



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 27.9 Thursday, March 4, 2021

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

## Former Sumpter Supervisor Johnny Vawters dies Feb. 27

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
*Independent Editor*

Johnny Vawters, Jr., who served as Sumpter Township Supervisor for 10 years, died Feb. 27 at his home.

"He was the best supervisor Sumpter ever had," said Sumpter Trustee Peggy Morgan, who served with him on the board over the years.

Supervisor Vawters was elected in 2004 and resigned as supervisor for health reasons in 2014 after being reelected twice to the leading position. He had been absent from the board table for more than a year



Johnny Vawters, Jr.

following a stroke in October 2013. In his letter of resignation he said he was better but could not continue in the township's leadership role.

Trustee Morgan said Vawters loved the job of supervisor and although it was part time, he would go into the office full time to help the community. He loved to stand in front of township hall and wave to the residents who drove by, she said.

The township board appointed Sumpter Treasurer John Morgan as supervisor in 2014 for the rest of Vawter's term and Morgan was elected to the position in 2016. In the 2020 election, Morgan lost that position to Republican Tim Bowman.

"I think we all think a lot of Johnny Vawters," said Treasurer Morgan in 2014. "He served the township well and

unfortunately he got sick. We appreciate all he did."

Vawters had been married to Pam for 30 years and was the father of 10 adult children. He had lived in Sumpter for 28 years.

"My past accomplishments brought about a change for unity among all of our elected board members and administrative staffs," Vawters said in a statement to the *Independent* before the 2012 election.

After high school graduation, Vawters completed UAW Labor School courses where he was trained in the skills of arbitration, negotiation, and handling grievance proceedings, which are all needed to perfect people skills, he said.

He was a "people" person and avid problem solver. As supervisor, he would

invite people to talk at length in the township meetings to get all of their concerns out into the open.

Often, residents who came in to the meeting angry with lots to say, left the meeting at the end, smiling and joking with the supervisor, satisfied that their concerns were heard.

Services will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, March 6, at O.H. Pye, III Funeral Home, 17600 Plymouth Rd., Detroit 48227, near Southfield Road. There will be live streaming on YouTube at O.H. Pye III Ch 2.

Strolling visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on Friday, March 5, at the funeral home, (313) 838-9770. Condolences may be sent to: [www.pyefuneralhome.com](http://www.pyefuneralhome.com).

Full obituary will be printed March 11.

## Kurt Atchinson Memorial Golf Tourney set at Nevada course

At Saturday's funeral mass at St. Anthony Catholic Church for Belleville businessman Kurt Atchinson, a former Belleville priest who had known him for 43 years told loving stories of his friend's life.

Retired Father Raymond Bucom announced there was going to be a memorial golf tournament in Atchinson's memory this week at the country club and golf club Atchinson belonged to in Nevada.

Participants were encouraged to wear Michigan State University green clothing, since Atchinson was a big supporter of MSU. There also was to be a special MSU marked golf ball that was to be a part of winning the tourney.

He said participants were to pay \$40 each to play, with \$20 of that being for prizes and \$20 for a charity in Atchinson's name.

Kurt Atchinson died Feb. 22 at the age of 79 about a month after the death of his wife Jayne who died on Jan. 23 at the age of 76.

Kurt Atchinson's funeral mass was conducted by Fr. John Kiselica of St. Anthony and the priest thanked Fr. John for giving him extra time to tell of his beloved

friend.

He told of Atchinson's generosity, including times when his employees would need a roof repair or a new furnace. They got a roof or a furnace from their employer. And, he told other stories.

Kurt and Jayne Atchinson's surviving son Craig and his wife Medina now run the family Ford dealership in Van Buren Township.

The dealership was first started in 1946 by Hazen Kinnell in the Village of Belleville (later the City of Belleville). He built the building at the corner of High and W. Columbia out of material from the Willow Run Bomber Plant. His health became bad and he passed the business on to Herb Estes Ford in 1947. In 1950, John Barber Ford took over the dealership.

Norman "Dutch" Atchinson was the next Ford dealer in Belleville with the announcement of his dealership first printed in the local paper on Oct. 4, 1961. He took over from John Barber that month and in 1967 built a spacious facility at 9800 Belleville Rd. in Van Buren Township. Mr.



The Atchinson family posed for this photo at a grand-opening party to show off its new Ford dealership building in 2016. At right are Jayne and Kurt Atchinson, former owners, who both died recently. At left are Craig and Medina Atchinson who threw the party and are the third generation to run the Ford dealership in Van Buren Township.

Atchinson was 54 years of age when he opened his new building.

He sold the business to his son Kurt in 1981 after he retired. Kurt hired his college-educated son Craig in 1995 as a car salesman.

After Kurt's retirement, the business passed on to Craig, who enlarged the facility in 2016 and continues the successful business.

Kurt Atchinson's full obituary is on Page 7.

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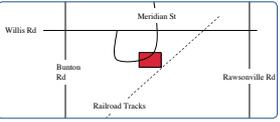
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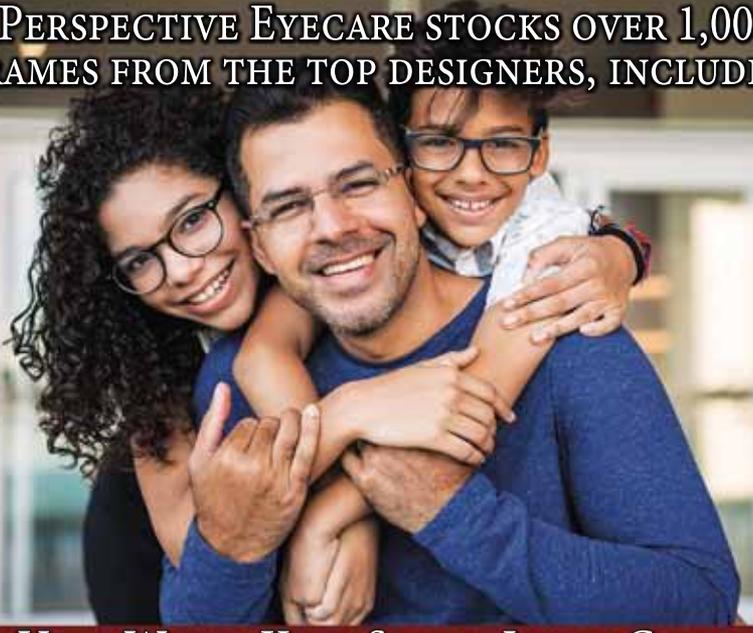
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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## VBPS board goes with diversity over experience in MASB vote

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
*Independent Editor*

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education decided to go with diversity over experience when it chose where its vote would go in the election for the board of directors of the Michigan Association of School Boards.

At the Feb. 8 meeting, the board was given a huge packet of information on those running for a three-year term on the MASB board and it was pointed out Van Buren is in Region 8 in the state and there were four names listed to represent Region 8. Region 8 consists of Macomb ISD, Oakland Schools, and Wayne RESA.

Those candidates listed for Region 8 were Sandra Dukhie, Ferndale Public Schools; Mary Hanser, Oxford Community Schools; Birgit McQuiston, Lake Orion Community Schools; and Gina Walker, New Haven Community Schools.

At the Feb. 22 regular meeting of the school board, via Zoom, board president Amy Pearce began the discussion on this agenda item, saying there are no candidates from Wayne County. She noted that Wayne County had its particular problems.

President Pearce said after studying all the candidates, she liked Birgit McQuiston because of her advocacy at the state level, her being a big proponent of local control and that she has spent nine years on the Lake Orion Board of Education.

"I liked her stance on things and her experience," Pearce said.

Board Secretary Darlene Loyer Gerick agreed, noting McQuiston held MASB Certification, with awards of Certified

Boardmember, Merit, Distinction, Master Boardmember, and Master Diamond, indicating all the classes she had taken through MASB.

School Supt. Pete Kudlak asked to give a comment and President Pearce said he could.

Supt. Kudlak said Sandra Dukhie was an African-American and had not been a member of the Ferndale School Board for that long, four years. But, diversity was important, Kudlak said.

Pearce pointed out Dukhie was a parent with five sons.

"I went with Sandra," said board member Dionne Falconer, explaining Dukhie was African-American and a diverse board is important.

Treasurer Simone Pinter said she liked McQuiston and Dukhie and, "My choice is Sandra," pointing out she did have less experience.

Trustee Calvin Hawkins agreed with Dukhie and said her having less experience means "fresh eyes."

Vice president Susan Featheringill said her having five children may account for her not taking the MASB classes offered.

In her election statement, Dukhie wrote: "... I believe I will bring a different perspective and a much-needed lens on equity and inclusion."

Pearce made the motion to approve Dukhie as their candidate for election and Pinter supported. The motion passed unanimously.

In other business in the 51 minutes of the Feb. 22 meeting, the board:

- Approved a proposed IRS Closing

Agreement Resolution, as presented by Director of Finance Sara Cortese. The issue relates to the 3% healthcare contributions the Office of Retirement Services started collecting years ago. Van Buren has been treating them as tax-exempt right along, which is what the IRS wants to do. "Nothing changes for us," Cortese said, noting this action covers the district as doing what the IRS wants. "I don't really see a downside," she said;

- Approved updated School Board Operating Procedures that were presented in January and discussed at the last meeting, with requests for updates from board members. Kudlak said his executive assistant Debbie McWilliams typed up the 18-page document with the changes. Kudlak said they sent the updated document to board members the previous week and there were no more revisions. It is looked at on an annual basis;

- Approved employment of teachers Caitlin Wade for Owen Intermediate School as of Feb. 17 and Kyle Short for Belleville High School as of Sept. 1;

- Approved resignations of non-instructional staff: Valarie Foulks of Owen Intermediate after two years of service as of Feb. 19 for a job opportunity; Erin Radtka of McBride Middle School after 20 years of service as of Feb. 19 for a job opportunity in an administrative position; Vincent Wegienka of plant operations who resigned after two years of service as of Feb. 9; and Robin Owens who resigned after 4.5 years of service as an Edgemont custodian as of Feb. 3;

- Approved hiring Dawn Linton as

custodian in plant operations as of Feb. 22;

- Heard Cortese announce that Monday was National Bus Drivers Appreciation Day and board members and Kudlak praised the work of the drivers. Cortese also announced that last year around this time she was going out for bids for new band uniforms and then COVID hit. Now she has started the process again and hopes to have new uniforms for the new school year in the fall. Featheringill said they should try to get matching masks for the students, noting there are instrument masks. Cortese said the last time they purchased uniforms was in 2003;

- Heard Kudlak announce that Dan Selman of Van Buren Township contacted the district and donated 6,000 student masks with teddy bears on them and they were sent home with the kids and some are at school for use. Also, Josh Grisham, director of the local Meijer store, donated \$1,500 in gift cards to support teachers. There were ten \$100 cards and ten \$50 cards. They did a raffle on Monday and employees are coming in to pick up their cards. He also said the employees are getting their second vaccine on Feb. 27 and 391 signed up for the first one. He said the second dose is followed by flu symptoms so Monday, March 1, will be a remote learning day; and

- Heard Pearce congratulate Savage Elementary School for its recent fund raiser that raised \$2,000 for food and supplies to deliver to the Bed, Bark and Beyond dog rescue.

## Belleville City Council sets dates for 2021-22 budget reviews

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
*Independent Editor*

During a brief regular Zoom meeting on Monday, following an hour-long workshop session, the Belleville City Council adjusted proposed dates for review of the 2021-22 budget.

Instead of being presented at the April 19 regular meeting, as originally planned, it will be presented at a special meeting at 6 p.m., April 12, where it will be reviewed by the council for the first time.

The second review session will be at 6 p.m., April 26, and the third review session at 6 p.m., May 12. A public hearing and adoption of the 2021-22 budget is set for Monday, June 7.

When Mayor Kerreen Conley asked Police Chief Dave Robinson, who is filling in as interim city manager, if he can have the budget ready a week earlier than planned, he said he could.

"We were going to be ready on the 19<sup>th</sup>

and we can be ready on the 12<sup>th</sup>," he said.

The changes were made because the mayor would not be present at the April 19 meeting and Councilwoman Kelly Bates also had a conflict with some dates. Councilmembers all wanted to be present for the budget discussions.

In other business at the 23-minute meeting on March 1, the council:

- Approved Mayor Conley's reappointments to the Board of Review with terms to expire December 2023: Reginald (Rick) Dawson, Randy Priest, and James Shrove;

- Removed from the agenda the mayor's appointment of Aafrika Poole as alternate member on the Board of Review with term to expire in December 2023. Mayor Conley explained she likes to personally interview candidates for appointment and she did not have time to do it yet. This item is expected to be on the agenda of the next meeting on March 15;

- Approved a resolution to change the signature of former Interim City Manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz on city bank accounts, warrants and business to Clerk/Treasurer Verna Chapman. Kobylarz left office on Feb. 13;

- Approved accounts payable of \$1,245,296.49 and the following expenditures in excess of \$500: to Ann Arbor Township, \$3,808.93 as 10% grant match for extrication equipment for the fire department; to Blue Ribbon Contracting, \$2,200 for emergency repair work on water infrastructure – curb stop at 58 S. Biggs; to Blue Ribbon Contracting, \$4,904 for emergency repairs to water line break at 416 W. Columbia; to Blue Ribbon Contracting, \$4,684 for emergency repair of sewer line failure at 57 S. Biggs; to Ford Motor Credit, \$12,743.85 for first annual lease/purchase payment for a 2021 Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicle; to Hennessey Engineers, \$6,244 for soil

erosion control review/engineering plan review for Early Childhood Development Center (funds from escrow account); to JW2 Fire Consultants, \$2,780 for writing three grants for fire department; to Morton Salt, \$3,446.70 to replenish road salt supply; and to Praetorian Digital, \$1,566 for online computer-based training for fire and EMS personnel;

- Heard Police Chief/Interim City Manager Robinson announce that he has some good leads on a CDBG grant with the help of Lucius Anthony from Wayne County. He may be able to get partial funding for an ordinance officer and options for demolishing the building next door. He said they are requiring a lot more documentation, but that can be done;

- Heard Mayor Conley say that the more people who register for the COVID-19 vaccine, the likelier they are to add more vaccines for this area. She said Nixle alerts

(continued on page 6)

# OPINIONS

## Editorial

### Too many local leaders dying in this cold winter

It was shocking to hear of the death of Jayne Atchinson in January and then to hear of Kurt Atchinson's death in February, about a month later.

The Atchinsons are a leading family in our business and social community and we are sorry to hear of their passings and we send our condolences to Craig and Medina Atchinson for their untimely loss.

Kurt Atchinson was very kind to our newspaper when we were fighting to get established in 1995. Atchinson Ford has been a constant advertiser with us and we do appreciate it very much.

Now, we hear of former Sumpter Township Supervisor Johnny Vawters dying at home on Saturday afternoon. Johnny was so good as supervisor and people who were angry at the township would come into a township board meeting and Johnny would let them get all their problems off their chests. Then, they ended up smiling and joking with Johnny at the end of the meeting. People want to be heard and Johnny listened.

Johnny also asked us to be the township's newspaper of record and didn't bother with bidding or negotiations. We gave them the same price as our other legals and when we had to bid lower elsewhere for the legals, we reduced Sumpter's price to match. We had a friendly relationship and Johnny would visit our office regularly to talk. We miss him very much. Rest in peace.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Ryan Taylor said that his plan is 100% to keep Frosty Boy an ice cream shop. He said they are updating the shop and waiting for the closing to be final. The closing is delayed by staff shortages at the county level due to COVID.

He said he had been going to Frosty Boy since he was two years old and, "It means a ton to me." Our readers will be happy to hear about the future of their Frosty Boy.

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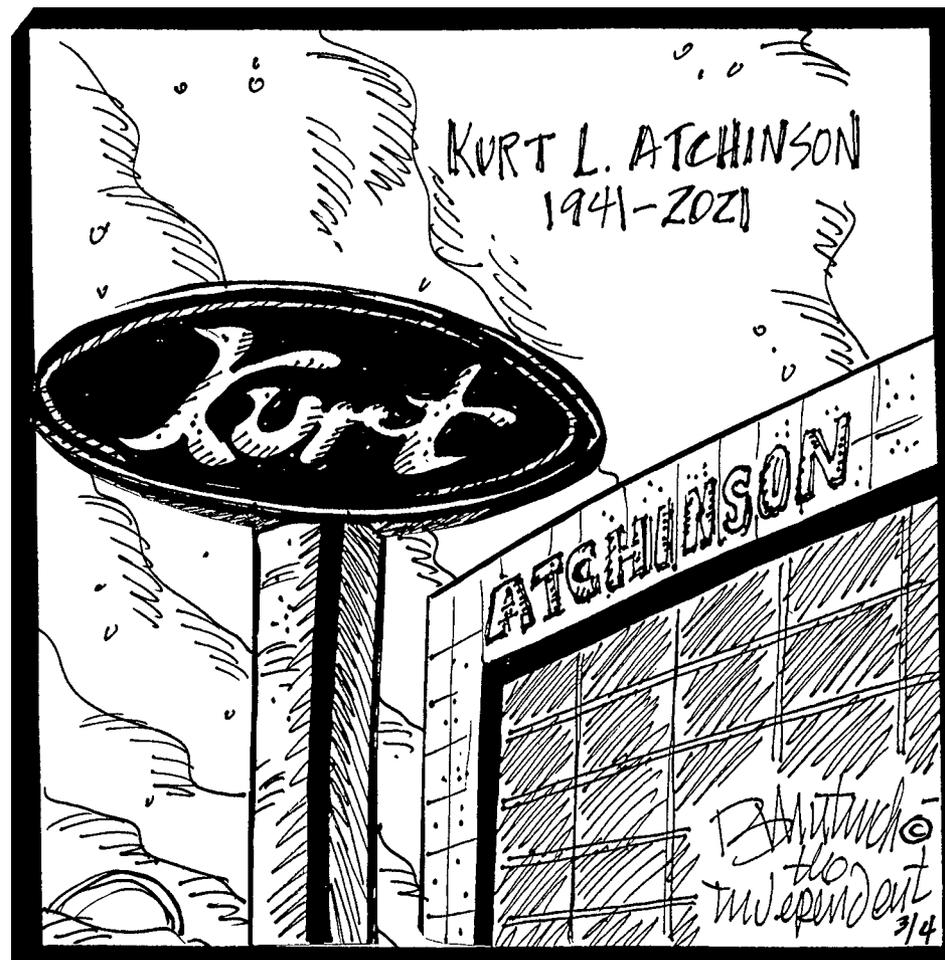
A reader from Sumpter called to say when she read in this column about the person telling how someone took out unemployment in her name, she didn't feel so alone.

It happened to her, too, and when she called Sumpter police, the officer told her it happened to him, too.

The 70-year-old woman said someone took out unemployment benefits in her name last March and she didn't find out about it until fall when she got a notice in the mail. She said most of her life she didn't work outside the home since she was taking care of her parents and family.

Hers is a long, involved story, including debit cards with thousands of dollars in her name with her social security number and address. She cut up the first card and then got one with a Mexican man's name on it with her social security number and her address. And, then another. She contacted the Bank of America where the funds came from and had to wait an hour on hold. They issued a fraud alert in her name.

She got LifeLock on her computer and then she started getting threatening scam calls trying to get her to pay double the price for LifeLock which was already paid



for. And, more.

She said she was sorry the woman we wrote about was having problems, but she no longer felt so alone.

"We're just regular people, staying out of trouble, paying our bills early, and then this happens to us," she said, adding Sumpter police told her it's been happening throughout this area.

\*\*\*

A Van Buren Township woman called to inform our readers of a scam call she got. The caller said he was from DTE and said DTE had charged too much on her bill and will send a gift card to reimburse, plus \$50. Then he asked her to go get her last DTE bill and give him the account information. If it's DTE, they should have that information, she said.

She said it is an alternative energy company and they want you to sign up. They give you a fake phone number if you want to call them back. She said people should call DTE at 1-800-477-4747.

The woman said if you call Direct Energy, they'll give you a \$50 gift card to sign up. And, you'll get a lower bill. But, after a year, if you forget to resubscribe, your cost goes from 47 cents per cubic foot to 97 cents, more than double.

The woman, who is speaking from experience, said she doesn't know who is calling, but it's part of a scam.

\*\*\*

One day Bob Mytych, our advertising

director and doer of many other things at the *Independent*, pointed out to me that the sign at the back of the new library is made up of what looks like Scrabble tiles. It does and every time I look at it I remember what Bob said.

\*\*\*

A retired Ford engineer said he was looking at the salaries for the Van Buren Public Schools. He said he counted the administrators and the employees and said it figures out to be one administrator for every 15 employees – bus drivers and everything else.

He called to ask me if that wasn't a little top-heavy.

\*\*\*

A Sumpter resident called on Monday to say that he is getting five to six calls a day from a Belleville number that begins 734-740-xxxx. He doesn't answer, but the message is from U.S. Pharmacies with a person with a foreign accent. He said if he calls the number back, he gets local people who don't know what he's talking about. He said people who pay by the call will be paying for this. He suggested they call their provider to complain. Maybe if they get enough complaints they might do something about it, he thinks. Or, maybe the government should do something, he said.



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**BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT**

Established Dec. 3, 1994 First Edition Jan. 5, 1995

The Belleville-Area Independent is a free, weekly newspaper published each Thursday in Belleville, MI.

152 Main St., Suite 9,  
Belleville, MI 48111  
734-699-9020  
FAX 734-699-8962

The Independent is owned and operated by a Michigan Limited Liability Company made up of members of this community.

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**Letters**  
**What about McDonald's customer service?**  
 To the editor:  
 What has happened to customer service at the Belleville Road McDonald's?  
 On Wednesday, Feb. 17, I stopped at the McDonald's on Belleville Road for breakfast.  
 There was not anyone in the drive-thru as I drove up. Someone came on the speaker and said we will be with you in a moment. As I sat there about a minute another vehicle pulled up in the next lane where their order as taken promptly.  
 I asked if someone was going to take my order twice with no response. I then backed up and pulled into the next lane and had to ask again if someone would take my order.  
 After I placed my order and drove to pay, I asked the cashier what was up with the drive-thru today. She completely ignored me and would not answer me. Then at the next window to pick up my food I noticed that the person at the window had a blue outfit on. I asked if she was a manager and she told me she was.  
 As she was handing me my food, I started to ask what was up with the drive-thru. She started yelling at me, telling me I had only waited five seconds before my order was taken. I started to respond when she continued to yell some more then slammed the window shut and walked away.  
 I did contact McDonald's corporate office and filled a complaint. I was told someone from their office would contact me back to investigate this. I am still waiting on that call.  
 Anthony Gibson  
 Van Buren Township

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**I appreciate Mr. Robinson's courage**  
 To the editor:  
 As a Sumpter Township resident and taxpayer for over 50 years, I appreciate Mr. Robinson's courage and actual facts in his letter to the editor about the blight conditions in Sumpter Township.  
 They are very, very bad. Being over 70 years of age, I put a lot of time and effort in keeping my yard and home clean and presentable, but driving to the store or other places there are, like he said, blight issues on just about every street.  
 On the street I live on there is a gray pickup that has been in the same spot for over five years. When I drive by it I say to myself that he must know someone in the township. All the fines the township could write up for blight probably could pay the wages for an ordinance officer for at least a year.  
 Instead of trying to call the township office about the blight problem, those who care about the township should turn to the old-fashioned method of writing a letter to township officials. And just like the fire hydrant and the pushing of snow and leaves on the roadways, Sumpter officials can put on their cable channel the blight ordinance law in Sumpter Township.  
 Again, Thanks, Mr. Robinson, for your letter.  
 Sincerely,  
 A Senior Citizen for a Cleaner Township

**116,017 tons of toxic waste disposed of here**  
 Hello, from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District:  
 Great progress is being made in cleaning up the Luckey Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program Site.  
 This afternoon our trucking contractor completed safely travelling one million miles disposing 116,017 tons of material contaminated with beryllium, radium-226, thorium-230, uranium-234, uranium-238, and lead at US Ecology in Belleville, MI.  
 Since the cleanup contract was awarded in 2015, the Corps of Engineers' contractor has worked over 435,000 hours without a lost-time accident. The soil cleanup, which began on April 16, 2018, is 50% complete. Excavation and backfill is complete in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 areas, and will resume in the Phase 4 area once on-site building deconstruction is complete.  
 Deconstruction of the maintenance office building at the site was completed on Feb. 12, 2021. Our contractor began deconstruction of the production building on Feb. 18, 2021. All building deconstruction debris will also be disposed of at US Ecology in Belleville, MI.  
 Our top priority is the protection of human health and the environment and the safety of our workers and the community. We are also actively monitoring the evolving COVID-19 situation and are in regular communication with our personnel and contractors to emphasize the importance of taking appropriate actions -- such as social distancing, wearing appropriate protective equipment, temperature screening of individuals before entry into the site, and personal hygiene measures -- to safeguard employee health and welfare while working during the pandemic.  
 We will continue to provide updates to you via email and also in the form of an infographic that tracks our progress, which is posted weekly on our website at <https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/Luckey-Site/>. If you know someone that would be interested in receiving updates regarding the Luckey Site, please ask them to contact us at [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil).  
 Arleen K. Kreuzsch, APR  
 Outreach Program Specialist  
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District  
 Special Projects Branch, Environmental Project Management Section  
 1776 Niagara St., Buffalo, NY 14207  
 1-800-833-6390 (Option 4)

# City Council

(continued from page 3)

are getting the information out for Belleville and townships of Van Buren and Sumpter. She thanked Romulus for allowing local people to attend their clinics, as well; and

- Heard Planning Commissioner Mike Renaud ask for a positive update on getting a new city manager. Mayor Conley said there have been 19 applicants and she is sending a basic summary on the applicants to city council members so they can decide who to interview.

In an hour-long Zoom meeting before the council meeting to get information for budget talks, DPW Director Rick Rutherford gave a report on the needs of his department, including a complete new remote water reader system, a part-time worker for the cemetery, a part-time or full-time ordinance officer, grants for water main improvements, removal of six trees in the city right of way, and more.



- March 7 – Ron Gabrys
- March 8 – Jason Hunt, Juli Balestrieri, Jackie Hollis, Jerrell Bostic, Alexis Merritt, Mike Burns
- March 9 – Michele Stewart
- March 13 – Tom Mytych

Do you have a birthday soon? Does someone you know have a birthday? Let us know and we will print the name as soon as possible. For more information, call (734) 699-9020.



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Casket 5 colors made in U.S.A. ....	\$1,395.00
Grave Liner .....	\$700.00
Register Book Package .....	\$140.00
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$7,125.00</b>
Same Day Service .....	\$6,630.00

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with Cremation to Follow

Service Charge .....	\$4,890.00
Ceremonial Rental Casket .....	\$1,095.00
Register Book Package .....	\$140.00
Crematory .....	\$180.00
Cremation Authorization .....	\$75.00
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$6,380.00</b>
Same Day Service .....	\$5,885.00

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# Obituaries



Kurt Lee Atchinson

## KURT LEE ATCHINSON

(December 13, 1941 – February 22, 2021)  
Kurt Lee Atchinson, age 79, long-time Belleville resident, passed away Monday, February 22, 2021 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI, surrounded by his family. He was born December 13, 1941 in Detroit, MI, son of Norman S. "Dutch" & Merle I. (Sass) Atchinson.

He graduated from Plymouth High School, class of 1959. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy. Kurt went on to further his education and received his Bachelor of Science from Michigan State University. In 1982 he was proud to continue the family business his dad founded in 1961, and see his son Craig continue as the third generation. Mr. Atchinson was more than a business man, he was dedicated to his community as well. He served on the Belleville Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Development Authority, Civil Service, and Ford Dealer Association. Kurt was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville, MI and St. Thomas More Catholic Community, Henderson, Nevada. He was also a member of the Belleville Yacht Club and enjoyed pontoon rides on Belleville Lake. Kurt was an avid golfer who loved yard work, gardening and fixing things. He loved time with family, especially family dinners. He honored his God, his wife, his family and his community. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Mr. Atchinson is survived by son Craig (Medina) Atchinson; three grandchildren: Travis, Ava and Ella Atchinson, all of Belleville, MI; a sister Jill Atchinson of Canton, MI; two nieces: Leslie Gerth of Gaylord, MI and Sherry (Bill) Parks of Livonia, MI; also numerous extended family, colleagues, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Jayne Ellen (Thomas) Atchinson on January 23, 2021, and son Todd Thomas Atchinson on November 19, 2018.

Visitation was 10-11 AM Saturday, February 27, 2021 with an 11:00 AM Funeral Mass at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI, with Father John Kiselica as Celebrant. Interment followed at Hillside Cemetery, Belleville, MI.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Mended Hearts at <https://mendedhearts.org/#donate> and would be appreciated by the family.



Richard (Dick) Sietz

## RICHARD (DICK) SIETZ

(February 1, 1942 – February 17, 2021)  
Richard (Dick) Sietz, 79, died on February 17, 2021, after a short but valiant battle with cancer. He is survived by his loving wife, Grace (Perna) of 54 years, beloved children Whitney Robertson and Bradley (Carina), cherished grandchildren, Henry and Hunter Robertson and Franklin and Mallory Sietz; one sister Mary Ann (Bill) Emerson and many adoring nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Helen. Private services will be held at the time with celebration of his life later this year. Donations to St. Cyprian's Food Pantry, 13249 Pennsylvania Rd., Riverview, MI 48193, will be much appreciated. Please visit [www.martenson.com](http://www.martenson.com)



Gilbert LeBlanc

## GILBERT LeBLANC

(December 9, 1950 – February 28, 2021)  
Mr. Gilbert LeBlanc passed away on Sunday, February 28, 2021 in Elmira, Michigan. He was born on December 9, 1950 in Farmington, Michigan a son of Robert and Rachel (nee Roux) LeBlanc.

Gilbert was a lifelong resident of Belleville who enjoyed a second home in Elmira, Michigan. He liked to snowmobile, fish and play cards. Gilbert was a man who enjoyed doing carpentry and was quite talented at it. His greatest joy in life was spending time with his family, especially playing with his grandson Hayden. Mr. LeBlanc is survived by his loving son Mark LeBlanc (Kaitlyn), adored brother of Marcel (Linda) LeBlanc and Jean LeBlanc and a caring grandfather of Hayden LeBlanc. Gilbert is also survived by one niece and several nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and a favorite aunt, Germaine Bayard.

Gilbert will lie in state on Thursday, March 4, 2021 from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the funeral mass at 11 a.m. at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia, Belleville, MI 48111. Fr. John Kiselica will officiate. Burial will follow at Soop Cemetery in Van Buren Township, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, the LeBlanc family has requested that memorial contributions in Gilbert's name be made to St. Anthony Catholic Church.

Thank you for keeping the LeBlanc family in your thoughts and prayers at this time. Higginson and Neal Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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At Friday's 34<sup>th</sup> District Court session in front of Judge Lisa Martin, the plaintiff's attorney Tom DiPietro said the defendant James Chapman was having electronic difficulties logging into the Zoom court session so he just showed up at DiPietro's office door and went to court on DiPietro's computer.

**Court Watching:**

# Judge Martin grants DiPietro motion to evict Chapman from garage

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

After a lively Zoom hearing at 34<sup>th</sup> District Court on Friday, Judge Lisa Martin granted the motion of attorney Tom DiPietro to terminate the tenancy of defendant James Forrest Chapman, 61, from a garage owned by David and Martha Brown in the city of Belleville.

Chapman, who was representing himself, was present by Zoom from DiPietro's law office on Main Street in Belleville. DiPietro told Judge Martin that Chapman had trouble logging onto the courtroom site so he just showed up at DiPietro's door.

DiPietro asked Judge Martin to order Chapman to pull up his face mask to cover his face and Chapman said his doctor said he didn't have to wear a face mask.

Judge Martin said as long as he was in DiPietro's office, he had to wear the mask as requested by DiPietro. He pulled up the mask, but then later in the hearing it was back down around his mouth.

Judge Martin said on Oct. 30, 2020 Chapman was served with a notice to quit the property at 668 E. Huron River Dr. in the city of Belleville. Subsequently a complaint was filed on Dec. 29, 2020 for him to quit the southeast corner of the building.

"You were given proper 30-day notice and you have not removed your property," Judge Martin said, adding that he has presented no triable issue of fact, and so she is entering a judgment to grant the

motion asking for termination of tenancy.

DiPietro said Chapman asked for the citation Judge Martin used for the "triable issue of fact" determination and she repeated it and Chapman wrote it down.

She said she understands there are other issues Chapman has, such as his claim that Brown owes him money. She said that may be a triable fact, but it is not a tenancy issue.

Chapman said he will ask for a stay of the

order until after his appeal.

Judge Martin reminded him she hasn't issued her order yet. Chapman said once she does, he will appeal it.

Chapman delayed the beginning of the court session by having trouble connecting electronically. Judge Martin said the case, scheduled for 10 a.m., was called at 10:15 a.m. and Chapman wasn't there and now it was 10:30 a.m. and they were beginning.

David Brown was present by phone

waiting for the case to begin and there were two other witnesses trying to connect that were to be called by DiPietro.

"He showed up on my doorstep so that's why he's sitting next to me," DiPietro explained to the judge.

Chapman said he had a proposition and so Judge Martin put DiPietro and Brown in a breakout room with him to discuss it.

DiPietro, with Chapman at his side, left

*(continued on page 11)*

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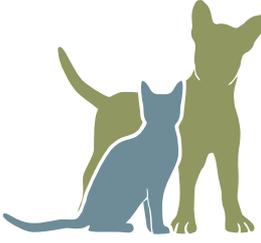
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# SW Wayne regional partnership secures vaccines for seniors

News Release

On Wednesday, March 3, 1,000 seniors aged 65+ in the communities of Belleville,

Huron Township, Sumpter Township, and Van Buren Township were administered COVID-19 vaccines at Wayne County Community College in Taylor as part of the county's vaccine program.

An additional vaccine date was secured for Tuesday, March 9, at Wayne County Community College in Taylor from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for the region's residents aged 65+. Immediate vaccine appointments are available to seniors that register on a first come, first serve basis.

"Making sure our most vulnerable population has access to the vaccine has been our top priority since the vaccine has become available," said Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara. "The regional community partnership in collaboration with the county was crucial in us securing doses for our senior population.

"It was a seamless operation," he said.

"One thousand senior registered over the weekend."

A simple registration form for eligible persons in the regional communities is available at the township's new website at [vanburen-mi.org](http://vanburen-mi.org). The township is encouraging online registration to prevent overwhelming its phone systems.

Additional eligible persons include spouses or caregivers of seniors over the age of 65 (only one per person). Individuals that had a flu shot, shingles shot or any other vaccine in the past 14 days are not eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Ryan Nichols  
VBT Communications Specialist

Another way to register is at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1vPcVllc8G5yUIhKtLGeuFTOhb15SYI27ts520kRXR0M/edit>

Those wishing vaccines must be pre-registered and there are no walk-ins.

Belleville residents who are not able to register online, may call (734) 697-9323 for assistance.

Sumpter Township residents who are not able to register online, may call (734) 461-9373 for assistance.

"I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize."  
- Steven Wright



Photo courtesy of Ryan Nichols. Van Buren Township seniors over the age of 90 who have mobility issues were offered the chance to get COVID-19 vaccines if they could be transported to Schoolcraft College last week. Senior Center vans carried them to the college where they were inoculated in the vans. The photo shows Thelma Griffin getting her shot.

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

- **Saturday, March 6, and Sunday, March 7** – Girl Scout Cookies will be sold at the Fourth Street Square or Victory Park from noon to 6 p.m.
- **Sunday, March 7** – Bugles Across America at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial on High Street in Belleville. Brief ceremony monthly to honor veterans in service, retired, and passed on. "Taps" is played and "National Anthem" sung.
- **Tuesday, March 9** – Forgotten Harvest Free Food Give Away runs from 2 to 4:30 p.m., or while supplies last, every Tuesday at Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd. Volunteers will load fresh groceries

- into the vehicle of anyone in need.
- **Tuesday, March 9** – Forgotten Harvest Food Give Away at noon every Tuesday until further notice at Romulus High School, 9650 S. Wayne Rd. Sponsored by Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans and hosted by Romulus Community School District. Information: Virginia Williams, (734) 673-8396
- **Wednesday, March 10** – Drive-through Chicken Supper from 4:30 p.m. until sold out at Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Rd., New Boston, (734) 654-9020. Call ahead for orders of six or more between 1-4 p.m. the day of the dinner. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 per child. Bring check or exact amount, if possible. Menu includes: fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, biscuits & gravy, and dessert.

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## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS GRASS CUTTING AND RELATED SERVICES

The Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, MI is requesting proposals for grass cutting and related services for the enforcement of the Township's Grass and Weeds. Bid forms are available at the Township Clerk's Office, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, by appointment between 10:00 a.m. and to 3:00 p.m., Monday – Friday (same day appointments are available) and on the Township's website [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org). Sealed bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. EST, Thursday, April 22, 2021, and should be submitted to the Clerk's office. Bids may be submitted by U.S. Mail, personal service, or courier service, and no bids submitted by facsimile or electronically will be accepted. The bids will be publicly opened following the bid deadline. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids and is not required to accept the low bid. The Township is an equal opportunity contractor, which does not discriminate based on race, sex, creed, or physical ability.

*Published: March 4, 2021 Belleville Independent*

#### Further Instructions

1. Telegraphic and/or packages sent by faxes or electronic devices are not acceptable and will be rejected upon receipt. Submitting Contractors will be expected to allow adequate time for delivery of their package either by airfreight, postal service, or other means.
2. The response must be on the forms provided and follow the format outlined in this bid package. Supplemental information may be provided as attachments.
3. **TIMELY SUBMITTALS:** Late submittals may result in the rejection of the package.
4. All information requested herein shall be submitted with the original package; failure to do so may result in the rejection of the package as non-responsive and/or incomplete.
5. Each Contractor must sign the package with their usual signature and shall give their full business address. Packages submitted by partnerships shall be signed with the partnership name by one of the members or by an attorney-in-fact. If signed by an attorney-in-fact, evidence of authority to sign the bids shall be attached. Packages by corporations shall be signed with the name of the corporation followed by the signature and designation of the President, Secretary, or other person authorized to bind it in the matter. In addition, a signed secretary's certificate evidencing the authority of the officer to contract in the name of the corporation shall be included. Any proposal submitted by a Corporation shall bear its seal.
6. Municipalities are exempt from the Michigan State Sales and Federal Excise taxes. Do not include such taxes in the estimate figure. The Township will furnish the successful Contractor with tax exemption certificates when requested.

If there are any questions regarding this bid package, please contact the Lt. Charles Bazy at **(734) 699-8915**. Requests for additional information or interpretation of this bid specifications shall be made not less than three (3) days before the final date of submittal for the package.

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Sunday Bible Classes – 10:00 a.m. (all ages)  
Zoe Kids & Adult Worship – 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday classes & clubs 7:00 p.m. Join us on  
Facebook Live & [bellevillecog.online.church](http://bellevillecog.online.church)

**Ridge Road Church of Christ**  
1770 Ridge Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
Sunday Worship Service 8:30 AM or 11 AM  
Sunday Evening Service 6 PM  
[www.ridgeroadcoc.org](http://www.ridgeroadcoc.org) (734) 485-2930

**BETHANY**  
BIBLE CHURCH  
810 E. HURON RIVER DR. BELLEVILLE, MI | 734.697.7456  
Sunday | Adult Bible Fellowship & Children's Sunday  
School 9:45am | Morning Worship 11am  
Wednesday | Kids & Teens 6:45pm | Bible For Life 7pm  
Visit [bethanybiblechurch.com](http://bethanybiblechurch.com) for more info

**RIVER OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
16650 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111  
All services are open to in person or live stream.  
Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Adult & Youth @ 7 p.m.  
Visit [rol-ag.com](http://rol-ag.com) (734) 699-6700

**Faith Assembly Church**  
894 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI 48111  
Sunday @ 10 am – Small Groups Adults, Teens & Kids  
11 am – Contemporary Worship  
Wednesday @ 7 pm – Bible Study, Kid's Class & Youth Group  
Join Us In The Building or Online On Facebook & YouTube.

**ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-1211  
• Saturday Mass: 6:00pm  
• Sunday Masses: 8:30am & 10:30am  
Face Mask & Distancing Guidelines in Place.  
[www.stanthonybelleville.com](http://www.stanthonybelleville.com)

**Would you like to have your Church listed in this directory?  
Call Advertising Manager Bob Mytych at 734-699-9020 today!**

## Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

### VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Van Buren Public Schools will receive sealed bid proposals until **10:00 a.m. on March 16, 2021**, for **The Early Childhood Development Center Bid Package #3 (Playground & Landscaping)**. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud immediately following the deadline for submission. Van Buren Public Schools will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for the bid submission.

Bid documents may be viewed and downloaded at:  
<https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/5565f9b93ad9f70800b26d32>

After you create your free Building Connected account and join the project, all bids and questions must be submitted electronically at:  
<https://www.buildingconnected.com/>

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on March 2, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. via a Microsoft Teams Meeting online at <https://tinyurl.com/5ocgoe8d> and/or call in +1 734-887-6326 Conference ID: **423 775 612#**

Bid Security, Cashier's Check or Certified Check in the amount of at least five percent (5%) of the bid must be included along with a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the board, board of directors, or the superintendent of the School District. A sworn and notarized Iran Disclosure Statement must also be included along with a Criminal Background Disclosure Affidavit and a Non-Collusive Affidavit. Accepted bidders may be required to furnish Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price.

Documents will be available for viewing on **February 25, 2021**. Any questions, contact Kyle Oberdorf, Granger Construction Project Manager at: [koberdorf@grangerconstruction.com](mailto:koberdorf@grangerconstruction.com)

# Court watching

(continued from page 8)

the breakout room and reported the session with Chapman was unproductive.

"I didn't let my client reply," DiPietro reported.

He said his two witnesses were Realtor Glenn Silvenis, who would testify on the amount of escrow fair to order for the unit involved, and Gene Carrier, who rented property from Brown.

He said the pleadings establish that voluntary possession of the unit was given at some point, but then the landlord terminated the tenancy. Use of the premises

was contrary to the ordinances of the city of Belleville.

"What my client believed was that he would be prosecuted by the city," DiPietro said. He discussed an email some of which would be excluded by heresy, but the third paragraph from the bottom could be entered into the record.

He said his clients desired to pursue the matter and he cited a couple of cases that dealt with the effect on the listener.

DiPietro said they can terminate this residency for any reason.

Judge Martin asked Chapman if he had any triable issues and Chapman said it was a verbal agreement and the unit had never been rented before.

"I was contracted verbally to build engines," he said, adding he has a document he would like to copy and send to the judge that deals with another engine builder's prices.

He said there is a conflict on the facts. He said a man that has a felony pending against him is being called as a witness, referring to Gene Carrier. The felony charge has Chapman as the complaining witness.

He said he is waiting for the prosecutor to issue a charge against Belleville Police Officer Jeff Wickham. Chapman said Wickham has film of Carrier carrying out his pistons and rods.

Chapman said there is a tentative

agreement that when he gets his pistons and rods back, "I'll be out in 30 days."

Chapman said he will deny living there and he's going to argue he's never lived there. It's been a workshop, he said.

"What is the triable issue of fact?" Judge Martin asked again, noting she heard him about the \$5,000 to \$6,000 worth of pistons and rods. "Are there other triable issues?"

Chapman said the door locks were spiked and probably Carrier did it.

"I'd just as soon as go to trial," Chapman said. "I want to wash my hands of this."

DiPietro said this was a question of tenancy and Chapman is going to bring theft charges and rods and pistons on top of that.

"That's no defense for tenancy," DiPietro said.

He said since Nov. 18, 2020 there has been welding of the door, cutting hinges, and preventing the landlord from entering the property.

"The doors are not welded shut," Chapman countered. "They are secured." He said he put a keyless entry in and the unit was spiked. "They violated every agreement... They couldn't get me out illegally," he said adding Officer Wickham has the video of "that man" taking his pistons and rods. "My landlord did not protect my interests."

Chapman said the judge should investigate the spiking of the locks. He said there was beating on his door. He asked Judge Martin to grant discovery.

DiPietro said that was not appropriate in this case.

Judge Martin said this case is purely the plaintiff's motion on tenancy and recovery of the plaintiff's property, not pistons and rods.

Chapman had demanded a jury trial, but if there are no triable issues of fact, there is no reason for a trial.

Judge Martin ruled that Chapman should vacate the premises by March 15, but that could be delayed by an appeal.

### James Forrest Chapman

James Forrest Chapman, 61, of Van Buren Township, has been charged with being a disorderly person at 2:22 p.m., Jan. 30, in the city of Belleville.

He is scheduled for a remote arraignment / pretrial on the charge, with appearance by Zoom, at 10:10 a.m., March 18, before Chief Judge Brian Oakley.

### Kalin Christian Karvelis

Kalin Christian Karvelis, 25, of New Boston was arraigned March 1 and held without bond for first-degree murder, assault with intent to murder, and two felony firearm charges for the Feb. 26 slaying of his mother and injuring of his father in Huron Township. He also was arraigned March 1 on another charge of fleeing a police officer/third degree, on June 6, 2020. Karvelis was scheduled for a Zoom probable cause conference before Judge Oakley at 8:30 a.m. March 10.

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



**VAN BUREN**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

### 2021 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS  
OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The **BOARD OF REVIEW** of the Charter Township of Van Buren will be held on the following dates:

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday**  
**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**  
**(Organizational Meeting) No Appeals Heard at this Meeting**

**March 8<sup>th</sup>, Monday**  
**9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday**  
**1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Based on the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) epidemic orders regarding public meetings, **letters of appeals** along with **scheduled electronic remote appeals** are highly recommended. **Personal Appearances will not be required.**

Here is the zoom information for remote appeals:  
Webinar link: <https://zoom.us/j/98037471770?pwd=MjRlVem5JaE54aEhnRWpBZzF0M2ttZz09>  
Webinar ID: 980 3747 1770  
Passcode: 505362  
Or call in on a telephone: US: +1 312 626 6799

Not sure how to use Zoom? Visit our website to learn how or call 734-699-8946 for assistance: <https://vanburen-mi.org/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/>. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations can be made with advance notice by calling the Clerk's Office 734.699.8909.

**Letters of appeal must be received on or before MARCH 10, 2021.**

**Please contact the Assessing Office at 734-699-8946 by noon on March 9, 2021 for updated information regarding appointments and electronic remote access.**

If in-person meetings become a lawful option, the meetings will be held both in person and via electronic remote access at the **Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd. Van Buren Township, MI 48111**. Updated information regarding the options will be posted as received at [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org).

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for 2021 are as follows:

Classification	Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	48.04%	1.0408
Commercial	48.58%	1.0293
Industrial	49.85%	1.0030
Residential	47.08%	1.0620
Developmental	50%	1.0000
Personal	50%	1.0000

Leon Wright  
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: Thursday, February 18, 2021  
Thursday, February 25, 2021  
Thursday, March 4, 2021

**One Call Does It All . . .  
. . . At the Independent  
699-9020**

# INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

## AUCTION

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
U-Lock-It Self Storage LLC  
6130 Rawsonville Rd.,  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734)-482-1502

Notice is hereby given that on 3/11/21 at 12:00 P.M. thru 3/17/21 at 12:00 P.M. contents of the following storage unit(s) will be sold online at:

**Bid13.com**

SPACE #F77, Ashley Allen; #A11, Todd Allen; #A17, Jennifer Burke (TV, grow light); #F8, Nicole Carlson (bike, TV); #I29 Thomas Giraud; #C38, Stephanie Harbin (fridge, microwave, totes, cabinets/countertops); #F38, Laura Hart; #G39, Mario Holmes (go cart); #A35, Daejon Mickel; #E26, Nicholes Moates; #A15, Dominick Murphy (A/C unit, bed); #B32, Victoria Peters (shoes); #C11, Nolan Przybylo (wood furniture); #I23, Samantha Siluk (bike, dresser); #G34, Marcus Slater; #J26, Barbara Stephens; #F7, Derek Thomas; #F9, Tanesha Wells (bed/headboard); #G16, Cheryl Wingle (bike)

Unit(s) may or may not include the following: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, seasonal decorations, and tools.

Publish: March 4, 2021; March 11, 2020

## VEHICLE FOR SALE

2014 JEEP PATRIOT. California Car, 4-cyl., 5-speed, 2-wheel drive. No air. Immaculate inside & out. New tires. Private owner. \$4,850. (734) 695-0819 03/11

2007 MAZDA3. 4-door, Automatic Transmission. Has some miles but looks & drives good. Private owner. \$2,750. (734) 695-0819 03/11

2001 TOYOTA SIENNA WAGON. 6-cyl, automatic, low miles. Clean car Private owner. (734) 695-0819 03/18

## WANTED

### H & W TOP DOLLAR \$

**Cash For Salvage & Scrap Vehicles.**  
**7 Days. Free Towing.**  
**Licensed & Insured.**  
**(734) 223-5581**  
**(517) 605-6388**

## FOR SALE

**FOOD GRADE BARRELS** - Various sizes & styles. Inventory & pictures at [www.mattsbarrels.com](http://www.mattsbarrels.com) Call/text (734) 474-5981. Located in Willis. 04/10

**CUB CADET 3'X24" SNOW BLOWER**, \$650. Excellent condition, has had little use. Four-Cycle OHV 227 cc engine with cast iron sleeves. 3 stage thrower, 7 forward speeds & 2 reverse, 255 lbs. Trigger control power steering, heated grips, light for night use & electric start. (734) 394-6114 03/04

## MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

**NEW & USED HOMES** in Belleville/Canton area. Family Communities: Holiday West (734) 461-9797 & Holiday Estates (734) 495-0500. Senior Community: Royal Holiday (734) 455-2666 04/15

## CASH FOR YOUR HOME

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**ROMULUS, MI 48174**  
**313-402-0187 or 734-941-4595**  
**\$**

## SERVICES

### A&L SERVICES

**Home Improvement & Handyman Service**  
**Painting, Drywall, Carpentry,**  
**Electrical, Plumbing,**  
**Ceramic Tile, Kitchens & Bath.**  
**Serving Belleville Since**  
**1995. Call Aaron Schultz**  
**@ 734-740-0628**

### M.D. APPLIANCE SERVICE

Refrigerators • Washers  
Dryers • Ranges  
\$40 House Call  
**Call Monday-Friday, 9am-4:30pm**  
**(734) 782-3354**

**LOCAL HANDYMAN** - SOME Jobs too LARGE - NO JOB too SMALL. LICENSED & REFERENCES. (734) 765-9224 TFN

**LARRY'S HANDYMAN SERVICE.** No job too small. Interior/exterior painting, hang wallpaper, powerwashing & carpentry. (618) 267-7774 10/07

**WELDER AND GENERATOR REPAIR.** Cables and terminals. Electric motor repair. Call Jerry (734) 941-5008 03/18

**INTERIOR/EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE.** Decluttering, cleaning, painting, roof and gutter cleaning & leaks, landscaping & window cleaning. (734) 796-3628 03/25

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

## PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



"Anyone who stops learning is old whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."  
- Henry Ford

## HELP WANTED

**R & L Machine Products, Inc.**  
**Help wanted part time could lead to full time. Machine Operator basic CNC knowledge a plus. Secondary Operator and General Labor. Will train the right candidate. Email resume to [rnlmachine@aol.com](mailto:rnlmachine@aol.com) Apply in person Tuesdays and Thursdays.**  
**15995 S. Huron River Dr. Romulus, MI. 48174**  
**P: 734-992-2574**

**AREA TRAINEE** for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call (734) 697-1800 TFN

## HELP WANTED

We are hiring a couple full time recruits to join our Construction team. We install mostly fencing, decking and brick paver projects. You will be a part of creating beautiful exterior features from start to finish. We remodel interiors of homes during the winter season. If you love being outdoors, have an aptitude for learning, and transportation, we can start you out at a minimum of \$14.00 to \$20.00 based on experience. This is just a starting pay, raises are doled out based on your mastery and retention of knowledge for our projects. We are a merit based pay company. There is nothing wrong with a laborious and creative job. No gym membership needed, and making the world a more beautiful place!

Check out some of our completed projects on Facebook page, Outdoor Amenities or [www.outdooramenities.com](http://www.outdooramenities.com), this what we do. For more info call me at 734.341.3364 Eric Partridge, owner/operator.

## HELP WANTED

**Notice to Advertisers:**

The *Belleville-Area Independent* will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

“Trust, but verify.”

– Ronald Reagan

**Minding  
Your Business  
with Bob Mytych**



Belleville A & W on East Columbia near Five Points is open for another year serving up their usual tasty coney dogs, burgers, and classic root beer. Pub baskets featuring battered cod or shrimp and fish sandwiches are big favorites during Lent. I've been on a tear with their Chicken Tender Sliders and you can order them crispy or grilled. Outdoor seating is available along with their custom drive-up, order, and eat. Be

sure to see their ad in today's paper and like them on Facebook to see their specials and promotions. Call (734) 699-1800.

\*\*\*

Willow United Methodist Church in nearby New Boston is gearing up for its Drive-Thru Chicken Supper on Wednesday, March 10, beginning at 4:30 p.m. until sold out. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children. Checks and exact amount for payment is appreciated. The menu will feature fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, biscuits & gravy, and dessert. Please call ahead for orders of six or more. Orders can be called in starting at 1 p.m. (734) 654-9020.

\*\*\*

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Boston is providing meals and pantry food for the needy in the community with pick-up and delivery arrangements available. Call (734) 753-9048 or email [churchoffice@stpaulsnewboston.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulsnewboston.org). All meals are prepared in the church kitchen to Michigan Health Department standards.

\*\*\*

Wayne County Fairgrounds is working on their events for this summer and I listed their offerings in last week's column. Evidently, their website calendar wasn't updated and so most of the events on there were from last year, which were also cancelled because of the pandemic. I apologize for the misinformation. They will be open this summer, however, for the upcoming camping/hookup season.

Call (734) 697-7002 and visit [www.waynecountyfairgrounds.net](http://www.waynecountyfairgrounds.net).

\*\*\*

JR's Small Engine Repair is gearing up for the summer season with spring tune-ups starting at \$40 when you mention their ad in today's paper. Owner JR Chapman services lawn mowers, tractors, tillers, chainsaws, and other equipment. Call (734) 587-6162 or (734) 564-2039.

\*\*\*

Thank you to River of Life Assembly of God Church at 16650 Sumpter Rd. for renewing your ad with us in our church directory. Pastor Eddie Marcum offers Sunday morning in-person or live streaming services at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday Adult and Youth gatherings at 7 p.m. Visit [www.rol-ag.com](http://www.rol-ag.com) and call (734) 699-6700.

The cost is \$75 to run in our weekly listing for 13 weeks. To learn more, call me at (734) 699-9020.

\*\*\*

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

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The Belleville-Area  
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## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 324 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

**Sunday, Feb. 21:**  
0203 – animal complaint, Beckley  
0417 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hannan/Ecorse  
0433 – suspicious person/vehicle, Village Green  
0723 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0829 – suspicious person/vehicle, Brookside Dr.  
0906 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.  
1104 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.  
1156 – assist motorist, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.  
1305 – threat, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1346 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1503 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.  
1645 – suspicious person/vehicle, Southport Apts.  
2109 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service Dr.

**Monday, Feb. 22:**  
0043 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / E. I-94  
0125 – family trouble, Beckley  
0751 – civil matter, Estate Dr.  
0756 – property damage accident, Bemis Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.  
0859 – civil matter, Briarcliff  
1105 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1139 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler  
1408 – animal complaint, Oak Ln.  
1417 – 911 welfare check, N. Bellridge Dr.  
1436 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1612 – civil matter, Prairie Ct.  
1612 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2105 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.

**Tuesday, Feb. 23:**  
0158 – mental subject, Parkwood Dr.  
0208 – suspicious person/vehicle, Van Buren St. / McBride Ave.  
0252 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hull/Sumpter  
0729 – welfare check, Lake Point Blvd.  
0933 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.  
1037 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.  
1206 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.  
1226 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1359 – private property/property damage accident, Oak Ln./N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1431 – suspicious person/vehicle, Venetian Ave. / Belleville Rd.  
1458 – neighbor trouble, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
1506 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1541 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd.  
1556 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty/Tyler  
1739 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Purple Sage Ct.  
1831 – neighbor trouble, Van Buren St.  
2103 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.  
2137 – assist other dept., Main St./Second St.

**Wednesday, Feb. 24:**  
0242 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
0249 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.  
0453 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
0740 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.  
0741 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Westlake Cir.  
0901 – breaking & entering, Haggerty Rd.  
0938 – animal complaint, Ecorse Rd./Marlowe Ave.  
1019 – road hazard, Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.  
1032 – larceny from auto, Tallgrass Ct.  
1055 – misc. complaint, Oak Ln.  
1149 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.  
1155 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1155 – suspicious person/vehicle, Marina Dr.  
1222 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Andover Dr.  
1224 – property damage accident, Ecorse/I-275  
1334 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Tyler  
1337 – assist motorist, Van Born/Haggerty  
1457 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1704 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1825 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
1946 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.  
2027 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service  
2220 – 911 welfare check, Landmark  
2224 – suspicious person/vehicle, Dewitt Rd.

2234 – suspicious person/vehicle, Water's Edge Ln  
**Thursday, Feb. 25:**  
0139 – family trouble, Bemis Rd.  
0152 – shooting, Beck/Ecorse  
0711 – motorist assist, Belleville/S. I-94 Service  
0845 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.  
0959 – civil matter, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1018 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.  
1056 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.  
1151 – domestic, Pebblebrook Dr.  
1301 – animal complaint, Lenmoore Ave.  
1341 – animal complaint, Ayres Ave.  
1512 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1622 – fraud, Ruthan Dr.  
1718 – abandoned auto, Village Center Dr.  
2109 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.  
2138 – assist other dept., Lake Villa Dr.  
2303 – larceny, Vernon St.  
2337 – noise complaint, Sugarbush Ln.

**Friday, Feb. 26:**  
0654 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Beckley Rd.  
1004 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1159 – suspicious person/vehicle, Jeannette Ave. / S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1454 – found property/child, W. I-94 Belleville ramp / Belleville Rd.  
1529 – larceny, Briarwood Dr.  
1652 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.  
1825 – missing person, Quirk Rd.  
2014 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service  
2055 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.  
2159 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
2222 – domestic, S. Bellridge Dr.  
2313 – threat, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2331 – hospice death, Alden Ave.

**Saturday, Feb. 27:**  
0123 – suspicious person/vehicle, Arthur St.  
0200 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
0729 – suspicious person/vehicle, Marina Dr.  
0839 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Bellridge Dr.  
0949 – noise complaint, Jeremy Rd.  
1132 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1217 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
1316 – disorderly, Parkwood Dr.  
1326 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd.  
1344 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1410 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
1424 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1538 – malicious destruction of property, Oak Ln.  
1626 – threat, Harrison  
2004 – suspicious person/vehicle, Martz Rd./Lohr  
2029 – animal complaint, Locust Dr.  
2031 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
2247 – neighbor trouble, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Also on last week's log are 154 traffic stops, 24 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, Feb. 21:**  
0854 – property damage accident, Victorian Ln.  
1102 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave.  
1129 – traffic stop, Main St.  
1203 – traffic stop, High St.  
1355 – animal complaint, Main St.  
1450 – traffic stop, Angola St./E. Huron River Dr.  
1514 – misc. complaint, Potter Dr.  
1525 – parking complaint, N. Liberty St.  
2133 – assist fire dept., E. Huron River Dr.  
2153 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.

**Monday, Feb. 22:**  
0214 – 911 welfare check, N. Liberty St.  
0914 – 911 welfare check, E. Columbia Ave.  
1258 – 911 welfare check, Main St.  
2035 – welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.

**Tuesday, Feb. 23:**  
0751 – property damage accident, Belle Villa Blvd.  
0913 – assist fire dept., E. Columbia Ave.  
1059 – abandoned auto, Wabash Ave.  
1430 – threat, W. Davis St.  
2113 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./Church St.  
2128 – traffic stop, Fifth St./Main St.

**Wednesday, Feb. 24:**  
0703 – suicidal person, Wexford Ave.  
1013 – assist other dept., Loza Ln.  
1218 – property damage accident, Main St./Denton  
1417 – welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.  
1450 – assist fire dept., Wexford Ave.

**Thursday, Feb. 25:**  
1016 – private property impound, South St.  
1200 – harassment call, N. Aberdeen Ct.  
1218 – juvenile complaint, W. Huron River Dr. / Elwell Rd.  
1310 – follow up by officer, Sumpter  
1619 – property damage accident, E. Columbia Ave. / S. Liberty St.  
2015 – family trouble, S. Aberdeen Ct.  
2308 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Huron River Dr. / Clarence St.

**Friday, Feb. 26:**  
0859 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Angola St.  
1315 – civil matter, Loza Ln.  
1443 – animal complaint, Bay Pointe Dr.  
1528 – motorist assist, Main St.

**Saturday, Feb. 27:**  
0100 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Victorian Ln.  
2215 – assist fire dept., E. Waterbury Ct.  
2230 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.

There were eight traffic stops on this week's log.

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, Feb. 21:**  
0930 – family trouble, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
1101 – fired dept. assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1500 – civil matter, Edgewood Dr.  
1530 – fire dept. assist, Hampshire Dr.  
1909 – suspicious circumstances, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1912 – suspicious circumstances, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1938 – family trouble, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
1942 – 911 hang up, 21000 bl. Clemmons Ct.  
2104 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2212 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2353 – 911 hang up, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.

**Monday, Feb. 22:**  
0235 – fire dept. assist, Edgewood Dr.  
0836 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.  
0918 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
1139 – welfare check, 45000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1526 – traffic stop, Bemis Rd./Lohr Rd.  
1537 – follow-up investigation, 51000 bl. Arkona  
1557 – 911 hang up, 22000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
1645 – 911 hang up, 21000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
2223 – traffic stop, Willow Rd./Elwell Rd.

**Tuesday, Feb. 23:**  
0824 – alarm, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1323 – welfare check, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1328 – citizen assist, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1509 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1514 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
1540 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.  
1627 – neighbor trouble, Brookview Dr.  
1641 – alarm, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1719 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1759 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.  
2017 – welfare check, Edgewood Dr.  
2323 – property damage accident, Martinsville Rd. / Harris Rd.  
2331 – 911 hang up, 51000 bl. Wear Rd.

**Wednesday, Feb. 24:**  
0942 – alarm, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1247 – animal complaint, Sumpter Rd./Willow Rd.

1510 – traffic stop, Willow Rd./Sumpter Rd.  
1527 – property damage accident, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1803 – 911 hang up, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1825 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

**Thursday, Feb. 25:**  
0520 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.  
0549 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.  
0832 – neighbor trouble, Walnut St.  
1447 – 911 hang up, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1828 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
1906 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2354 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.

**Friday, Feb. 26:**  
0049 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0827 – alarm, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
0925 – suspicious circumstances, 41000 bl. Willis  
1313 – suspicious person, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1554 – animal complaint, 29000 bl. Martinsville  
1807 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1845 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1855 – larceny, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.  
2009 – 911 hang up, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
2125 – citizen assist, Sumpter Rd./Kozma Rd.  
2338 – civil matter, 42000 bl. Harris Rd.

**Saturday, Feb. 27:**  
0027 – family trouble, 29000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
0032 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.  
0118 – welfare check, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0134 – follow-up investigation, 29000 bl. Elwell  
0143 – missing person, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
0213 – family trouble, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1348 – traffic stop, Willow Rd./Karr Rd.  
1419 – civil matter, New Mexico St.  
1652 – death investigation, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1738 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1747 – alarm, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2123 – noise complaint, 44000 bl. Paris Dr.  
2219 – suspicious person, Bemis Rd./Elwell Rd.  
2353 – family trouble, 21000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
2355 – family trouble, Rustic Lane.

Also on this log are 37 patrol checks. There were four traffic stops this week.

## COVID-19 death total in 48111 creeps to 60, positive tests at 2,197

The number of people who have died from COVID-19 in the 48111 zip code grew to 60 over the week ending Monday, March 1, up one from the week before.

The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 were 2,197 on Monday, March 1, up from 2,162 the previous Monday, Feb. 22.

On Monday, March 1, the separate numbers released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 1,434 positive cases, 32 deaths; City of Belleville, 382 positive cases, 21 deaths; and Sumpter Township 381 positive cases, 7 deaths.

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On Saturday, Jim Wigginton of Van Buren Township passed the AFF Accelerated Free Fall Skydiving course in Florida that allows him to solo skydive again. Wigginton said, "I am the oldest person, at 72, to pass this course."

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*The Belleville-Area Independent*

**Family Dollar announces grand re-opening**

CHESAPEAKE, VA. – Family Dollar, a small format and convenience retailer, has announced plans for the renovated store's grand re-opening on Saturday, March 6, in Van Buren Township.

Family Dollar is located at 6119 Rawsonville Rd. near the intersection with the South I-94 Service Dr.

In addition to providing everyday low prices and a broad assortment of necessities, the renovated store will now include \$1 Dollar Tree merchandise, additional freezers and coolers and an expanded selection of food, beauty and essentials, household products, and seasonal items.

"Family Dollar is proud to be a part of the Belleville community and we are excited to welcome existing and new customers to our newly renovated store," said Jim Van Slyke, Family Dollar spokesperson. "The refreshed store will provide even greater values and convenience to our shoppers."

A store of this size typically employs six to 10 associates. Interested applicants can apply online at [www.FamilyDollar.com/](http://www.FamilyDollar.com/) careers or by visiting the store location.

Family Dollar stores are open seven days a week.

**Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
 PLANNING COMMISSION  
 REMOTE PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **March 24, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.** This hearing will take place remotely via Zoom due to public health concerns associated with COVID-19. The Planning Commission will consider the following zoning ordinance amendments:

**Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments:** Proposed amendments that would allow limited additional lot coverage beyond district lot coverage limits in the industrial zoning districts for purposes of allowing unenclosed roofed structures over accessory outdoor industrial storage areas. The amendments will include updates to Sections 2.102 – Definitions, 4.103 – Footnotes to the Schedule of Regulations, and 5.101 – Accessory Outdoor Industrial Storage.

Members of the public may access the agenda materials via the Township website – [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org) beginning **March 19, 2021**. On this website, members of the public will also gain access to **means of participating in the electronic meeting**, including a unique Zoom weblink and dial-in phone number with a meeting ID for meeting videoconference or teleconference access. The meeting will be available to view live on the Van Buren Township YouTube Channel which can be reached from the live meeting link located on the Van Buren Township website home page ([www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org)). Closed captioning will be available after YouTube fully renders meeting video.

A complete **procedure for public comment by electronic means** is provided on a guide which is accessible on the Van Buren Township website ([www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org)). Participants may also choose to submit written comments that will be read into record during public comment by the Chairperson. Submit any written comments via e-mail to [dpower@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:dpower@vanburen-mi.org) by the day of the meeting. Members of the public may also contact [dpower@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:dpower@vanburen-mi.org) to be connected with members of the Planning Commission prior to the meeting by e-mail.

To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any citizen requesting accommodation to attend a meeting, and/or to obtain this notice in alternate formats, please contact the Clerk's Office at 734.699.8900 extension 9205.

Posted: February 26, 2021  
 Published: March 4, 2021

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