



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 20.14 Thursday, April 3, 2014

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Fire fighters rescue woman from Jeep-truck crash

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Rawsonville Road was blocked off for about four hours on Monday morning as fire fighters worked to free the driver of a Jeep from underneath a semi-truck where she was trapped.

Amber Malmsten, 33, from Van Buren Township was taken by University of Michigan Survival Flight to the U of M Hospital where she was listed in good condition and released on Tuesday.

VBT Police Lt. Kenneth Floro said at about 7 a.m. VBT police and fire were dispatched, along with Ypsilanti Township Fire Department and Huron Valley Ambulance, to Rawsonville Road and West Huron River Drive for a personal injury accident involving a semi-truck and a passenger vehicle.

Lt. Floro said the preliminary investigation indicates Malmsten was driving a 1997 Jeep northbound on Rawsonville Road when she struck a 1999 Kenworth semi-truck turning northbound onto Rawsonville Road from Textile Road.

The truck, loaded with 40,000 pounds of auto parts and believed to be from the Ford Rawsonville plant, was driven by Armond Gary, 52, from Rockwood, who was not injured.

Lt. Floro said upon the arrival of VBT Public Safety personnel it was determined that a lengthy extrication was required to free Malmsten from her vehicle. They used the assistance of J&T Crova Towing to lift the loaded trailer away from the Jeep, creating space for VBT and Ypsilanti Township fire fighters to safely extricate Malmsten from her vehicle.

Due to the lengthy extrication, HVA paramedics and VBFD personnel requested that she be transported by Survival Flight.

(continued on page 18)



Van Buren Township Public Safety Director Gregory Laurain, left, and VBT Fire Chief Daniel Besson were on opposing teams for Saturday night's charity basketball game to benefit St. Vincent DePaul. But, they stopped for a photo at half-time to show that after the game is over, they will again be cordial coworkers at VBT.

Flame Fighters 53
Crime Busters 38



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

It was the Crime Busters in the blue uniforms against the Flame Fighters in the red uniforms that squared off at Belleville High School on Saturday night for the second-annual charity basketball tournament to benefit St. Vincent DePaul of Belleville. The fire team won, 53-38, for the second year. Team members were from the fire and police departments in Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter. During half time, Belleville Police Cpl. Todd Schrecengost presented a plaque from the Belleville Police Officers Association to just-retired Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor, marking his almost 38 years as a police officer in the city. The unofficial total for the charity event was about \$7,300 for St. Vincent DePaul's program to help the local needy. That's up from about \$3,000 for last year's charity game. St. Vincent DePaul Belleville's total budget last year was \$35,000.

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, April 3 -- Special work/study meeting and closed-door session of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees at 4 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations for the Police Officers Labor Council (POLC) Patrol and Dispatch Unit and the Command Unit.

- 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.

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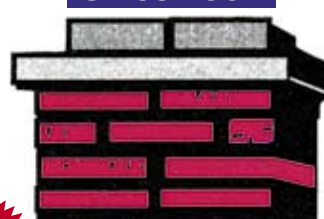
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Sumpter Twp. in best fiscal condition it has been in last 10 years

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After a public hearing on March 25, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees unanimously adopted the amended 2013-14 and the proposed 2014-15 budget.

The township's fiscal year is April 1 through March 31.

The 2013-14 general fund budget was \$4,237,740 and the 2014-15 budget is \$4,149,625.

The budgets were presented by Jim Glahn, CPA, the township's accountant and Human Resources officer, who noted the amended and proposed budgets are balanced.

He thanked the township board for their continued insistence that Sumpter Township be fiscally prudent, adding it is very important to Supervisor Johnny Vawters.

He said when this board was first elected the township finances were not in the best shape and they had 11 bonds.

He said after this year, there will be two remaining bonds and the township balance sheet will be in the best condition it has been in the last ten years.

Glahn said the revenue increased slightly for the year due to the sale of a couple of township properties (Medical Center and PNA Hall) and there was \$200,000 more from the landfill royalties.

He said there were expenditure savings due to the assessing firm the township hired. Also the township is saving \$175,000 per year by using Huron Township to dispatch Sumpter's police and fire.

In the past the fund balance was down to \$354,000, but it is expected to be up to \$925,000 at the end of 2014-15 fiscal year, he said.

Glahn said the utility costs of the township exploded due to the weather and they are expending \$113,000 for sirens that they will get back in a grant.

The landfill royalties went up by \$185,000 this year to \$1,613,151.

This coming year is the first time ever the township will not have to supplement the water fund with landfill royalties, he said.

"That is quite an accomplishment," he said, adding that Sybil Buchanan and Deputy Treasurer Karen Armatis are working on collections and making sure people get help to set up payments before it gets to a crisis point.

He said the new supervisor in the water department has done a super job and the new engineer is great. He said they allowed Sumpter Township to pay off bonds that were payable.

He said the Fire Fund received \$106,312 from the state for dispatch consolidation and the township has to report to the state

how that's proceeding.

Also in 2014, the fire department ordered a pumper tanker and had a down payment of \$250,000. They have three payments of \$52,000 before it's paid off.

Glahn said things in the fire department are being updated and improved. He said they have to keep a close eye on "our fiscal house" because going forward they'll have to be setting money aside to buy the next piece of equipment that will be needed.

Glahn said in 2008 and 2009 the township had to make substantial cuts. The royalty payments were coming down and for two years after the cuts, the royalties continued to go down.

He said there have been some increases in royalties over the past two years.

"We've shown we can continue our township," Glahn said, adding that he thanked everyone for their cooperation during the hard times.

Township attorney Rob Young said over the last year there has been a lot of change in the fire department, with modernization of equipment and training.

"Now that's behind us. Are we going to settle in?" he asked.

Glahn said in 2015 the fire millage expires and it passed without a problem before, but by a lower number.

He said the fire department operates on \$350,000 in tax revenue and some other revenue.

"Now that we have a union, wages have increased," Glahn said. "In five to six years from now, when it's time to get another piece of equipment, we should have \$250,000 to put down and payments of not so much money."

Attorney Young said the increased compliance with requirements is important.

"We had to pay \$8,000 dues to HazMat because we don't have a fire department employee who can represent Sumpter on the team, Glahn said.

(Later, Fire Chief Joseph Januszyk explained that a newly hired fire fighter has the certifications for the Urban Search & Rescue team. The dues for the HazMat group regularly are \$5,000, but the Sumpter Fire Department was assessed \$3,000 more because it didn't have the US&R employee required. The \$8,000 figure is misleading, he said.)

"We've buried our head in the sand for a while and then we comply," Young said, adding things should settle down now.

Trustee Peggy Morgan, the board liaison to the fire department, said the department is getting someone to serve on the team. She said the police millage also is coming up. She said if these millage questions are held when nothing else is on the ballot it

could be problem because voters may not come out.

Young said they should avoid spending money for a special election. He said he believes the millage runs through 2015, so there wouldn't have to be an election until 2016.

Young said the township's policy is to have outstanding water bills collected.

"If anybody is taking water they shouldn't be, they are charged," Young said.

Sumpter buys dress uniforms for fire fighters for \$7,825.18

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on March 25 the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to purchase \$7,825.18 worth of Class A uniforms for the fire department.

The uniform purchase is in the fire department's new union contract. The purchase includes 24 blue and eight white shirt uniforms.

In a related matter, the board approved the hiring of Nathan Cornwall of Huron Township as an on-call fire fighter. Cornwall carries certifications needed to represent the township on the HazMat Urban Search and Rescue team. The township was penalized \$3,000 for not having a US&R representative.

Also, Fire Chief Joseph Januszyk said he has found a defibrillator at \$1,295 for the senior center, but he is checking further with HVA to see if he can get a better price.

In other business at its March 25 meeting, the board:

- Approved the 2014-15 township insurance coverage by Burnham & Flower for \$123,307, up from last year's figure of \$120,635;

- Approved a fireworks display by Great Lakes Fireworks at the Sumpter Country Festival on May 25, with a rain date of May 26;

- Approved purchasing five digital dash cams for police vehicles from Digital Ally at a cost of \$8,415. Police Captain Eric Luke explained that because of the lapel cameras the police now wear they are able to update the old dash cams with models that have fewer "bells and whistles" and therefore are less expensive. The present dash cams are 10 years old and starting to fail. Burnham and Flower Insurance gave a grant to the police for their wearable cameras;

- Approved a resolution to get the \$20,000

Glahn said the township was paying more for water to the Detroit Water Board than it was billing out. He said they found a leak or persons taking water.

Mary Ban asked from the audience about how much the sale of the PNA Hall brought and Glahn said the agreement was for \$175,000. There was a \$48,900 down payment and then payments of \$500 a month.

approved last July by Wayne County for a parks grant;

- Heard a report on representatives of the Belleville Area District Library Board coming to meet with township officials earlier that day to discuss a lease for part of the community center for a satellite library if the millage passes in August. Board members approved having officials negotiate a lease and to verify the figures presented for the upgrades. The library would like a lease agreement by May. Mary Ban asked how much in library tax Sumpter taxpayers send to the library and she was told \$201,000;

- Heard a report from Police Det. John Toth on work he has been doing to modify the medical marijuana ordinance to make it more suitable for the township. He said he is adding suggested changes from the building department on zoning. He told of an unregistered marijuana grower outside the scope of state law that needed an immunity agreement so the township could get his testimony in an attempted-murder trial. He said this case cost the Sumpter police, the Michigan State Police, the U.S. Marshalls, and Oklahoma narcotics officers a lot of time and money. All this was caused by "another marijuana grower not following the rules," Toth said;

- Heard Young announce that there is a new revenue-enhancing program in the police department, suggested by Det. Toth. The department will be running its own forfeitures with the funds going to Sumpter for police operations instead of to the Wayne County Prosecutor's office; and

- Was reminded the Children's Easter Party will start at noon on Saturday, April 12 at Graham Park. The Easter Bunny is expected to attend.

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OPINIONS

Editorial

When board members disagree

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees there was a half-hour disagreement on whether to put the job description for a part-time Human Resources employee on that night's agenda for a vote.

Well, it was on the agenda and there already is a part-time HR person on the job, but at the end of Monday's work/study session, board members present agreed to take it off Tuesday's agenda for more discussion.

But, overnight, Clark Wright decided he wanted the HR job description passed now, so they could get on with hiring a person. (The present person is through an agency.) A HR person was his idea and he's been pushing it for years.

Trustee Jeff Jahr was in Florida on Monday and so he didn't have a chance to give his suggestions for the proposed job description. Trustee Miller thought it was too broad and needed more work. Treasurer Budd wanted to make sure the board was in charge of the HR person. Trustee Phil Hart, who also was absent Monday, had questions about it, too.

"We're giving the impression we have a divisive board," Jahr said. Finally in a 4-2 vote (Trustee McClanahan was absent) the item was removed from the agenda and the meeting got started.

It may be frustrating to board members to face disagreement, but it's really healthy to see. There have been days at VBT when all board members agreed on everything. Not good. This is healthy.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

It's been announced that the judges of the 34th District Court are being asked to be the Grand Marshals for the Sumpter Township Country Fest Parade on Saturday, May 24. Jim and Joanne Posegay will be the Honored Citizens. The theme is "United We Stand."

I understand retired Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor has filed for an appeal with the Belleville Civil Service Commission since he received a letter from the city saying he would have to pay 20% of the health insurance premium for his coverage in retirement.

You may remember retired DPW Director Keith Boc also filed an appeal on this same matter and was granted free health care in retirement by the CSC members in February.

At issue is the written CSC rules that say retirees get free health insurance. The CSC rules should have been changed when the city negotiated changes with its unions, but it has not been changed. The employees are assuming the written rules are in force since they haven't been officially changed.

Some people tell me the city officials want to get rid of the Civil Service Commission and plan to fight the CSC in court. The Civil Service Commission is a part of the city charter, approved by the voters in 1982.

Bob Jacobs is having a going-out-of-business sale for the next month at Jacobs Boots & Saddles on Quirk Road. The property has been sold, with the official real estate closing held last Friday. The property is located between the fairgrounds



on Quirk and the hotels on the North I-94 Service Drive. He said he'll be in there until the end of May, but on June 1 he will be history.

Speaking of history, Bob said his grandfather Julius Jacobs bought the farm from Ford in 1947. We'll have a complete report on the history of the Jacobs' property in an upcoming edition.

Our office manager Jackie Garner is recuperating at home following March 27 surgery at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn. Filling in for her has been Lee Herrmann, who took time off from her volunteer work at September Days Senior Center to help us out. Thank you, Lee.

Toby Leis of CAL Plumbing and his apprentice plumber Caleb Windiate were on their way to a job when near the Meijer entrance on Tyler Road, just east of Belleville Road, they saw a big box in the roadway that apparently had fallen off a delivery truck.

The box was full of small boxes that contained gaskets or something and they were scattered all over one lane of the road. Toby said they stopped, put on their flashers, and got out to collect the boxes. A 17- or 18-year-old young man stopped his van behind them and helped pick up the small boxes.

Toby said the address on the box was

O'Reilly's on Haggerty Road, so the young man went on his way and he and Caleb took the boxes to O'Reilly's on Haggerty.

They delivered them and were thanked profusely by those at O'Reilly's. Then, they each received a letter of thanks and each was given a \$25 gift certificate from O'Reilly's.

That brightly colored Michigan license plate, that looks like it's from Florida, has won a worldwide prize.


The Automobile License Plate Collectors Association has overwhelmingly voted Michigan's Mackinac Bridge license plate as the world's best new plate.

The plate, first issued last August, features the bridge against a sunrise sky. There is a one-time cost of \$5 for the plate. It was designed by Brian Whitfield a MDOT employee. More than 112,000 have been sold.

This is the second time in the contest's history that Michigan has been honored for the best plate award. In 1976, the state's red, white, and blue bicentennial plate earned best new plate honors.

There are those who say the numbers on the bright plate are harder to read than the other plates. What do you think?





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Letters

Grand reopening coming soon at Brown's

To the Editor:

The staff and management of David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville would like to thank the community for your trust in us during the 32 years we have been in business on East Huron River Drive.

As you probably know, we had a fire in our building on Aug. 5, 2012, and have been operating from a temporary location – the former Katherine Rose flower shop located across the street. We have been in the process of rebuilding for a long time now. Davenport Brothers Construction has been very busy in recent months with the process of putting our funeral home back together for us.

Although the exterior of our building will look much like it did before the fire, there will be several changes inside the building. Some rooms have been added to the floor plan, and others have been reconfigured to better serve the families we care for.

We hope to be back in our funeral home by the end of May serving our clients in a “new and improved” facility. A grand reopening will be announced soon.

Thank you for your understanding during this time of reconstruction.

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awarded Monday, May 5, at the Belleville City Council meeting.

Information and rules are available on the application or by calling the Belleville Area Council for the Arts, BACA at (734) 697-8123.

Becky Hasen, Corresponding Secretary
Belleville Area Council for the Arts



Photo courtesy Marian Caldwell

The Van Buren Eagles had a party March 22 built around the theme of the Titanic, as presented by Keith and Ginger Bruder. Guests dressed in costumes from the year 1912, and came as wealthy passengers as well as steerage class. Gary Marshall of VBT played T.W. McCawley, who encouraged passengers to exercise in the ship's well-equipped gym.

Titanic event was wonderful evening

To the Editor:

I would like to thank everyone involved in the Titanic event at the Van Buren Eagles on March 22. It was an all-around wonderful evening.

Gary J. Marshall
Van Buren Township

Coming soon: Join in the Hares on the Square

To the Editor:

Don't be left out – Hares on the Square will soon be here!

Join Peter, Bugs, Roger, Jessica and all their bunny friends as they hop on over to Fourth Street Square for Hares on the Square.

Applications and “Hare Cages” are still available for just a \$10 entry fee at Michigan PC Tech, 397 Main St., Suite 3 (located in back of the Country Cleaners and One Stop Hydro Shop, building) until Friday, April 4.

Completed Hares with application should be returned to Belleville City Hall between Tuesday, April 8, and Friday, April 11, for their arrival in Fourth Street Square beginning Monday, April 14. Prizes will be

Really Confused! More on library plans

To the Editor:

On the one hand we have a BADL [Belleville Area District Library Board] pushing for a debacle on the north side of Belleville Bridge stating this was the most ideal location for a new library.

(continued on page 8)

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Koscielny, Twitchell earn Volunteer Awards

Sixty-three Airport Ambassadors at Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) were honored with the President's Volunteer Service Award at a banquet luncheon held March 27 at DTW's Westin Hotel.

One Ambassador received a gold-level award for the first time in the history of the program. Bob FitzGerald of Westland volunteered for 585.75 hours during 2013 to earn the gold award.

Earning bronze-level awards were two Belleville residents: Thomas Koscielny with 213.5 volunteer hours of service and Patricia Twitchell with 161.5 hours.

The President of the United States issues the award every year to volunteers as a way to thank and honor Americans for their volunteer service.

"The level of commitment demonstrated by our Airport Ambassadors is tremendous. We are extremely proud of all of our volunteers for the extraordinary service they provide to the travelers at the airport, many of whom are arriving into Detroit for the first time," said Airport Authority CEO Tom Naughton.

DTW Airport Ambassadors provide customer service at five locations throughout the airport in both terminals. Ambassadors can be identified by their blue vest or blue polo shirt answering questions, or helping connect lost and stranded passengers with their families.



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Obituaries



Charlotte Joan Nichols

CHARLOTTE J. NICHOLS

(September 2, 1943 - March 26, 2014)
Charlotte Joan Nichols, age 70, of Belleville, MI, passed away Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at Evangelical Home-Saline, MI. She was born September 2, 1943 in Darby, Pennsylvania, daughter of William Walker and Kathleen Edna (Waugh) Aldinger.

Char was a member of the Retired Teachers Association and worked in Wayne/Westland School District for 34 years before retiring. She was also a member of the Belleville First United Methodist Church, the former Belleville Business and Professional Women-now Belleville Area Women's Club and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary. She also loved bowling. She is survived by her loving husband Donald Lee Nichols, Sr.; three step-children Donald Nichols, Jr. of Wayne, MI, Pamela of Dearborn, MI and David Lynn Nichols of Wayne, MI; 8 grandchildren including David Lynn Jr. and Haley Korotney; a sister Kathleen (William) Adams of Jonesville, MI; four brothers Robert (Martha) Aldinger of Hendersonville, North Carolina, Richard (Lovi) Aldinger of Toledo, Ohio, William (Barbara) Aldinger of Westland, MI and Ralph (Sue) Aldinger of Bullhead City, Arizona; also numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Char was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents Jacob Gochenour and Anna Catherine (Walker) Aldinger, her maternal grandparents Robert S. and Ina (Harpur) Waugh, and her parents William and Kathleen (Waugh) Aldinger.

A memorial service is being planned for the beginning of May 2014 and will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Christian Education Fund at Belleville First United Methodist Church and would be greatly appreciated by the family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to cherish.



Gary R. Trosin

GARY R. TROSIN

(October 27, 1942 - March 24, 2014)
Gary R. Trosin, age 71, was called to his Heavenly Home on March 24, 2014 from a heart attack at St. Mary's Hospital. He formerly was a resident of Linda Vista Ct. in Van Buren Township, but moved a couple of years ago.

He was the beloved husband of Gail for 16 years. Loving father of Jeff, Rick (Cindy) Zanavich, Cheryl (the late Kevin) Crowe, Lisa (Shane) Quinn, Toni Brandon, Michael (Pamela) Rock and Maria (Fred) Mumper. Dear grandfather of many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Loving brother of Ronald Trosin and Diane (Joe) Szufnar.

Visitation was 2-8 p.m. Friday, March 28, with the funeral service Saturday, March 29, at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 N. Inkster Rd., Garden City. A luncheon at St. Matthew Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall followed the service.



MOAS 'BOB' SEAY

(February 15, 1936 - March 26, 2014)
Age 78, of Belleville. Survived by five children, 14 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and six brothers and sisters. Service was Saturday. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.



MARCELLA N. BIALACH

Marcella N. Bialach, age 87, of Romulus, died March 28, 2014. Beloved Wife of the late Edward. Loving mother of Stanley (Charlene), Edward (Hilde) and Marilyn (Robert) Taylor. Dearest grandmother of 11 and great grandmother of 9. Dear sister of George (Elsie), Albert (Pauline) and Frank (Carina) Ostrowski. She was preceded in death by her parents Albert and Frances Ostrowski, her brother Casmer (Helen) Ostrowski and her sister Isabel (Walter) Wilson.

Funeral service was Monday, March 31, at 11:00 AM, Instate 10:30 AM, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Romulus. Visitation was Tuesday, 1:00-8:00 PM at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Interment in Michigan Memorial Park. Donation may be made to: Cornerstone Community Outreach.

www.ccolife.org/Donate.

www.mimemorial.com

DEVAUN CHARLES BURNETTE

Age 81 of Van Buren Township, died March 28, 2014. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 3, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Ypsilanti Ward. Burial in Alban Cemetery. Arrangements by Janowiak Funeral Home.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection set at WCCC on May 3

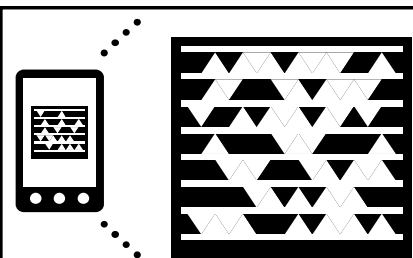
On Saturday, May 3, residents of Wayne County are invited to bring their Household Hazardous Waste to Wayne County Community College District, Western Campus, at 9555 Haggerty Road in Van Buren Township.

The collection, sponsored by Wayne County Department of Public Services, will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Acceptable items to bring include household paints, stains, dyes, floor wax, carpet cleaners, garden chemicals, nail polish, glue, fire extinguishers, florescent light bulbs, and mercury thermometers.

Electronics can be recycled, as well, including TVs, cell phones, fax machines, copiers, computer CPUs, monitors, printers, scanners, keyboards and mice.

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More Letters

(continued from page 5)

Then Joy Cichewicz states in her presentation to the Sumpter Board, that "The satellite library would be put in the classrooms at the community center formerly occupied by Head Start, plus an additional classroom across the hall. I think this is a wonderful location for a library," and began noting a lot of libraries are now being put in strip malls and former schools. She said studies have shown they are more likely to be used if they are in busy areas and sharing the facility will save costs.

Wow! This is fantastic! Then why is the library board so adamant about the DNR property and the fishing pier? Studies show that the proper location is next to Davenport's new strip mall! Maybe they should do as the high school did and build on the same site! Maybe they should have used Elwell School or Haggerty School.

Why is the library duplicating services? "...She pointed out a big screen TV for a monitor to the computer classes they will have." I'm confused as we are teaching computers in the elementary, middle schools, and just spent over \$5 million dollars in procuring the latest computer technology for Belleville High School. Computer classes are also taught at the Van Buren Township Senior Center and at Wayne County Community College.

Why does the public have to be (as stated in previous articles) sold on the idea of a new library? Why does the public have to be instructed in the many features of a new library? Why doesn't the library be a library and not a CIVIC CENTER? Why get involved with a dictatorial state agency that has this BADL, the Van Buren Township, and the City of Belleville constantly jumping through hoops? One less bureaucratic agency to deal with, the better.

Why weren't the leaks or roof fixed when needed? This is termed "MAINTENANCE!" Then the BADL wrings its hands and points with dismay at the "...leaky conditions." Well, it may be time to wring out the towels and empty the buckets.

Why the vote on this bond issue in August when voter turnout will be the lightest? Aha! Tactics at its ultimate. If you are going to be out of town during election time GET AN ABSENTEE BALLOT at the City or Township Hall. When one peruses all of the past articles -- accurately

reported -- one has to wonder just what is going on here.

When some letter writers refer to the "... free use of books or DVDs or computers..." I would remind them that nothing is free! Maybe they did not pay for the material, but someone did; otherwise these items would not have been there then nor would they now be available. It's nice that there was an admission that "...I think that it is taxpayer money well-spent." Finally an admission that this is taxpayer money and no matter what agency, grant or source of dollars be it DDA, townships, cities, counties, state or federal, EVERY freebee was paid for by ***The Taxpayer!***

Oh yes, the Thomas Jefferson quote was very apropos for he really hit the nail on the head "...nothing would do more extensive good ***AT SMALL EXPENSE*** than the establishment of a ***SMALL*** circulating library in every county." The key word here is "circulating" not the Guggenheim. The capitalization, italics, and underline are mine and we do have the circulating library in the lap-tops, i-Phones, Kindles, and myriad of portable readers and school and individual libraries (just as he had at Monticello). He kept an eye on his dream of The University of Virginia through the hole cut in the shrubbery at the livery house. He curled up (his entire 6'2" frame) on a closet shelf to read so he could go from one room to the next when called upon. No he did not languish in front of the fire or the windows overlooking his beloved Monticello. He longed for a higher educated populace since there was over a 90% literacy rate including the free, indentured, and slaves. And it was Thomas Jefferson who wrote in a letter to Samuel Kercheval, July 12, 1816, "We must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt."

And by the way, for the overpass over Belleville Road, I refer you to *Belleville Area Independent* January 9, 2014 "Pedestrian crossing. Whistler discussed the possibility of a pedestrian crossing across Belleville Road by the satellite parking lot on the Spencer property. We can get funding from the DDA ..." - not as one letter indicated and referenced to the existing I-94 pedestrian crossing.

VOTE NO.
Cornell Anton, Jr.
City of Belleville

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Clubs, Organizations: We need your help

To the Editor:

The Belleville Area Museum is looking for historical information on tri-community, current and defunct, clubs and organizations for our upcoming exhibit in May 2014.

Any and all ephemera are welcome -- handbooks, ledgers, pictures, favors, etc. ... anything that would be helpful to tell the story of your club/organization.

Volunteers are welcome to create their own storyboard and/or exhibit panel that would represent the origins of your group, the makeup or structure of it, rules / regulations, dues, and anything else you would like to include. Please contact the museum for more information.

Clubs and organizations include (but are not limited to): Astral Rebekah Lodge #250, Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, Belleville Area Council for the Arts, Belleville Area Garden Club, Belleville Area Music Committee, Belleville Area Senior Citizens Club, Belleville Automobile Club, Belleville Business and Professional Women, Belleville Community Chorus, Belleville Grange (formed 1874), Belleville Lake Water Ski Club, Belleville Lions Club, Belleville Merchants Baseball Team, Belleville Rotary, Belleville Yacht Club, Boys and Girls Club, Belleville Planning Commission, Central Business Community, Cornet Band, Eagles, Retired

Activity Club, Friends of the BADL, Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue, Girlstown, Goodfellows, Guiding Harbor, Huron Valley Conservation, Jaycees, Kitchen Belles Band, Kiwanis, Knights of the Modern Maccaabees, Masonic Temple (Masons), Moose, The Number, Oddfellows, Order of the Eastern Star -- Women's Auxiliary of Masons, September Days, Sumpter Progressive League, Sumpter Senior Center, Tri-Community Optimist Club, Van Buren Civic Fund, Van Buren Garden Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Vietnam Veterans of Americans, Women's Study Group. If your group is not listed please tell us.

The museum is located at 405 Main Street in beautiful downtown Belleville at the historic old Van Buren Township Hall. Our spring hours will begin April 7: Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m.; Monday and Wednesday through Friday noon-4 p.m.

Thank you.
Katie Dallos, Museum Director
(734) 697-1944

U of Detroit Mercy honors Sheila Putnam of Belleville

Sheila Putnam, a senior from Belleville attending University of Detroit Mercy, was recently recognized at the University's Honors Convocation for academic excellence in the College of Engineering and Science.

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor, at right, was honored with a plaque on his retirement after 37 years of service at a city council meeting. He was on duty through March 28. Three mayors were present to honor his service. From left are former Mayor Tom Fielder, former Mayor Richard Smith, and current Mayor Kerreen Conley. Mayor Conley baked him a special cake that was shared with those who came to honor him.

Visitors to council meeting praise work of retiring police chief

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Sumpter Township Police Sgt. Chris McGlynn was among those present at the March 17 regular Belleville City Council meeting to praise the work of retiring Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor.

It was Chief Taylor's last council meeting and he received a plaque, a cake, and accolades from anyone who wanted to speak from the council table or the audience.

Sgt. McGlynn said there is great gratitude in Sumpter Township for what Chief Taylor has done every summer.

He said Chief Taylor cleans up the memorial at Graham Park each year and makes sure the flowers look good. Sgt. McGlynn said he and the whole police department appreciate the work.

Chief Taylor used to play basketball with Sumpter Police Officer Roy Graham, who was killed on the job in 1985 while responding to an "officer down" call from a Van Buren Township police officer. Taylor tends the memorial to his friend.

Mary Talaga, who has been a crossing guard for more than 50 years, said she will miss him "deeply, deeply." Over the years he has checked on her welfare at home and at her crossing site.

Hal Berriman, a former Belleville police chief who will fill in as interim chief after Taylor leaves, said Taylor was a hard-headed union representative when Berriman was chief. And now that Taylor is chief, Berriman said Taylor told him, "That union's driving me crazy."

"There's nothing bad I could say about Gene," Berriman said. "Gene was one of the best."

Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria talked about "Gene and his big heart."

"If you needed \$20 and he only had \$10," Loria said. "He'd give you his \$10 and then go out and get the other \$10 for you."

Mayor Kerreen Conley said in the dictionary Taylor's picture should be where it says "fair."

"He treats everybody the same," she said, no matter what position that person holds. "Everybody is treated with respect and fairly."

Councilwoman Kim Tindall said there are many things she and Taylor don't agree on, but, "You can disagree and still get along. You're somebody I still consider a friend."

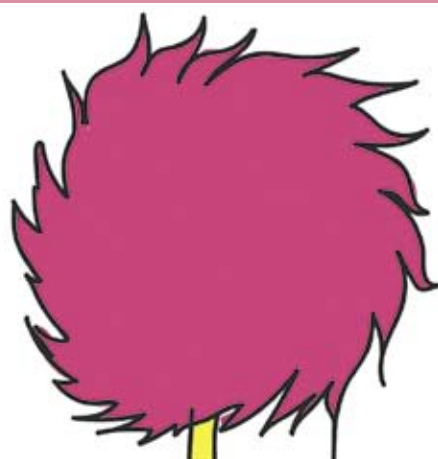
Former Councilman Brian Blackburn said Taylor has been a role model for his special-needs daughter.

"You meant a lot to her," Blackburn said.

"You can tell from the people here and in the community you are highly respected," Mayor Conley said to Taylor. "You have always given from the heart and we will miss you."

Sumpter Police Chief Jim Pierce said he has spent 40 years in police work and the highest thing you can say about a person is, "He's honest and he's true."

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Members of the Varsity basketball team at St. Anthony Catholic Church are, from left in front, Cameron Johnson, Matthew DeMolen, Luke Jacobs, and Caden Courter. In back, from left, are Coach Robert Gurney, Brendan Simpson, Kyle Gurney, Cody Kanclerz, and Sean Quinn.



Members of the Junior Varsity basketball team at St. Anthony Catholic Church are, from left in front, Amanda Olivero, Joseph Zywicki, Matthew Donovan, James Caden, and Collin Attard. In back, from left, are Michael Olivero, Jack Winter, Brock Rhodes, Jacob Gorman, Conner Simpson, Michael Oxender, and Coach Mike Pellecchia. Not pictured is Ahmad Samaha.

St. Anthony youth basketball teams capture district championships

St. Anthony Catholic Church's youth basketball teams celebrated their successful 2013-14 seasons with a ceremony followed by a pizza party March 25 in the St. Anthony gymnasium.

The players received their winning plaques. Banners will be hung in the gym to commemorate the wins.

A special "John May" award was given to Cody Kanclerz for outstanding scholastic and athletic abilities.

The varsity team captured the district title with a 10-0 win under Coach Robert Gurney. The team is comprised of boys in the seventh and eighth grades.

Although there is no longer a St. Anthony School, these youngsters competed with other catholic schools in the Detroit area in the CYO division.

The junior varsity fourth and fifth graders placed first in their district with an 8-2 win. Mike Pellecchia is their coach.

This is a totally volunteer program under athletic director Leonard Szweda and sponsored solely by St. Anthony's Men's Club, who provided the pizza at the celebration.

-- Marge Pellecchia

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Library OKs resolution to DNR, postpones millage decision

By Rosemary K. Otzman

Independent Editor

The Belleville Area District Library Board had a packed meeting room for its special meeting on March 26 during which it had hoped to make a decision on how much millage it will take to operate the proposed new library on the DNR property on Belleville Lake.

The information for the board to study was passed out the night of the meeting and board members protested that they didn't have enough time to study the documents.

Also, two members were absent: Christina Brasil, who was ill, and John Juriga, who was out of state.

So, a motion was passed unanimously to table the millage question until the April 8 regular meeting.

The time schedule to put the two library millage questions on the August ballot has called for the ballot language to be approved at the April 8 meeting, but board members said it could be approved at a special meeting in April to meet time constraints.

The decision to put a bond issue of \$19.05 million for 20 years with a millage of 1.08 mill for the first year and 0.96 mill average for the remaining years was decided at the March 11 meeting.

But information on the operational millage to seek was not ready because Library Deputy Director Mary Jo Suchy was ill.

At the March 26 special meeting Suchy gave a lengthy presentation on the details that led to the three millage amounts she proposed, which depended on how much service they would offer to the community.

Each option is built on the present .7 mill taxpayers approved for 20 years to operate the present library.

- Option A – 1.5 mill (.8 increase) which would bring a total of \$1,835,338 to the operating budget;

- Option B – 1.6 mill (.9 increase) which would bring a total of \$1,957,694 to the operating budget; and

- Option C – 1.7 mill (1 mill increase) which would bring a total of \$2,080,050 to the operating budget.

The plan is for the library board to decide at the next meeting which option to put on

the ballot.

Suchy said all of the options will have the main library open seven days a week with expanded hours. Twenty-eight hours a week are planned for the Sumpter branch.

They will double the number of books, increase programming, do community outreach and offer teen activities, Suchy said.

She said the Belleville library no longer will be in the "per-capita lower quartile of libraries in the state" and, "We will continue our friendly and personal service.

"We've never done a branch before," said Library Director Deb Green. She said the number of hours open and the staff there depends on how much the Sumpter branch is used. She said they will attempt to have two people in the building at all times in Sumpter Township.

Suchy said financial consultant Ron Traskos has been working with them on the revenue needed. (At the last meeting, Green said Suchy was doing it all and knew their numbers better than their consultant.)

Traskos said they expect a half percent of increase in revenue and they have built in some cushion on the revenue side. He said the 65% of the budget used for salary and benefits was notched up a few years, so there's a cushion there.

"This is based on the digging and cross-checking we've done," Traskos said.

Suchy said the Downtown Development Authorities capture 9.1% of the tax.

"It's good to get a speeding ticket in Belleville, Van Buren, Sumpter Township," said Green. "We get a small amount. It's called penal fines. The last couple of years it's been kind of low."

"If you get a speeding ticket, you're doing your civic duty," Suchy joked.

Green said the fines for overweight trucks also help the penal fines total.

Architect Dan Whisler said they can expect the number of library cardholders to go up with expanded services.

"You're going to vote on this?" asked John Delaney from the audience and Board President Mary Jane Dawson said she didn't know. There would have to be a motion.

"I heard a board member say there is a lot

to absorb," Delaney said. "... If you get no millage this is a moot point ... what's going to happen if a millage doesn't pass? I don't see a parachute."

Dawson said if voters pass the bond/millage for construction and not the millage for operation, they would try again for the operational millage at another election.

"When I voted for .7 mill I never thought it would be spent on architects and lawyers and consultants," Delaney said, adding he hasn't seen any upgrades to the present library.

"That is not a good location at all," Delaney said referring to the DNR property at the curve on Belleville Road. "It's a public safety issue.

"I'd like to see things improved here," Delaney said.

Dawson asked him if he knew about the district library agreement that required the board to attempt to build a library.

"When are you going to allow the meeting to continue?" asked David Wilson from the audience.

Delaney said he hadn't been to the meetings and he had to catch up.

Barbara Miller asked from the audience if the board had a agreement with the DNR on that property?

Board attorney John Day said the budget being discussed is to operate a library and the DNR site is the site they are hoping to use.

Day said if the bond passes, the board

has the ability to find a site and build. The budget is established to spend money to build a building, he said, and they have tried to get land control – and they do have land control of the Spencer property next to the DNR site.

"But, Dan, aren't you asking us to vote on your idea of this building?" Miller asked architect Whisler.

Whisler replied that the vote will be for a certain size library based on assumptions, but the ballot language won't be specific as to site.

Miller said the only site they've talked about since October is the DNR site.

"It doesn't matter if we don't have agreement with the DNR," Miller added.

Sumpter Township Trustee Alan Bates asked what would happen if the bond fails and the operational millage passes?

"If we passed the millage and not the bond ... the board would not have the obligation to levy the millage," said Day. "They would come back in 2015 and try again."

Architect Whisler said the board could choose to levy a fraction of the millage to increase services.

Don Houtakker said from the audience, "If the library board has the authority to levy some of the mills, it could be a very well-appointed library."

Houtakker asked about other Class V

(Continued on page 13)

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Library Board

(continued from page 12)

libraries as far as salaries and benefits.

Whisler said Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor are unionized and have higher salaries. "That's a bigger factor in this than anything else," he said.

Whisler said if the bond issue fails, the earliest they could come back and ask voters again would be February 2015. If the operating mills fail in August, they would have a week to get it on the November ballot for another try.

DNR Resolution

The board unanimously passed the Resolution to Approve Purchase and Terms for Acquisition of the DNR Property as presented by attorney Day.

He said he had made many changes to the draft that they had requested at the last meeting.

Miller asked for a change to paragraph 11 to add the word "solely" so it reads: "WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will be **solely** responsible for paying the cost of designing and constructing the fishing facilities and related improvements on the site as provided for in the development plan..."

After the resolution was passed, Miller spoke to the crowd, thanking all the citizens who attended, since it makes a better discussion. She reminded them at the 7 p.m., April 8 meeting the board proposes to pass the bond and operational millage language for the August primary election.

Court Watching:

Steven Shields bound over for fleeing VBT, MSP officers

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

When the first witness was called for a preliminary exam for Steven Von Shields, 40, on his charge of fleeing from police vehicles, third-degree, Shields spoke up.

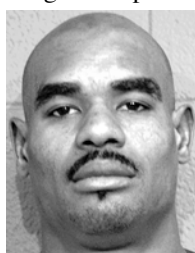
Van Buren Township Officer David Champagne was getting to his feet to go to the witness stand at 34th District Court when Shields began talking.

"I'd like to invoke my rights to waive this exam," Shields said, rising from his chair next to his court-appointed attorney David Lankford.

"It's news to me," Lankford said after a shocked silence, with several in the courtroom, including Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green, stating they've never seen Lankford at a loss for words before.

At the March 26 hearing, Judge Green said she would waive the probable-cause hearing as requested and bind Shields over to circuit court at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit for an arraignment on the information at 9 a.m. April 2.

Shields then asked the location of the vehicle that was taken from him at his



Steven Shields

arrest, "Fees go up every day, you know."

The Michigan State Police Trooper, who was supposed to be the second witness in the preliminary exam, said when he arrested Shields in the area of I-94 and I-96 the car was towed. He said those at the Oak Park MSP Post could tell him where it was.

Shields said he's been calling all over and the MSP in Oak Park didn't know where it was. He said he was told it was at Gosh Towing, but he can't find it.

Van Buren Township Det. Ken Toney said it should be "Goch & Sons Towing" on Oakwood in Detroit.

Judge Green looked it up on the internet and got a phone number and address for Shields.

"The guy wants his car," Shields explained.

Det. Toney apologized for misspelling the name of the towing firm.

Shield's bond of \$25,000 or 10% was continued.

Police said on March 18 Officer Champagne tried to make a traffic stop on the South I-94 Service drive in VBT, but Shields wouldn't stop and fled onto the freeway. Officer Champagne chased him on I-94 until told to stop by his supervisor. That's when Michigan State Police took over. MSP chased Shields to I-96 where he crashed and was arrested.

Shields had been on probation and is also being held on a probation violation. He has a history of arrests for carjackings and assault with intent to rob while armed.

Court Watching:

21-month-old drug case reduced to possession for habitual offender

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Michael Lee Smith, Jr., 24, was arrested by Van Buren Township Police Officer Derek Perez in June of 2012 on drug charges. But, since then he has spent seven months in the Macomb County Jail on other charges.

In court records he is labeled a repeat offender.

At his scheduled preliminary exam on March 26 at 34th District Court, he

took advantage of a plea deal. His two felony charges of controlled substance/delivery of marijuana were reduced to two misdemeanors of possession of marijuana.

Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green asked him if in June 2012 he was in Van Buren Township and was in possession of marijuana times two and he said he was. The total court fees were \$925.

Smith had paid 10% of his \$5,000 bond on the charges and Judge Green said \$450 of that would be returned to him and he could use that to help pay his fees.

Brian David Copsey

Brian David Copsey pled no contest to a charge of malicious destruction of property in the City of Belleville. His fines totaled \$580 and Judge Green said if he did not reoffend in the next year the charge would be removed from his record.

Belleville Police said Copsey had let the air out of the tires of a resident on Liberty Street with whom he had an ongoing feud.

Court Watching:

Brummette sentenced to 9 years in federal prison on Denton gun charge

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On March 19, U.S. District Court Judge Denise Page Hood sentenced Sheldon Willie-Earl Brummette to 108 months in federal prison (9 years) plus 3 years of supervised release.

Brummette, 28, (a.k.a. Famo) was the man who pled guilty to purchasing a stolen gun from Thomas Michael Johnson, 52, from the Denton subdivision home invasions in Van Buren Township during the winter of 2011-12.

They both were charged with receiving and concealing stolen property. Surveillance and police investigations by the VBT Special Investigation Unit (SIU) led to their apprehension on April 4, 2012.

At the time of the arrests, Brummette was on probation for a 2011 drug charge.

Court records report police said Johnson sold the Colt .45 with laser sight, which was stolen Jan. 27, 2012, to Brummette for \$200 and Brummette sold it to Javon Ellis for \$250.

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EQ to host Career Day on April 8 at Holiday Inn on N. Service Dr.

The Environmental Quality Company will host a career day for job openings in its Industrial Services sector on Tuesday, April 8 at the Holiday Inn Express, 46194 N I-94 Service Dr., Van Buren Township.

The event is open to the public and will run from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

EQ is a leading environmental services provider with 37 North American locations. Candidates will have the opportunity to learn about Field Technician and Operator/Driver job openings at EQ's Taylor, MI,

operation, as well as over 100 job openings throughout the organization.

EQ presents an opportunity for candidates to join a team of environmental service professionals.

With over 57 years of experience the company has provided environmental services for communities, retail, and industrial companies nationwide.

To apply for various positions or for more information stop by the event or visit www.eqonline.com/careers.

Sumpter Township Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS VARIANCE

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Sumpter Township Zoning Board of Appeals for the purpose of receiving statements and views on a proposed Variance for 51185 Willis 81-026-99-0004-000.

The purpose of the request made by Belleville Lighthouse Church erect an addition to the legal non-conforming church on a 1.13 acre parcel C2 (General Commercial) area.

The public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday April 23, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter, Belleville, MI 48111.

Publish April 3, 2014

Sumpter Township Public Notice

Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 11, 2014

Meeting called to order at 6:40 with the pledge showing present: Clerk Hoffman, Treasurer J. Morgan, Trustees: Bates, Hamm, P. Morgan, and Swinson. Also present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk Hurst and 13 residences.

Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to have Clerk Hoffman chair the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

4. Public comments only on agenda items

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by Hamm, supported by J. Morgan to approve regular board meeting minutes February 25, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the warrants totaling \$2,253,524.13. Roll call vote: Yes: Hoffman, J. Morgan, Bates, Hamm, Swinson, & P. Morgan. Nay: None. Absent: Vawters. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Water & Sewer: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the water & sewer report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Police: Motion by J. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the police report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Building/Ordinance: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve the building/ordinance report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Fire: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to approve the fire report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Treasurer: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Attorney: No report.

13. Board Response

14. New Business:

A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve the 2014-2015 CDBG Funding of \$105,370.81. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by Hamm, supported by J. Morgan to approve to appoint Don Swinson as representative to the chamber of commerce. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to assigning certain non-statutory duties of the supervisor while the supervisor is on a leave of absence with resolution 2014-04 and paying William Hamm \$500.00 more a month compensation for his extra duties. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by Swinson, supported by J. Morgan to approve setting a public hearing for March 25, 2014 the 2014-2015 budget at 5:30 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Announcements

16. Open Floor

17. Adjournment: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to adjourn at 7:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on March 11, 2014 at 6:40 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Publish: April 3, 2014



Sumpter Township Public Notice



Sumpter Township Public Hearing Block Grant March 11, 2014

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm with the pledge showing present: Clerk Hoffman, Treasurer J. Morgan, Trustees: Bates, Hamm, P. Morgan, & Swinson. Also present Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk Hurst and approximately 16 residents. Excused absence Supervisor Vawters.

Motion by P. Morgan supported by J. Morgan to have Clerk Hoffman Chair the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Hearing for 2014-2015 CDBG Block Grant Totaling \$105,370.81

A. Motion by Hamm, supported by Bates to open hearing at 6:01 pm. Motion carried unanimously. Joan Hennessey of Hennessey Engineers spoke stating the following allocations:

The following is the allocation for 2014-2015 funds:

Administration (21A): \$ 10,537.08

Senior Services (grass/snow) (05): \$ 15,805.62

Housing Rehabilitation (14A): \$ 26,270.00

Demolitions (04): \$ 52,758.11

Total 2014-2015 CDBG Projects \$105,370.81

B. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to close public hearing at 6:13 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Public Hearing Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on March 11, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Publish: April 3, 2014

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Van Buren Public Schools (District) will receive sealed bids for:

TYLER & OWEN ELEMENTARY EXTERIOR SIGNAGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Bids must be delivered no later than 2:00 p.m. EST on April 11, 2014, at the Administration Building located at 555 West Columbia Avenue, Belleville, Michigan 48111. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:15 p.m. Bids received after the above stipulated date and time will not be opened, considered, or accepted.

Beginning Monday, March 31, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. bid documents can be obtained by accessing the following email: <https://app.e-builder.net/public/publicLanding.aspx?QS=71075d4518e546cbb0e284834bf13f48>

Please contact LaMerra Hobbs at lamerra.hobbs@plantemoran.com with any questions you may have with regard to retrieving the RFP information.

All bidders are invited to attend a non-mandatory pre-bid meeting with the District on April 2, 2014, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building located at 555 West Columbia Avenue, Belleville, Michigan.

Prospective bidders must meet the following minimum standards in order to submit a proposal:

- Must be an established Contractor in Michigan for a minimum of five years
- Has successfully completed a minimum of 3 comparable signage upgrade projects each with contract values in excess of \$100,000 within the last five (3) years.
- Must be technically and financially capable to execute a project of size and complexity described in the Bid Documents
- Must be able to provide business and liability insurance, performance and payment bond for work required by the Bid Documents

All bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the District and must be accompanied by a bidder's bond or a certified or cashier's check payable to the District for the sum of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid amount. All bids must be accompanied by a familial disclosure statement. Bids received without a bidder's bond, certified or cashier's check, and a familial disclosure statement WILL BE REJECTED.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to waive any irregularities therein and accept that bid, which best serves the District's interest.

Publish: April 3, 2014



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Jacobs Boots & Saddles of Van Buren Township is closing. For more than 67 years, the family-owned business located in the Big Red Barn on Quirk Road, just north of the I-94 North Service Drive, is offering half off everything in the store, excluding Western saddles. See their ad in today's paper for store hours and call (734) 699-2200.

For expert, while-you-wait vehicle lens polishing call **Bob Balderson** at **Lo-Tek**. The cost is \$15 with his business card ad in today's paper. To schedule an appointment, call (734) 985-1158. Ask about his fleet discount, too.

R. Lewis Lawn Care and cement work will get your lawn or yard cleaned up this spring. Ask about the company's concrete services. Call **Ronald** at (734) 497-3319, or (734) 476-8705.

Lakefront Window Cleaning of Belleville offers a 7-day, rain-proof warranty for residential customers and also services commercial accounts as well. Call Jason at (734) 740-0857.

Harbour Club Golf Course in Van Buren Township is now operated and maintained by **Salisbury Golf of Belleville**. Yes, the professional landscaping local company. Expect to see some great improvements to the golf course this summer. Spring rates are \$8 and \$12 for 9 and 18 holes walking, and \$14 and \$20 for 9 and 18 with a power cart. Leagues are forming now and membership specials are available. To learn more, or to make a tee time, call (734) 697- 6845.

Easter will be here before you know it and **Main Street Flowers** will be offering Lily plants for just \$6.98 and up. Call (734) 697-7400 and visit www.mainstreetflowersbelleville.com.

The **Romulus Athletic Center** in Romulus will be offering **Spring Break Camp**, April 21-25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for ages 6-12. There will be many activities each day, such as games, arts and crafts, basketball, and swimming, to name a few. See their ad in today's paper or call (734) 942-2223 to register. Visit www.romulusathleticcenter.com.

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 this Saturday, April 5, from noon to 2 p.m. To register, call (734) 697-2300.

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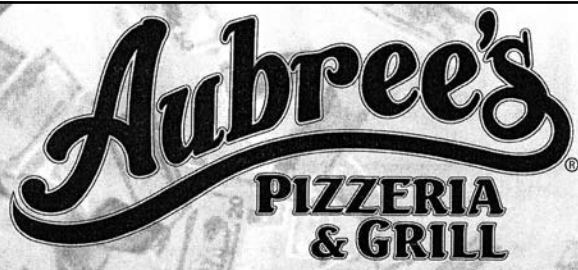
Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **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.

• **Friday, April 4** – Friends Family Theater Free Movie, 7 p.m., with Bounce House, in Youth Center, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road at Bemis, Ypsilanti. Featuring "What the Bible Says 13b God's Kingdom Comes" and another movie in Real 3D. All movies tentative. Confirm or questions: (734) 482-5074. Previews: www.friendsfamilytheater.com

• **Sunday, April 6** – Bugles Across America is held at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial on High Street in Belleville to honor military people serving and at rest with a brief ceremony

• **Wednesday, April 9** – Enjoy a Fried Chicken Supper from 5 p.m. to sell-out at Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Rd., New Boston. Adults \$10, children 12 and under \$5. Carry-outs start at 4:30 p.m.



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Understanding the Law



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

Now that it is habitable outside, this is a good time to write an article geared towards all of the contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, and laborers out there who plan to resume working. Specifically, in this article we will discuss the "Michigan Construction Lien Act" which applies to virtually everyone who provides an improvement to real property.

The purpose of the act is simple: Let's say you do work on someone else's real property, such as providing equipment or labor towards a project, the Act may allow you to place a lien on the real property that you performed work on, which may help you get paid for your work.

The lien acts as an encumbrance on the property that is good for one year from the date of filing the lien in Michigan. Meaning, the homeowner will be unable to refinance, close on a mortgage, or sell his or her home without dealing with the lien. Once payment is made for your work, you can sign a lien waiver for the property owner and a discharge the lien can be filed. If payment is not made, you may be able to extend the lien beyond one year and enforce the lien in Court.

Although construction liens can get pretty complicated, one thing is certain: you can only seek a lien within the last 90 days of performing work or supplying materials. This narrow timeframe is strictly enforced.

If you find yourself in the above scenario, call your Attorney. If you would like further information regarding this issue, or any other issues that you are having, please contact us at (734) 699-7360.

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

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ATTORNEYS

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BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111
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FAX (734) 699-7365

Rebecca Walker earns BS degree at Spring Arbor

Rebecca Walker of Belleville was granted a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management by Spring Arbor University during commencement exercises on Nov. 23. Spring Arbor University is a private, four-year, Christian liberal arts university located eight miles west of Jackson. With a total enrollment around 4,200, the University is affiliated with the Free Methodist Church of North America.

Homegrown Knowledge Series: Tim Marsh and the Life of an Artist

Tim Marsh of Van Buren Township will speak on the Life of an Artist at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 10, in the library program room as part of the Homegrown Knowledge Series.

Marsh was a featured artist at the Ann Arbor Art Fair in 2010. He will share the story of his career from childhood to the present explaining how his love of nature and his artistic talent developed in stages.

Marsh will show examples of his work and will present a free gift to all who attend.

For more information, call Adult Services Librarian Hilary Savage at (734) 699-3291. The Belleville Area District Library is in downtown Belleville at 167 Fourth Street.

VBT sets breakfast, Egg Hunt for April 12 at Recreation Center

Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department has set an Egg Hunt Hullabaloo for Saturday, April 12, at the township hall.

Tickets will be available until April 4.

The day begins with a King Brothers pancake breakfast from 10 to 11 a.m. Guests must pre-register for the breakfast and no tickets will be sold at the door.

Guests will be able to visit with Baloo the Bunny.

The Egg Hunt starts at 11:15 a.m. on the softball field behind the township hall. Dozens of plastic eggs will be disbursed on the softball field. Children need to collect only one egg to receive a prize.

This is a non-competitive event. The egg hunt will be divided into three age groups: walking toddlers-5, 6-9, 10 & up.

Tickets are \$7 per person for VBT residents, which includes egg hunt for child. Non-residents are \$8 per person, which includes egg hunt for child. For the egg hunt only, cost is \$2 per child.

For information, call (734) 699-8921.

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April 12 - Hannah Hoogterp

April 15 - Heather McArthur

April 22 - Elliot Sala, Sarha Sala

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Mark Twain

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Open Arms Lutheran Church and Daycare is currently looking for active dependable Christian child-
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On The Web!

"No man has a good enough memory to
be a successful liar."
- Abraham Lincoln

HELP WANTED

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, March 23:

0324 – noise complaint, Westlake
1411 – harassment call, S. Woodbury Dr.
1444 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1448 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
2004 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
2005 – noise complaint, Cherry Ln.
2010 – weapons violation, McBride Ave.
2116 – assault & battery, Martinsville Rd.
2230 – noise complaint, Parkwood Manor

Monday, March 24:

0104 – agency assist, Sheldon Rd./Savage Rd.
0237 – trespassing, Maple Dr.
0817 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd./Parkwood
0938 – intimidation threat, Oak Ln.
1229 – larceny, Oak Ln.
1319 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1429 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1444 – private property accident, Leo's
1527 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1544 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1645 – fraud, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1657 – private property accident, Hidden Cove
1703 – disorderly conduct, Belleville Rd.
1759 – fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
1813 – assault & battery, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1821 – suspicious situation, Oak Ln.
1928 – private property accident, Rawsonville
2131 – fraud, Maple
2141 – intimidation threat, Archwood
2236 – robbery alarm, Denton Rd.

Tuesday, March 25:

0058 – weapons violation, Parkwood Dr.
0124 – agency assist, I-94 EB in WB lanes
0141 – assault & battery, Michigan Ave.
0800 – malicious destruction of property, Maple
0929 – shots fired, Martz Rd.
1009 – assault & battery, Denton Rd.
1025 – missing person, Farm Rd.
1050 – suicide or attempt, Westlake
1214 – suspicious person, Belleville Rd.
1249 – intimidation threat, Farm Rd.
1250 – intimidation threat, Haggerty Rd.
1546 – larceny from auto, Belleville BP
1610 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1753 – fraud, Hardwood Dr.
1813 – fraud, Pond Bluff Dr.
2108 – assault & battery, Truman
2108 – E-911 cellular, Truman
2121 – personal injury accident, S. I-94 Service
2137 – personal injury accident, S. I-94 Service

Wednesday, March 26:

0033 – assault & battery, Denton Rd.
0323 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd. / N.
I-94 Service Dr.
0641 – property damage accident, Belleville/WB
exit ramp
0709 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Hannan
0717 – suicide or attempt, Sylvia Dr.
1022 – larceny, Van Buren St.
1057 – malicious destruction of property, E. Walden
Dr.

1133 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1406 – domestic violence, Belleville
1531 – fraud, Hannan Rd.
1627 – fraud, Denton Rd.
1642 – breaking & entering, Westlake
1657 – trespassing, Belleville
1711 – retail fraud, Belleville
2143 – noise complaint, Pine Dr.

Thursday, March 27:

0846 – private property accident, Woodlands
1211 – abandoned auto, Cumberland Dr. cul de sac
1215 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1423 – fraud, Haggerty Rd.
1519 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / N.
I-94 Service Dr.
1559 – breaking & entering, Marlowe Ave.
1844 – noise complaint, S. Woodbury Dr.
1925 – fraud, Amanda Dr.
2006 – fraud, Rawsonville
2158 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service
Dr. / Denton Rd.

Friday, March 28:

0048 – suicide or attempt, Andover Dr.
1111 – harassment call, Belleville Rd.

1250 – missing person, Parkwood Dr.
1432 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd.
1455 – suspicious person, Oak Ln.
1518 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville
Rd.
1605 – intimidation threat, Lake Villa Dr.
1732 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1744 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1757 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1829 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / N.
I-94 Service Drive
2005 – holdup alarm, Martz Rd.
2036 – intimidation threat, Westlake
2119 – suspicious situation, Morton Taylor Rd. /
Ecorse Rd.

Saturday, March 29:

0949 – fraud, Rite Aid
1356 – hospice, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1631 – larceny, Maurice Dr.
1712 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2132 – assault & battery, Hannan Rd.
2257 – disturbance, N. I-94 Service Dr.

Also on this week's log are 206 traffic stops, 17 of those on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 23:

0204 – private property accident, Lakeview
1515 – intimidation threat, Loza Ln.
1710 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2231 – serve warrant, Breakwater Dr.

Monday, March 24:

0809 – narcotics crime, McBride
0809 – narcotics crime, McBride
1136 – assist fire dept., Potter Dr.
1337 – vehicle lockout, Belle Villa Blvd.
1342 – harassment call, Main St.
1651 – assist fire dept., Light Tower Dr.

Tuesday, March 25:

0731 – all other traffic, N. Edgemont Ave. / E. Huron
River Dr.
0800 – intrusion alarm, Wexford Ave.
0830 – assist fire dept., St. Anthony's
0839 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.
0851 – intimidation threat, S. Industrial Park Dr.
1259 – background investigation, Main St.
1324 – assist fire dept., South St.
1549 – harassment call, Main St.
1706 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2152 – property check, Potter

Wednesday, March 26:

0737 – private property accident, W. Columbia
Ave.
0750 – intrusion alarm, E. Columbia Ave.
0916 – assist fire dept., Owen
1058 – assist fire dept., Owen
1106 – suspicious situation, E. Huron River Dr.
1348 – civil matter, Potter
1432 – intrusion alarm, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1531 – warrant arrest, Potter
2049 – suspicious person, Main St./First St.

Thursday, March 27:

0249 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Capistrano Ct
0527 – assist fire dept., Capistrano Ct.
0922 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.
1001 – abandoned auto, High St.
1059 – assist fire dept., Loza Ln.
1205 – private property accident, Fourth St.
1841 – animal complaint, Second St.
1957 – domestic assault, W. Wabash Ave.

Friday, March 28:

0955 – assist fire dept., San Carlos St.
1045 – traffic complaint, Main/High
1056 – vehicle inspection, South St.
1135 – animal complaint, Church/High
1424 – private property accident, W. Columbia
Ave.
1648 – agency assist, Lake Villa
1907 – civil matter, Church St.
2144 – juvenile complaint, Carmell St.

Saturday, March 29:

0012 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0918 – assist fire dept., Madelon St.
1041 – fraud, E. Waterbury Ct.
1258 – harassment call, Main St.
1842 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2243 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

Also on this week's log are 43 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 23:

0053 – suspicious incident, Rustic Ln.
0351 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
0422 – civil dispute, 46000 bl. Bontekoe
1129 – suspicious vehicle, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
2011 – ordinance violation, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
2343 – well-being check, 21000 Wilmot Rd.

Monday, March 24:

0835 – larceny, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1021 – civil dispute, 43000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1029 – well-being check, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1154 – larceny, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1316 – larceny, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1654 – well-being check, 6400 bl. Oakville Waltz
1917 – well-being check, Walnut
2007 – animal complaint, Martinsville/Willis
2127 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
2324 – suspicious person, Sumpter/Willis

Tuesday, March 25:

0206 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Bemis /
Sumpter
1449 – accidental damage report, 8200 bl.
Rawsonville Rd.
1459 – suspicious vehicle, 20000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1606 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1701 – warrant arrest, Country Club
1731 – threats complaint, 21000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1749 – 911 hang up, Colorado
1940 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

Wednesday, March 26:

1203 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1335 – civil dispute, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1507 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Carleton West
1727 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
2030 – traffic hazard, Martinsville/Willis
2242 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.

Thursday, March 27:

0202 – suspicious person, Karr/Wear
0804 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1230 – suspicious person, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1624 – disorderly person, 8200 bl. Rawsonville
1846 – civil dispute, Brookview Dr.
2024 – harassment complaint, Brookview Dr.
2204 – suspicious incident, Clark/S. Huron

Friday, March 28:

0911 – assist other agency, 9800 bl. Rawsonville
1113 – fraud complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1358 – property damage accident, 8200 bl.
Rawsonville Rd.
1527 – animal complaint, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
1724 – shots fired, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
2027 – subpoena service, Country Club

Saturday, March 29:

0011 – assist other agency, 12000 bl. Rawsonville
0241 – warrant arrest, out of township
1036 – fire dept. assist, Rawsonville/Willis
1126 – animal complaint, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1144 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
1331 – alarm, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1441 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1513 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
1601 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1750 – animal complaint, Rawsonville/Judd
1812 – subpoena service, Country Club

1817 – suspicious vehicle, 47000 bl. Harris Rd.
1950 – subpoena service, Country Club
1953 – citizen assist, 6500 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
1956 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Willow Rd.
2102 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
2303 – death investigation, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Also on this week's log are six follow-up investigations, 44 miscellaneous details, 133 patrol checks, and 53 traffic stops.

VBT rescue

(continued from page 1)

Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department helped with traffic control.

According to reports, the driver's side of the Jeep had the most significant damage. Both vehicles were facing north on Rawsonville when emergency crews arrived.

The VBT Accident Investigation Team responded to the scene to conduct the investigation and collect physical evidence.

The incident remains under investigation and anyone with information related to the crasj is asked to call Lt. Floro at (734) 699-8915.

Washtenaw County Sheriff Dept. seeks help in homicide investigation

On Monday, March 24, at about 10:45 p.m., Washtenaw Metro Dispatch received a 911 call about gunshots occurring in the 80 block of Russell Court in Ypsilanti Township.

When deputies arrived on the scene they found a male subject lying outside who had been shot in the upper body. The 22-year-old male was transported to a local hospital where he died a short time later.

An investigation revealed that two males entered a residence in the 80 block of Russell Court. Once inside there was an altercation between these males and a male occupant which resulted in gun shots being fired.

At this point the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department is trying to identify and interview the two males that were involved in this incident.

Those with any information are asked to call the Confidential Tip line at (734) 973-7711 or 1-800-SPEAK UP.

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VBT father, son face drug charges at April 2 preliminary exam

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

Van Buren Township residents Dale Kenneth Phifer, 76, and his son Kirkwood Lane Phifer, 24, appeared before Judge Brian Oakley at 34th District Court in Romulus on March 12, for a preliminary exam on drug charges.

The Phifers' attorney asked to adjourn/postpone the preliminary exam and Judge

Oakley rescheduled it for 9 a.m., April 2.

The Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor on the case is Michael Schweyen who is a member of the Major Drugs Unit.

Both of the Phifers were arrested on Nov. 13 in VBT. Dale is charged with delivering/manufacturing 5-45 kilos of marijuana.

Kirkwood is charged with: controlled substance – delivery/manufacture (non-narcotic) (schedules 1, 2 and 3); controlled substance-delivery/manufacture 5-45 kilograms of marijuana; and controlled substance-delivery/manufacture (schedule 4).

The division of the punishments for the crime is done by weight: less than 5 kilograms could get you 4 years in prison, 5-45 kilograms could get you 7 years, and more than 45 kilograms could get you 15 years, according to Legalmatch.com .

The Phifers live at 50345 Bog Road, according to the VBT tax roll.

Brandon Akers

Brandon Akers, 26, from Sumpter Township was scheduled for sentencing on a domestic violence charge to which he pled guilty on Feb. 19, but according to Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Carrie Butorac, Akers had voluntarily entered into The Salvation Army Substance Abuse program and sentencing would be

postponed for three weeks.

Butorac said The Salvation Army told Akers if he left the building he would be kicked out of the program and would need to reapply.

Darryl Woodford

Also at the court on March 12, Darryl Dominic Woodford, 19, stood with his attorney Ryan Hill before Judge Oakley asking to waive Woodford's right to a preliminary exam.

Judge Oakley bound him over for an arraignment on the information on March 26 at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

Wearing street clothes to court, Woodford had posted 10% of his \$50,000 bond.

Woodford was arrested in VBT on June 28 and charged with:

- Child sexually abusive commercial activity;
- Internet sex abuse material;
- Communicating with another to commit crime;
- Possession of child sexually abusive material; and
- Distributing of obscene matter to children.

The warrant was signed on Jan. 28 and VBT Detective Donovan McCarthy is taking the lead on the case.

Michael Leak takes plea deal after stealing truck and fleeing from police

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

In a plea deal on Feb. 6, accused felon and habitual offender Michael Leak, 49, pled guilty to stealing a truck in Sumpter Township and fleeing from police, driving more than 35 mph over the posted speed limit to avoid arrest.

Those were his words as he stood before 3rd Circuit Court Judge Deborah Thomas with his court-appointed attorney Nancy Shell.

The negotiated jail-plus settlement contains three years of probation, serving the first 12 months in Wayne County Jail, plus 30 days of community service.

Two counts of felonious assault with a dangerous weapon, unlawfully driving away a motor vehicle, and another charge of fleeing from a police officer were dismissed for his guilty plea.

The vehicle he stole was parked in the driveway of a home in the 11000 block of Rawsonville Road. Van Buren Township Police Officer Scott Griggs pursued the stolen truck on Rawsonville Road with speeds up to 80 mph. During the chase, Leak collided with a U-Haul truck and ran several other vehicles off the road.

VBT Police terminated the chase at the township border at Bemis Road. Nearby, Sumpter Township and Michigan State Police officers spotted the truck going into a parking lot off Rawsonville Road. Leak's vehicle charged at the two police vehicles that made quick right turns to avoid collision. Leak made a left turn into a snowbank where he was arrested by Sumpter Police Sgt. James Cayce.

Leak has a long criminal history of stealing vehicles and breaking and enterings. Sentencing was scheduled for Feb. 26.

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



Our little Aggie is the ultimate oldie but goodie treat for the pet lover's soul. She's a 12 year old Long-haired Chihuahua mix with tons of sweetness, affection and goofy playfulness to share with the world. After being thoughtlessly abandoned for a younger pup, she survived the elements to find her way to us without losing an ounce of her friendly, affectionate spirit. This little resilient love bug can no doubt teach us all a thing or two about getting back up after being knocked down. Even with being in her golden years she's incredibly active still and loves having a good playtime with her people visitors followed by some snuggles on your lap of course. Aggie seems good with people of all ages and will make an excellent companion dog but will probably do best with a less active family that enjoys leisurely walks, playtime and spending lots of quality time with her. Her pretty mostly black coat is feathery and soft and accented with a white muzzle and neck area. She will need some regular grooming to keep her looking her best. We can't think of any reason you shouldn't call right now to meet little Aggie, she's spayed, vaccinated and micro-chipped and ready for her new home. 734-461-9458



Flop-E-Bunny Easter Candy Hunt

Saturday • April 19th, 2014

12 Noon to 2 PM • Victory Park • Belleville, Michigan

HOSTED BY THE BELLEVILLE CENTRAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY. COMMUNITY PRESENTING SPONSOR:



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Photos with Flop. E. Bunny

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4 CANDY HUNTS

12:15 p.m. - Toddlers to 3 Years • 12:30 p.m. - 4 to 5 Years
12:45 p.m. - 6 to 7 Years • 1:00 p.m. - 8 to 10 Years

Information: BellevilleCBC.org





9624 Belleville Road, Belleville, MI

734-697-1000

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

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Homestyle Cinnamon French Toast Combo \$6.99

4 Slices of our homestyle cinnamon bread with 2 eggs and 2 bacon strips or 2 sausage links.

4 Slices of Homestyle Cinnamon French Toast \$4.99



Lumberjack Cinnamon French Toast Combo

2 eggs your way, two sliced bacon, two sausage links, sliced ham, and American Fries.

2 slices of Cinnamon French Toast \$7.99
4 slices of Cinnamon French Toast \$8.99

Every Wednesday All Day!

Small Greek Salad with a Cup of Soup Only \$5.99

Fish & Chips Special

Every Thursday All Day!

Gyro or Chicken Gyro with fries Only \$5.99

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SPRING BREAK day camp

April 21-25 9am-3pm

Ages 6-12

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\$27 Daily Drop In
Daily Lunch Option: \$4 per day
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