored with the City, or a statement that the rates are subject to change and how notice will be given of such change
5. Extent to which the newspaper covers other City boards and events in addition to City Council meetings
6. Newspaper's policy on publishing and/or reporting on public service announcements when requested by the City
7. Statement of who owns the newspaper
8. Signature, date, and printed name of person submitting the proposal

If you have any questions on this matter, please call Diana Kollmeyer, City Manager at 734-697-9323.

Lisa Long, CMC  
City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: March 27, 2014

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES March 18, 2014

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Absent: Trustee Hart (excused). Others in attendance: Fire Chief Besson, Assessment Coordinator Stevenson, Secretary Cline and an audience of fourteen (14).

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

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Budd moved, Jahr seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes March 3, 2014; Closed Session Minutes March 3, 2014; Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 4, 2014; Resolution 2014-05, the Annual Wayne County Maintenance Permit; Resolution 2014-06, Annual Wayne County Pavement Restoration Permit; Resolution 2014-07, Annual Wayne County Special Events Permit; Resolution 2014-08, the Downriver Wastewater Treatment System Joint Management Committee (JMC) Resolution for appointing Township representative; Voucher List of March 18, 2014] as presented. Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Supervisor Combs read a letter addressed to Public Safety Director Laurain from City of Belleville Police Chief Taylor regarding assistance in apprehending a subject in the City of Belleville provided by Van Buren Township Sergeant DeVos and Officer Wehrman.

Marc Littleton, VBall (Van Buren Area Little League) president introduced the VBall Board members and provided an update on number of registrations, fundraisers and new equipment purchased using the funding provided by Civic Fund. VBall t-shirts were given to the Township Board members along with an invitation to attend opening day on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Treasurer Budd, a member of the Civic Fund stated the purpose of the Civic Fund is to assist youth organizations such as VBall.

Gene Taylor, City of Belleville's Police Chief stated he is retiring and thanked Van Buren Township community stating he enjoyed the cooperation between Van Buren Township Public Safety Department and the City of Belleville's Police Department.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Budd moved, Jahr seconded to approve the second reading for adoption 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. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Miller, Jahr, McClanahan, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: None. Absent: Hart (excused). Carried.

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

Budd moved, Miller seconded to approve the second reading for adoption 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. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McClanahan, Miller, Jahr, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: None. Absent: Hart (excused). Carried.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jahr moved, Wright seconded to approve the Fire Department Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Belleville and to authorize Chief Besson to sign on behalf of the Township. Carried.

Jahr moved, Budd seconded to approve Resolution 2014-04, the amended Interlocal Agreement with Western Wayne County Fire Department Mutual Aid Association and MABAS Division and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Agreement. Carried.

McClanahan moved, Wright seconded to approve the Independent Contactor Agreement between Van Buren Charter Township and Sharon L. Frischman and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Agreement. Carried.

**REPORTS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Trustee Miller announced the Second Annual St. Vincent DePaul Charity Basketball benefit tournament will be held at Belleville High on March 29<sup>th</sup> between Belleville, Van Buren and Sumpter Police and Fire Departments.

**AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items):** Non-Agenda Items started at 7:31 p.m. and ended at 7:50 p.m. Karen Fort a resident from Cobble Stone Ridge commented on the Cobble Stone Ridge development and proposed agreement between Township and Sheldon Acquisition; tax liens/foreclosures; email from Director Mullen regarding attorney client privilege; photographs of signs posted in violation of by-laws; condition of property after homes are built; who is the developer and why are developer rights being given to someone other than a developer; unpaid association fees. Supervisor Combs stated she has a meeting set up with Mr. Byarski owner of vacant lots next week and will provide the resident with an update after the meeting. Treasurer Budd thanked Deputy Treasurer Bellingham for filling in today by doing a presentation at Owen Intermediate School showing the students what are the functions of the Treasurer's Department. Julianne Chard a resident from Cobble Stone Ridge inquired who is Sheldon Acquisition; unpaid taxes; ability to participate in the process regarding Cobble Stone Ridge Development; who is the developer; lack of faith in Sheldon Acquisition to honor an agreement and other developments owned by the same group; request to allow a future developer to come forward to complete the development.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Wright moved, McClanahan seconded to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. Carried.

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

# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

ORDINANCE NO. 3-4-14(2)

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY

Second reading for adoption.

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 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014.

YEAS: Miller, Jahr, McClanahan, Budd, Wright and Combs.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Hart (excused).

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor

Adopted: 3/18/2014.

Published: 3/13/2014 & 3/27/2014.

Effective: 3/27/2014.

# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

ORDINANCE NO. 3-4-14(3)

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY

Second reading for adoption.

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.

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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 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014.

YEAS: McClanahan, Miller, Jahr, Budd, Wright and Combs.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Hart (excused).

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor

Adopted: 3/18/2014.

Published: 3/13/2014 & 3/27/2014.

Effective: 3/27/2014.

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

# Call for entries in Hares on the Square competition in Belleville

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts announces that applications are available for the 2014 version of Hares on the Square (formerly Bunnies on Main) from March 21 through April 6.

Entry fee is \$10. Applications and "hare cages" are available at Michigan PC Tech, 397 Main St., Ste. 3, Belleville.

Completed hare entries must be returned

to Belleville City hall between Tuesday, April 8, and Friday, April 11.

Hares will be put on display in the Fourth Street Square beginning Monday, April 14. Prizes will be awarded at the May 5 City Council meeting.

Full details and rules are available on the application or by calling (734) 697-8123.

# City of Belleville Public Notice

**CITY OF BELLEVILLE  
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR PAID  
ON CALL FIREFIGHTER POSITIONS**



The City of Belleville is seeking applications for Paid on Call Firefighter positions. Applicant must be at least 21 years of age, possess a valid Michigan driver's license, pass a criminal background check and live within a certain distance of the city limits. Experienced candidates are preferred, but will train.

Applications are available by emailing Captain Kris Rix at [krix@bellevillefd.com](mailto:krix@bellevillefd.com) or at the clerk's office at city hall. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.

The City of Belleville is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Brian Loranger  
Fire Chief

Publish: March 20 and 27, 2014

# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

**Charter Township of Van Buren  
Annual Cemetery Cleaning Notice**

The Department of Public Works will be conducting its annual spring cleaning at all township cemeteries.

**Spring cleaning will begin April 7, 2014 and run through April 17, 2014**

Receptacles placed on graves such as flowerpots, religious items and similar objects will be discarded if not removed by April 4, 2014

New items may be displayed beginning April 18, 2014

Van Buren Township provides maintenance for the following cemeteries:

**Denton** - 49780 Cross St. (Michigan Avenue and Denton Road)

**Soop** - 49250 Denton Road (South I-94 Service Drive and Denton Road)

**Tyler** - 39820 Tyler Road (Tyler and Hannan Roads)

**Otisville** - 41875 Riggs Road

For additional information contact  
Department of Public Works at 734.699.8925

Leon Wright  
Township Clerk

Published: 3/27/14



# Thomas White

(continued from page 1)

stated that there are two cases here, the five felonies charged in September and the 15 more charged in December. He said he and Michigan State Police Trooper Marc Moore, who was present, agree on a motion to consolidate these two cases on April 9.

"I feel like I'm objecting to everything," Vincent said. "I've tried to work with the system. What I've done is run into a road block. I need to go over the documents."

Williams said he would set up an appointment for Vincent to come to the Prosecutor's Office to go over the evidence.

Judge Green said she felt Vincent was being disingenuous by saying he would be handicapped in the case.

Judge Green asked, "Now that I've denied a waiver for the fees, you're going to say you're not ready?"

"I will be ready," Vincent said.

Judge Green said she would not consolidate the cases for the purposes of a probable cause hearing, but the cases could be consolidated at circuit court.

She said she can block off time for a lengthy preliminary exam from April 9-16. She said they can do the first case and the second exam.

"He can come and look at the evidence for as long as he wants," Williams said of Vincent, adding he is not going to be in trial for the next two weeks.

Judge Green said if Williams isn't available he should make sure someone else in his office is available for Vincent's visit.

"I'll see you on the 9<sup>th</sup>," Judge Green concluded to everyone involved.

White is accused of 16 counts of embezzlement totaling a minimum of \$1.94 million. He filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy on July 19.

## Divorce granted

Heather Lea White was granted a divorce, without a trial, from Thomas A. White on March 21 in the Wayne County Circuit Court courtroom of Judge Arthur J. Lombard.

She filed for divorce on Nov. 1 and the case was dismissed on Feb. 6 after she did not show up for a court hearing. Then a motion to reinstate the proceedings was made Feb. 10.

## Bankruptcy compromise

On March 21 White's U.S. Bankruptcy Court Trustee Wendy Turner Lewis filed a motion for an order approving a compromise between the court and the Gallaway family's attorney Steven Cohen in the matter of a transfer of \$13,990.71 from White's credit union account on May 16, 2013.

White filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy on July 19, 2013.

The complaint states that White was insolvent at the time the transfer was made, within 90 days of White filing for bankruptcy, and the account had been frozen.

Cohen denied that the transfer was avoidable stating the funds were his client's funds that White was required to hold in

trust for his clients.

Following negotiations, the Gallaway family agreed to resolve the proceeding for \$9,000 which the court approved.

According to Cohen, members of the Gallaway family are beneficiaries to the Thomas Garrett estate and should have received \$600,000 from White, who handled the estate, but they got nothing.

Representing the family, Cohen filed a civil lawsuit against White in December 2012. The court awarded the Gallaway family \$350,000, which White never paid.

Also, March 20 was the deadline for debtors to file objections for White's bankruptcy.

And, Ford Motor Co. was granted relief from the automatic freezing of assets imposed by the bankruptcy for a 2012 Ford Escape leased by White. This allows Ford to repossess and sell the vehicle.

*Editor Rosemary K. Oztzman also contributed to this report.*

# Belleville DDA

(continued from page 1)

Other projects were Belleville on the Lake, which included fishing, waterfront activities, and kayak events; Main Street Olympics, which included a three-legged race and other family activities; and a Belleville Battle of the Bands, which planned for 12 bands.

Mayor Conley said health and fitness were incorporated in the activities and only six votes separated the winner from the lowest vote.

She said Angel Food and Catering, a local business, provided the food and a \$100 donation to the project.

Mayor Conley said DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson conducted a telephone interview for a news story on the event.

Mayor Conley urged members of the DDA to start training for the 5K race.

"I think it'd be fun if everyone participated," she said, adding it will start at 5 p.m., so it will be darker outside for the race.

The Belleville Central Business Community (CBC) has reserved the Fourth Street Square for Oct. 24 and is planning to put up a tent for beer, food, and scary movies. It is seeking a license through the Liquor Control Commission for the beer at

the event, which will be co-hosted by the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce.

The CBC also is seeking to obtain the rights to the B'ooVille name through the State of Michigan.

In other business at the 35-minute meeting on March 19, the DDA:

- Heard Museum Director Katie Dallos explain how the museum spent last year's \$1,000 grant from the DDA on events at the museum and thank them for the funds. She said the museum now is using an updated logo and brand: BAM. Dallos said the museum is considering having a Haunted Museum event. The idea formed after seeing a 1970s picture of the jail in the museum basement being used as a Haunted Basement. She said the treasures of the tri-community are on display at the museum and the museum is the area's cultural center;

- Heard DDA Treasurer Sabrina Richardson Williams report that the six outdoor sculptures have been chosen and they are expected to be installed around the DDA district in early May. Thompson said the committee looked at 380 slides of sculptures, which is "a lot of art." Williams agreed that there are so many opportunities that she hopes they can do it next year, too;

- Learned a review committee for the Façade Program is being set up and it will be made up of two DDA members and one member from the planning commission. DDA member Rosemary Loria, who was not present, has volunteered to serve and DDA chairman John Hoops said he was willing to serve, as well;

- Heard Mayor Conley report on changes to the staff for the city's DPW since the retirement of DPW Director Keith Boc. She said Keith Tackett will be taking over many of the DPW administration responsibilities and Rick Rutherford has been named Building Official. Thompson said the banners on the light poles will be changed from snowflakes to flowers shortly; and

- Heard Mayor Conley report she has taken down the ornaments from the Christmas tree by the bridge, as far as she can reach, and Snider Electric will take down the lights on the tree since the snow has stopped falling and they can get closer to the tree now.

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– Yogi Berra

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# INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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New Boston, MI 48164  
1-734-654-6226; fax 1-734-654-3780

Year	Make	VIN
2003	Pontiac Montana	1GMDX03E93D323346
2007	Dodge Caravan	1D4GP25R17B130562
1994	Oldsmobile Royale	1G3HY52L7RH343712
1995	Chevrolet 4-door	1G1BL52W7SR190921
2000	Ford SW	1FMZU72X0YUB73872

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Publish: March 27, 2014

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— Steve Martin



## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*The following are selected calls for VBT Police.*

**Sunday, March 16:**  
0006 – disorderly conduct, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0111 – disturbance, Aspen  
0152 – noise complaint, W. Huron River Dr.  
0323 – fight, W. Archwood Dr.  
0329 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0525 – assault & battery, Westlake  
0935 – fraud, N. Woodbury Dr.  
0953 – larceny from auto, Beckley  
1009 – intrusion alarm, Wildbrook Dr.  
1056 – animal complaint, Van Buren/Hayes  
1125 – water leak found, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Van Buren Park  
1407 – harassment call, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1446 – private property accident, Southport  
1705 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.  
2005 – suspicious vehicle, Lenmoore Ave.  
2247 – noise complaint, N. Sadie Ln.

**Monday, March 17:**  
0430 – agency assist, SB I-275/Hannan  
0914 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr./Haggerty  
1334 – assault & battery, Capitol Dr.  
1419 – assault & battery, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
1418 – suspicious situation, Belleville Rd.  
1455 – vehicle lockout, Haggerty Rd.  
1514 – intrusion alarm, Marlowe Ave.  
1539 – suicide or attempt, Park Estates  
1555 – intimidation threat, Rawsonville Rd.  
1610 – assault & battery, Barkley St.  
1712 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1856 – disorderly conduct, Hull Rd.  
1943 – intimidation threat, Lohr  
1959 – animal complaint, Western St.  
2106 – suspicious vehicle, Ecorse/Belleville  
2137 – operating while intoxicated, SB I-275 / Ecorse  
2252 – disorderly conduct, Belleville

**Tuesday, March 18:**  
0225 – assault & battery, Bradley Dr.  
0553 – suspicious person, Van Buren St.  
0825 – larceny from auto, Lindsey Dr.  
1020 – water leak found, Tyler Rd.  
1140 – fraud, Buchanan St.  
1229 – animal complaint, McBride Ave.  
1347 – private property accident, N. Woodbury Dr.  
1610 – agency assist, Estrada  
1643 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Park Estates Dr.  
1658 – suspicious person, Belleville Rd.  
1736 – breaking & entering, Country Ln.  
1737 – larceny from auto, Greenbriar Dr.  
1808 – family trouble, Edison Lake Rd.  
1907 – larceny, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
2139 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.  
2147 – suspicious person, Belle Pointe Dr.

**Wednesday, March 19:**  
0525 – breaking & entering, Buchanan St.  
0853 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.  
0904 – assist fire dept., Visteon Building 20  
1321 – assault & battery, N. Bellridge Dr.  
1418 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1440 – assault & battery, Oak Ln.  
1656 – disorderly conduct, Kirkridge Park Dr.  
1740 – property damage accident, Jackson St./N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1746 – disorderly conduct, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1806 – intimidation threat, Stonebridge Ct.  
1813 – trespassing, W. Huron River Dr.  
1947 – agency assist, Carmell  
2051 – overdose, Rogers Ave.

**Thursday, March 20:**  
0129 – suspicious vehicle, WB I-94/Haggerty  
0139 – suspicious vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
0140 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.  
0944 – fraud, Ecorse Rd.  
1317 – holdup alarm, Rawsonville Rd.  
1336 – mental, Rogers Ave.  
1515 – suspicious person, Ecorse Rd./Marlowe  
1600 – fraud, Sawgrass Ct.  
2121 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2142 – dumping complaint, Morton Taylor Rd. / Ecorse Rd.  
2220 – suspicious situation, Parkwood Dr.  
2306 – assault & battery, Outer Dr.

**Friday, March 21:**  
0000 – suspicious situation, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0759 – suspicious vehicle, Greenbriar Sub.  
1112 – property damage accident, Jackson St.  
1228 – private property accident, Denton Rd.  
1428 – private property accident, Industrial  
1449 – suspicious situation, DNR Boat Launch / Rawsonville Rd.  
1919 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1951 – minor in possession, Belleville Rd.  
2003 – noise complaint, Brandi  
2134 – juvenile complaint, Tyler/Morton Taylor  
2228 – noise complaint, Lacy Dr.

**Saturday, March 22:**  
0007 – disorderly conduct, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0036 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0341 – disturbance, Rebecca Ct.  
0509 – shots fired, Denton Rd.  
1107 – malicious destruction of property, Victoria  
1141 – personal injury accident, EB I-94/west of Haggerty  
1150 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. – 3N  
1242 – animal complaint, Daisy  
1347 – intimidation threat, Belleville Rd.  
1604 – retail fraud, W. Huron River Dr.  
1647 – fraud, Denton Rd.  
1735 – breaking & entering, Pine Dr.  
2305 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2316 – civil matter, Victoria St.

Also on this week’s log are 173 traffic stops, 15 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, March 16:**  
0656 – warrant arrest, Belleville  
1258 – disorderly conduct, Loza Ln.  
1747 – assist fire dept., Main St.  
1824 – larceny, Breakwater Dr.  
2226 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.

**Monday, March 17:**  
0100 – warrant arrest, Main St.  
0920 – disorderly conduct, W. Columbia Ave.  
1007 – assault & battery, Owen St.  
1202 – disorderly conduct, Loza Ln.  
1604 – traffic complaint, W. Columbia Ave. / Main St.

1610 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
2023 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.  
2150 – mental, E. Thornhill Ct.  
2359 – suspicious vehicle, Church St.

**Tuesday, March 18:**  
0131 – vehicle lockout, Carmell St.  
0147 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.  
0201 – disorderly conduct, Main St.  
1231 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.  
1448 – assault & battery, Owen St.  
1547 – missing person, N. Liberty St.  
1607 – suicide or attempt, Estrada  
2006 – welfare check, Carmell St.  
2121 – vehicle lockout, Estrada  
2200 – suspicious vehicle, Henry St.

**Wednesday, March 19:**  
0524 – intrusion alarm, S. Industrial Park Dr.  
0959 – miscellaneous complaint, Main St.  
1106 – assist fire dept., Santa Clara St.  
1245 – assist fire dept., N. Edgemont Ave.  
1327 – assist fire dept., Henry St.  
1421 – disorderly conduct, W. Columbia Ave.  
1557 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.  
1936 – welfare check, Carmell St.  
2002 – vehicle lockout, Edgemont  
2307 – suspicious situation, Main St.

**Thursday, March 20:**  
0103 – suspicious vehicle, E. Savage Rd. / Victorian Ln.  
0131 – suspicious vehicle, Main St.  
0715 – warrant arrest, Carmell St.  
0859 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Davis  
1211 – malicious destruction of property, W. Columbia Ave.  
1310 – assist fire dept., San Carlos St.  
1405 – larceny from auto, S. Edgemont Ave.  
1429 – vehicle lockout, Carmell St.  
1821 – miscellaneous complaint, Wexford Ave.  
2347 – suspicious vehicle, Tuscan Manor

**Friday, March 21:**  
0057 – suspicious situation, S. Industrial Park Dr.

1140 – follow up, Sumpter Rd.  
1423 – animal complaint, Harbour Pte.  
2031 – vehicle lockout, S. Industrial Park Dr.  
2042 – serve warrant, Breakwater Dr.

**Saturday, March 22:**  
0422 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.  
0853 – follow up, Loza Ln.  
1113 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.  
1245 – assist fire dept., Fourth St.  
1604 – neighbor trouble, Biggs Ave.  
1809 – assist citizen, W. Columbia ave.

Also on this week’s log are 36 traffic stops.

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, March 16:**  
1531 – reckless driver complaint, Rawsonville / Willis  
1754 – mental health commitment, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1816 – threats complaint, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.  
2121 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.  
2305 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

**Monday, March 17:**  
0104 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0158 – alarm, 28000 bl. Clark Rd.  
0623 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.  
1124 – well-being check, 42000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1134 – warrant arrest, 42000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1217 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1226 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1522 – ORV complaint, Pecan  
1549 – ORV complaint, Pecan  
1607 – civil dispute, 48000 bl. Timberpark  
1757 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Arkona  
1813 – 911 hangup, 21000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
1957 – runaway juvenile, Delaware  
2058 – assault, New Mexico  
2137 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

**Tuesday, March 18:**  
0803 – property damage accident, Harris/Lohr  
1749 – mental health commitment, 45000 bl. Judd  
1925 – reckless driver complaint, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2045 – shots fired, Carriage Ln.  
2130 – shots fired, Carriage Ln.  
2228 – suspicious incident, Carriage Ln.  
2358 – fire dept. assist, Nevada

**Wednesday, March 19:**  
0026 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.  
0145 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.  
0234 – suspicious incident, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.  
0954 – assist other agency, Country Club Blvd.  
1238 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.  
2041 – property damage accident, Judd/Sumpter

**Thursday, March 20:**  
1103 – well-being check, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.  
1134 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
1241 – warrant arrest, out of township  
1417 – malicious destruction of property, 50000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1425 – animal complaint, 39000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1645 – warrant arrest, out of township  
1744 – family trouble, 17000 bl. Lohr Rd.  
1924 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.

2106 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.  
2134 – harassment complaint, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.  
2243 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Country Club Blve.

**Friday, March 21:**  
0834 – larceny, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1024 – larceny, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1110 – malicious destruction of property, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1141 – fire dept. assist, 36000 bl. S. Huron Rd.  
1142 – larceny, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1224 – citizen assist, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.  
1613 – suspicious incident, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1850 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2144 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.

**Saturday, March 22:**  
0923 – animal complaint, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1143 – citizen assist, out of township  
1313 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1743 – suspicious incident, Utah  
1918 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.  
2022 – animal complaint, Bemis/Sumpter  
2300 – personal injury accident, 20000 bl. Sumpter

Also on this week’s log are five follow-up investigations, 35 miscellaneous details, 90 patrol checks, and 43 traffic stops.

## Evidence

*(continued from page 3)*

Judge Green asked VBT Det. Toney how they happened to arrest this defendant and Det. Toney told Judge Green that there was a Meijer employee involved in the identification, but they can’t locate the employee.

“Just because he was there? A lot of people were there,” said Judge Green. “Probably 100 people were there ... Without someone testifying he used the card at the front ... I have to have some evidence.”

Judge Green dismissed the charges and ordered Russ’ bond returned. She said charges could be refiled in the future.

Judge Green said all their evidence was off the video and that wouldn’t show enough.

**Jacob Soja earns business degree at Western Mich. U.**

Jacob Matthew Soja of Belleville was presented with his Bachelor of Business Administration degree during Dec. 1 graduation ceremonies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. He majored in Integrated Supply Management.

The proud parents of Jacob are Henryka and Ronald Soja of Belleville.

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## Pet of the Week

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Animals Rescue

### "DIXIE"



There's something so delightful about Dixie that she'll effortlessly capture your heart in her little paws within minutes of meeting her. She's a super sweet grey and white young kitty with a people friendly and loving personality that's irresistible. Dixie enjoys getting lots of attention and pets and will find her way into your lap to make it easier for her to get both. She'll easily become the apple of your eye before you know it! Being new to the shelter, she's not overly happy about being in a room full of other cats yet but could probably settle into a multi-cat household with a little time and patience on your part. Her smaller size gives her a dainty still kitten-like look that along with her huge green eyes puts her in the beyond adorable category. Don't miss your opportunity to meet this extra sweet kitty, call today. She's spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped.

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## Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



The Jackson Hewitt Tax Service business on Sumpter Road near the Secretary of State office is offering \$119 tax preparations on Wednesdays only with their ad offer in today's paper. The offer excludes business and self-employment returns. Offer expires April 15. Call (734) 252-2100.

\*\*\*

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\*\*\*

Lonnie's Auto Repair at 5-Points is saying goodbye to winter with special coupon offers including free mounting and balancing with new tire purchases, brakes for \$59, and 10% off labor over \$100. They'll also beat most written estimates. They're open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Call (734) 325-7065.

\*\*\*

T-N-T Tree Service in nearby Huron Township will help you get your lawn and yard cleaned up for spring. TNT has over

20 years of providing professional services including tree removal, trimming, pruning, brush removal, stump grinding, and firewood. The business is fully insured and gives senior discounts. For a free estimate call (734) 753-5800 or visit [www.tnttree.com](http://www.tnttree.com).

\*\*\*

The BAM Annual Quilt Show wraps up this Saturday at the Belleville Area Museum, located at 405 Main Street.

\*\*\*

The Bayou Grill on Main Street and the Belleville Area Council for the Arts will be providing another Alligator Kids Club make-n-take event, on Saturday, April 5, from noon to 2 p.m. To register, call (734) 697-2300.

\*\*\*

*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.*

## Birthdays

March 18 – Walter Rochowiak

March 21 – Jerry Zywicki

March 24 – Donna Sienko

March 25 – Erica Fulton, Paul Ostrowski

March 26 – **BILL OTZMAN**, Helen Zywicki,

March 30 – Joe Banotai



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## Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Throughout March** – Visit the 2014 Quilt Exhibit at the Belleville Area Museum, 405 Main Street, Belleville. Admission \$2. Museum open Tuesday, 3-7 p.m. and Wednesday-Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Information: 697-1944.

• **Thursday, March 27** – The African American Book Group meets at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library to discuss "Copper Sun" by Sharon Draper.

• **Friday, March 28** – From noon to 4 p.m. Kathleen Merecki Miller will show the Miller family quilts at the Belleville Area Museum as part of the annual quilt show that ends Saturday.

• **Friday, March 28** – You're invited to a FREE Christian movie, "The King Has Come" at 7 p.m. at the Belle Villa Mobile Home Clubhouse, 955 Sumpter Road.

• **Saturday, March 29** – This is the last day of this year's quilt show at the Belleville Area Museum. There are more than 140 quilts, old and new, to see. The museum is open noon to 4 p.m. and you can Sew on a Crank Sewing Machine with Elaine Stange and Roxann Baker.

• **Saturday, March 29** – Learn how to preserve your family's keepsakes for future generations with University of Michigan preservationist Shannon Zachary, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library.

• **Saturday, March 29** – The second-annual St. Vincent DePaul Charity Basketball Game will begin at 7 p.m., at the Belleville High School gymnasium. Players are from the Van Buren Township, City of Belleville, and Sumpter Township police and fire departments.

• **Thursday, April 3** – Join the Evening Book Group at the Belleville Area District Library at 7 p.m. to discuss "A Year by the Sea: Thoughts of an Unfinished Woman" by Joan Anderson.

## Upcoming Meetings

• Monday, March 31 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study session, 4 p.m.

• Tuesday, April 1 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, regular meeting, 7 p.m.

• Wednesday, April 2 – Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m.

• Monday, April 7 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, April 8 – Van Buren Township September Days Endowment Committee, 11 a.m. Also, VBT Local Development Financing Authority (LDFA), 2 p.m. Also, VBT Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7 p.m.

"Reality leaves a lot to the imagination."

– John Lennon



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