



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 32.10 Thursday, March 5, 2026

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

VBT approves moratorium on possible ICE detention center

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

A last-minute agenda item -- a six-month moratorium -- was added to the end of the short Van Buren Township Board meeting on Feb. 17 with supervisor Kevin McNamara explaining that the federal government had just purchased a warehouse in the township.

It was the same unit that purchased the warehouse in Romulus with the intent of using it as an ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs) detention center for 500 people.

The Van Buren Township warehouse is at 41199 Van Born Rd., between Haggerty Road and I-275.

The Romulus detention center is confirmed planned for the warehouse at 7525 Cogswell Road, south of Ecorse and east of Hannan Road. The federal government also bought a building in Southfield for ICE offices.

The motion that was made by treasurer Sharry Budd and seconded by Clerk Leon Wright deferred any review of new applications pertaining to detention centers/private prisons, large industrial projects meeting certain criteria, and power generation facilities. The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Donald Boynton was absent from the meeting.

Ron Akers, director of municipal services, gave a report on the situation before the vote.

He said the same group that bought the Romulus warehouse bought the Van Buren Township warehouse, but it is not clear if there is any intent to establish a facility in the township. He said, however, after a review of township development regulations it is

(continued on page 11)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

At Monday's regular meeting of the Belleville City Council, representatives of the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) were present to give a ceremonial check to the city for traffic-calming changes to Main Street. From left are council woman Julie Kissel, state representative Reggie Miller, mayor Ken Voigt, mayor-pro-tem Kelly Bates, councilman Jeremiah Beebe, Randy Priest, SEMCOG planning director Kevin Vettrano, and Joshua Baylor from Congresswoman Dingell's office.

Belleville accepts \$552,890 check from SEMCOG

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

At Monday's regular meeting of the Belleville City Council, the council accepted a large, ceremonial check for \$552,890 from the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) for traffic-calming changes to Main Street.

Mayor Ken Voigt said SEMCOG did a multi-disciplined traffic safety study in the city's downtown in 2024 and then gave a report with recommendations in 2025.

He said the entire project proposed was too extensive, but the city is doing part of what was suggested. He referred to a proposed round-about at Five Points that is not included in this project.

Mayor Voigt said the project includes moving the Fourth Street pedestrian crossing to in front of the museum and putting in bump outs there to reduce the street from

four to two lanes. The crossing will be raised to slow traffic.

He said at Third Street, they will put in a mini traffic circle. He said there is a traffic signal there now, but there is not as much traffic there as there used to be. There used to be a supermarket on Third Street and the post office around the corner. He said the city has enough real estate to do the one-lane traffic circle.

Voigt said there also will be bump outs at Second Street.

Kevin Vettrano of SEMCOG said this is through the TAP program with federal funds

from the Infrastructure Act. He said this is aimed at reducing traffic-related crashes and make the roadway safer for vehicles and pedestrians.

Voigt said the project is very exciting. He said Belleville is the hub of Van Buren Township and this will make the downtown more walkable. He said construction will take place in 2027.

In other business at the 37-minute meeting in the new city hall, the council:

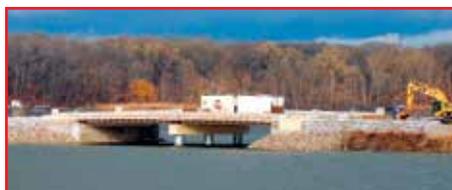
- Approved the VFW and PLAV Buddy Poppy distribution from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(continued on page 3)

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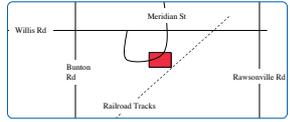
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

City of Belleville

(continued from page 1)

on May 7, 8, 9 and the Memorial Day Ceremony at 11 a.m. May 25 following the parade. VFW Commander John Blackstone explained that post members no longer are 18 years old and so it is unsure whether the poppy event will be out in the street or by some other means;

- Approved Reiki Healing meditations for sunrise or sunset on June 20 in Horizon Park, although nobody was present to explain the project. It is sponsored by Tranquil Balance Healing Modality of Van Buren Township;

- Approved a resolution opposing housing development legislation at the state level because, although it is well-intentioned, it takes away local control;

- Approved a resolution adopting an Assault Policy and a form for employees to file reports on safety concerns or threats. The city adopted a Run-Hide-Fight guidance. Voigt said this policy was created because of two incidents at Canton Township, which were discussed at a previous meeting;

- Approved canceling Nixel because GoGov is much better, according to interim city manager Steve Jones and public safety director Kris Faull;

- Approved contracting for residential cross connection services with HydroCorp. It was pointed out this residential check is required by state law;

- Agreed to split the \$10,440 cost of geese mitigation at Horizon and Village parks, 50-50 with the Downtown Development Authority, as the DDA requested. The contract with Goodbye Geese is for \$5,220 per park for six months;

- Selected Pivot Municipal Services Group as the recruitment firm for a search for a new city manager. It was pointed out Pivot had the lowest cost of the four groups who presented proposals at the last meeting and any of the groups who presented would do a good job. James Freed from Pivot was that company's presenter. Also, presenting were SGR Executive Recruitment, Michigan Municipal League, and Vittrano Consulting, LLC;

- Heard Jones report that although the meeting room they are in was completed, contractors still have to finish off the rest of the building. He said the glass doors in front and back were expected to be installed this week. There is IT work to do and the switch over of phones, he said;

- Heard Kissel say the planning commission's hearing on the master plan has been changed to April 9 and there is no planning commission meeting in March; and

- Heard the mayor say he can't wait until the work at Hayward's is complete and they lift the black tarps. Jones said the builder doing the work found a sign that said Bunyea's and the mayor recalled when he was a child that Bunyea's had a window to get soft-serve ice cream.

Huber buys home that turns into EPA Superfund project

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Dan Huber wants to know how the retirement home he bought in 2023 at 17740 Savage Rd. in Sumpter Township turned into a \$2.8 million Environmental Protection Agency Superfund cleanup project.

The EPA refers to the property on its website as "Savage Lead Site."

He said he did everything right and he still isn't able to live in his new home. He said the location is perfect since it's near his grandsons in New Boston and he'll never get the time back that he planned to spend with them as they grew.

He said he had grown up in a home with a septic tank and never wanted to own a home with a septic system since there were so many problems.

"If it said 'septic' I wouldn't be talking to you now," he said.

He said when he bought this property from the estate of the late Richard Cashen through Real Estate One the paperwork said it had a public sewer. He said he sued Real Estate One over that misstatement and lost.

The property's inspection by the township before sale had clearly marked that it had public sewer. The real estate company trusted the township, he said, and that's why he lost the suit.

He got five permits from the township to completely rebuild his home, including one to put up a pole barn where the septic system was found to be.

The county checked and the septic field failed the inspection and a perk test failed. He contacted EGLE (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy), but they wouldn't test, so he hired Fibertech and they found lead, cadmium, mercury, and arsenic in the soil.

The state brought the EPA in and started

a Super Fund cleanup. He said now they are 14 feet deep and his house looks like it is on stilts. He said he's been living with friends and family for three years. He had a chance to retire from his job, but couldn't because of the delay with his home.

He said they found the contaminants were leaking into the creek and into the Huron River. He said the cleanup contractors told him it looks like the contaminants are on his back property, a couple of his neighbors' properties, and all the way to Bemis Road, including past the bar and bakery.

He said his property taxes were cut in half when he appealed, but he said they really should be zero. Huber said he wanted to keep squatters away so he had the water turned off completely, but he still keeps getting water bills from the township.

"I got a \$160 water bill yesterday," (Feb. 26), he said, and higher bills before that.

Huber said he found the 1972 original permit was in the township's file for his property. Property owner James E. Clark got permission to backfill his property with soil from Huron River Steel. He wrote that he already had started the work and wanted to complete it.

The permit was signed by township building official James C. Clark, who noted this would improve the man's property.

Huber said he couldn't believe the township had the 1972 permit all along. He has pictures of tires that were buried in his front yard and metal equipment in back.

He said he contacted Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, State Rep. Reggie Miller, and State Senator Darrin Camilleri seeking help, and he credits Dingell's office with calling him back and contacting the EPA.

He said he and his ex-wife had a \$600,000 lake home in Newport and when they split she bought him out and he bought his \$183,000 retirement home in Sumpter. It is on a .58-acre site.



Dan Huber has stacks of documents on the home he bought in Sumpter Township that he has never been able to move into because it's contaminated. The EPA has named the .58-acre parcel as Savage Lead Site

"I want to know how this happened," he said of the series of events in Sumpter that left him homeless.

He said he went to see township manager Ken Marten on Feb. 27 and Marten showed him a second permit for the neighborhood from 1972, this one to Ethul Clarke for the property next door. That one says the backfill came from Huron Valley Steel.

Huber said the cleanup paused recently and the EPA contractors told him that was because the Frost Law went into effect and heavy loads couldn't travel the roads.

Sumpter declares public safety emergency on gravel roads

Sumpter Township Supervisor Timothy Bowman and the Board of Trustees declared a Public Safety Emergency regarding the current hazardous condition of the gravel roads in Sumpter Township.

Moreover, at the Feb. 24 board meeting they issued an immediate plea for action.

Per state law, all public roads in townships fall under the jurisdiction of counties. Wayne County is responsible for the maintenance and management of public roads in Sumpter Township.

Gravel roads within Sumpter Township in their current hazardous condition are unsafe and pose a dire threat to public health and safety, the board said.

Many segments of the gravel roads in Sumpter Township are severely washboarded, rutted and potholed, contain standing water

due to drainage failures, and significant segments of road are nearly impassable.

The current hazardous condition of the gravel roads poses ongoing inconvenience to township residents in terms of the additional time it takes to get from place to place, as well as the ongoing threat of vehicle damage while driving at any speed, the board said.

Most critically, the current hazardous condition of the gravel roads imposes an alarmingly significant delay in response time for emergency services – police, fire and ambulance. Transport of a patient whose situation deems higher-level care is likewise severely compromised. When a life is at stake, every delayed second counts, they said.

Supervisor Bowman and the Board of Trustees formally invite Wayne County officials to personally drive the gravel roads

in Sumpter Township for a day to experience firsthand what township residents tolerate on a daily basis.

Supervisor Bowman and the Board of Trustees urge Wayne County to take action as soon as possible to correct this ever-worsening situation:

- Conduct an emergency assessment to determine the most affected gravel roads;
- Schedule immediate grading and repair wherever necessary;
- Prepare a gravel road maintenance schedule with timelines and dates; and
- Prepare a multi-year plan for durable improvements.

Wayne County must act soon. Sumpter Township will not accept continued delay, the board's statement concluded.

O P I N I O N S

Editorial: Things are changing quickly in township, city

You have to keep alert these days. Things are changing quickly in Van Buren Township and the city of Belleville.

Van Buren Township is getting a mega data center to add to its mega Stellantis warehouse on Ecorse Road. We don't know who will run the data center because of a non-disclosure agreement signed by the township, but we are assured everyone will recognize the name once it is released.

Also, Van Buren Township is widening Belleville Road between Tyler and Ecorse and putting in sidewalks along Tyler Road between the township hall and Haggerty. This is along with the paving of Morton Taylor to the north of Tyler.

Then there are ongoing plans for the lake house on Belleville Road at the bridge and the development of the former Ford property at the northwest corner of Tyler and Belleville roads. McDonalds is rebuilt and other shops coming.

The city of Belleville recently listed seven projects under way in the city, including its big move to a new city hall at 330 Charles St. next to the library parking lot. Horizon Park will get its shoreline stabilized and roadway repaved. Liberty Street is getting new water and sewer lines and a new roadway. New shops have filled the shopping center at the bridge, and the city just got a big check from SEMCOG to put a mini roundabout at Third Street as well as other traffic-calming projects.

Keep alert. Changes are under way.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

We received a response from Pat McNally on letter-writer Donald Keith's surprise on hearing there had been a hospital in Belleville at one time.

"Yes, we had one," McNally wrote. "It was where Citizens bank is. I found a picture in 'See Again.' Trying to share."

We're getting lots of calls about how bad the gravel roads are in Van Buren and Sumpter townships. One older woman on Elwell Road in Van Buren Township said the holes are everywhere in the road and you can't drive it at all.

Others say they damage their vehicles when they try to drive those roads.

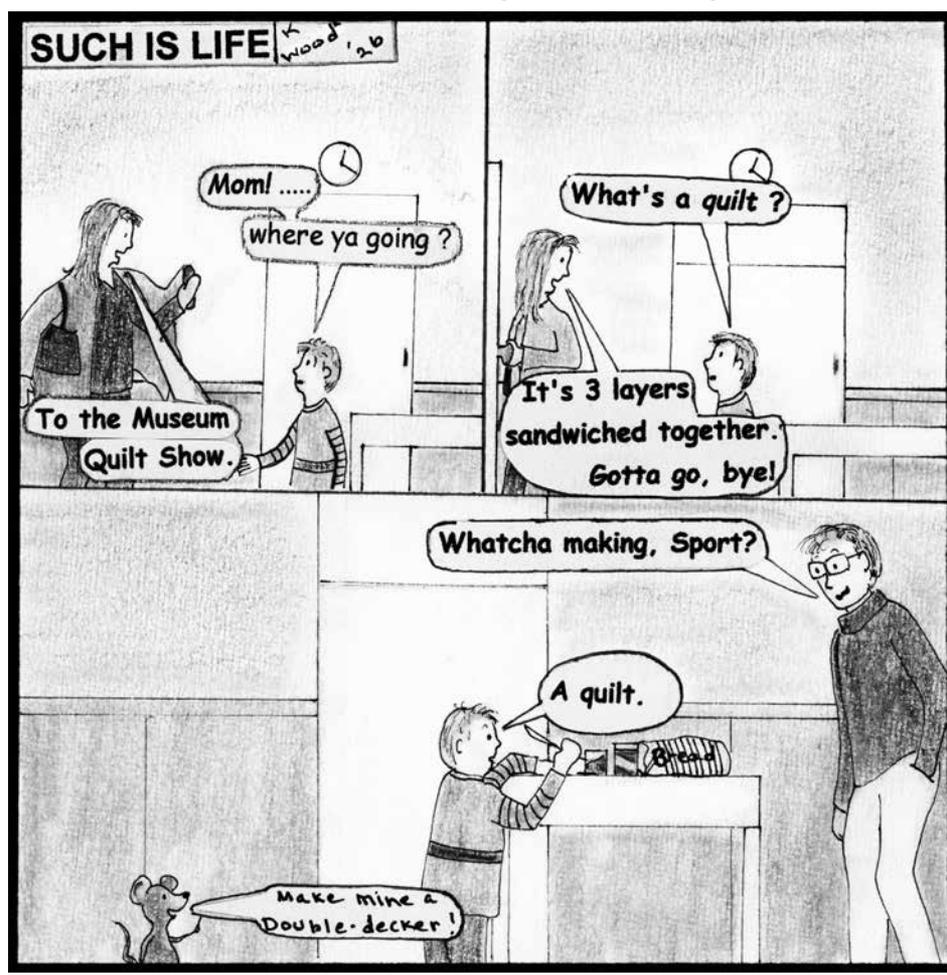
The Sumpter Township Board of Trustees passed a statement at its Feb. 24 meeting challenging Wayne County officials to drive around Sumpter for a day to see the situation and then get busy and fix it.

The state says all township roads are owned by the county, so Wayne County is supposed to keep them in shape. Because of the former frigid weather and the warming temperatures, the roads have deteriorated greatly.

On its Facebook page, the Sumpter Police Department issued the following statement: "We have observed a significant rise in the number of fully tinted windshields and are prioritizing this safety violation in our traffic enforcement efforts."

"This practice is illegal and poses a safety hazard, as it severely limits the driver's visibility, particularly at night and in rainy conditions."

We've been told by those who watch TV shows that feature live police patrols around the country that other states have been



enforcing this, as well, because the practice is so unsafe.

Thank you, Sumpter PD.

We've been told that the long-vacant Bayou Grill in downtown Belleville has been sold and will become a taco restaurant. The alligator is going to remain on the roof, we're told, maybe with a sombrero on its head.

On Monday, the city of Belleville held its first council meeting in its new city hall at 330 Charles St., next to the Belleville Area Public Library parking lot. The building originally was the post office and when the post office moved, various other businesses used the space over the years. When it became available, the city bought it for its new city hall.

Mayor Ken Voigt said on Monday that he's been looking at that building for city use for 40 years. Voigt retired from the Belleville PD. He said 40 years ago his police chief wanted the building for his police department when it was vacated by the post office.

Interim city manager Steve Jones put up a couple of big signs at the new city hall that showed people who wanted to attend the city council meeting that they had to enter through the back door.

You'd think with a 90-space parking lot between it and the library that it would be easy to find a parking space. Think again. The library was busy with special events and the parking lot was almost completely

full. Some people parked on the police department side of the new city hall and walked down the alley to get to the door for the meeting room.

The front door hadn't been installed yet, but I'm told they will keep that shut for the city council meetings and have the public always come in the back door, which enters to the back of the meeting room.

The space has room for twice as many people as the council chambers at the city hall at Five Points. And, it has a big screen on the wall behind the council table, with the city logo on it when it isn't displaying a map or other information. Nice. That's kind of like what Sumpter Township has, but in Sumpter they keep changing the picture on the screen which distracts from what's happening at the meeting.

It was pointed out by the mayor that Monday's meeting in Belleville was historic. The council accepted a big cardboard check from SEMCOG, posed for a picture, and then whipped through the brief meeting, so they could celebrate the event with the SEMCOG delegation.

We're assuming this was a catered dinner lakeside, like the council did at a former celebration. The mayor said they are going to put off the public grand opening of the new city hall for a month or two. "There's no hurry," he said.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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

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

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Production Manager:
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Letters

Chief Faull failed to teach students to protest

To the editor:
 Subject: Chief Faull Failed
 When did it become normal to accept violent demonstrations?
 We have the right to PEACEFULLY assemble for the redress of grievances.
 Several years ago, I organized a demonstration in protest of the mask mandate in the schools. The police chief at the time contacted me. We worked out what would be expected of us. The do's and don'ts. He set up a location for us and counter demonstrators. He also had police on site to maintain the peace.
 Where was Chief Kristin Faull? From all accounts, crimes were committed. Throwing bottles at people is assault. Why were the police not there to keep the peace and arrest those committing crimes? Chief Faull has one job, to keep the peace in Belleville, and she failed.
 Furthermore, where are the parents? We are teaching our youth that it is acceptable to be violent and threaten those they disagree with. Just because you don't like the man in The White house.
 I am disappointed with the police department and school administrators for allowing this type of behavior.

Joseph Flange, Van Buren Township
 VBT Precinct 6 Delegate

Camping World: Thank you so much for flag

To the editor:
 This is to the owners of Camping World. I want to say thank you so much for our Stars and Stripes flag you are flying.
 Coming from a family of very proud veterans, I can't drive by your store without placing my hand over my heart.
 Your flag flies proud and strong.
 God bless the U.S.A.

Brad Traskos
 Sumpter Township

Mothers should know PNES suicide rates

To the editor:
 My daughter died and no one told us that there is an 800% increase in those under age 40 [diagnosed with PNES] to die from suicide. It's not in any paperwork we received from the hospital. I believe this is malpractice and I want to bring light to this diagnosis to help other individuals with this diagnosis. No mother should have to go through this.

Nicole McGuire
 Van Buren Township

Editor's note: McGuire said her daughter was diagnosed with PNES (psychogenic non-epileptic seizures). PNES looks like epilepsy but it is a deadly and largely undiagnosed and untreated disease. She directs parents to read this report:
<https://www.cureepilepsy.org/news/looks-like-epilepsy-but-isnt-the-disease-that-is-deadly-largely-undiagnosed-and-untreated/>

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More Letters

Tiger Drama preparing 'The Addams Family'

To the editor:
Tiger Drama is hard at work preparing for our upcoming spring musical, "The Addams Family," coming to the Belleville High School stage April 16-18.

Rehearsals are in full swing, and students are putting in countless hours of singing, dancing, acting, building, and behind-the-scenes preparation to bring this spooky and hilarious show to life.

"The Addams Family" is a crowd-pleasing musical comedy that follows Wednesday Addams as she falls in love with a boy from a very "normal" family. What follows is a night full of surprises, laughter, and chaos as two very different families come together for an unforgettable dinner.

While the show is filled with humor and iconic characters, it also carries a heartfelt message about love, family, and embracing what makes each of us unique.

Producing a musical takes an incredible amount of teamwork, dedication, and community support. In addition to rehearsals, our students are working hard on set design, costumes, props, lighting, sound, and all the details that make a full-scale production possible.

As we prepare for opening night, Tiger Drama is also currently selling advertisement space in our show program. This is a great opportunity for local businesses to support the arts while reaching members of the Belleville community and beyond. As a thank you, each business that purchases an ad will receive one complimentary ticket to the show.

If you or your business is interested in advertising or supporting Tiger Drama, please reach out to Samantha Cross at scross@vanburenschools.net.

We can't wait to welcome audiences this spring for a production that is equal parts creepy, funny, and full of heart. Thank you for continuing to support our students and the performing arts in Belleville.

Samantha Cross
scross@vanburenschools.net

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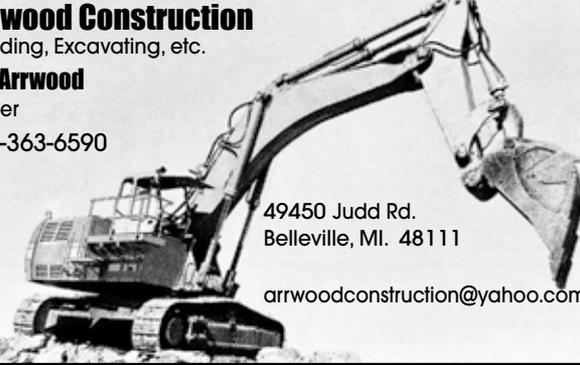
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More Letters

McBride thanks those who served our NAAPID

To the editor:

McBride Middle School PTO would like to thank the following community members for speaking on our panel during our first annual NAAPID [National African American Parent Involvement Day] on Feb. 10:

- Quartez Shah - Epsilon Tau, Southfield Alumni Chapter
- Ace Klub, Henry Grigsby, Conrad Hunt, Alvin Lymas - Kappa, Southfield Alumni Chapter
- Deon Bryant, Kenneth Jackson, Jr. - Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, EMU chapter
- Nichole Barr - Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority
- Tracy Bryant, Ed.S – Delta Sigma Theta sorority
- Alissa Frederick - SOS Community Services advocate
- Matelyn Koscielny - McBride Media Center specialist

Dear Partners and Participants,

On behalf of the McBride PTO, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your partnership, participation, and support in making our NAAPID celebration such a meaningful and successful event.

This year marked a historic moment for Van Buren Public Schools, as McBride proudly hosted the district's first NAAPID celebration. It was truly a day to remember, one filled with unity, pride, and a powerful

demonstration of what happens when families, educators, and community members come together in support of our children.

As both a proud parent and educator, I deeply understand the value of visibility, presence, and engagement in our schools. When our students see the adults in their lives showing up across backgrounds, cultures, and experiences it sends a powerful message that they are supported, valued, and capable of greatness. Your contributions helped create that message.

Thank you for investing your time, energy, and spirit into our program. Your presence made a difference, and our students felt it.

We are already looking ahead with excitement and anticipation for an even larger celebration next year, and we hope you will continue to partner with us as we build on this incredible foundation.

With sincere appreciation,
 Chales Grigsby
 McBride PTO President

Keystone Perseverance Scholarships have April 20 filing date

The deadline to file an application for this year's Keystone Perseverance Scholarships is 9 p.m., April 20, 2026.

There are two \$2,000 scholarships to be awarded, sponsored by the PTO and the Keystone Academy Board of Directors.

To be eligible, a student must be a graduating senior and have at least a 2.5 gradepoint average. The student must have completed eighth grade at Keystone Academy and had been a Keystone student for at least four years.

Also, the student must be active in the school community and extracurricular activities and provide documentation. Also, the student must be enrolled at a post-high school educational institution.

To apply for a scholarship, contact keystoneacademypto@gmail.com or go to the Keystone PTO Facebook page.

Marissa Taylor elected to Phi Kappa Phi honor society at MSU

Marissa Taylor of Belleville was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Michigan State University.

Taylor is among about 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter.

Only the top 10% of seniors and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10% of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Obituaries

BRUCE LEVESQUE

March 11, 1995 – February 27, 2026
 Age 30, of Allen Park. Survived by mother, Paula Levesque of Van Buren Township; fiancé Krystal; siblings Christopher, Jessica, Elizabeth, Jasmine, Whitty, Joshua, Dakota, Cheyenne. Visitation and service is March 7 at David C. Brown Funeral Home.
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Five generations posed for a recent picture. From left are June Alford, Patty Harris, Melissa Williams, Jaidyn Dombrowski, and Selah Raine Dombrowski, who was born Dec. 19, 2025.

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Saturday, March 7** – Skate Party to benefit Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Rollers Skate Park, 19750 Sumpter Rd., \$10 per person in advance and \$12 at the door. Includes skate rental. Baked goods and T-shirts for sale.
- **Wednesday, March 11** – Nikki Pickeral from the Belleville Area District Library will present “Sincerely Yours, Local History Through Letters” at 7 p.m. at the library. Enjoy an evening of love, heartache, and mystery with letters from the Belleville Area Museum.
- **Saturday, March 14** – Youth Sewing Workshop at the Belleville Area District Library at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. and 1 and 2 p.m. Members of the Western Wayne County Quilt Guild will sew with six students per hour, making a turtle bath mitt/floor mop.
- **Saturday, March 14** – “Rivets and Rose” from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Michigan Flight Museum, 47884 D Street,

- Belleville, (734) 483-4030. Ticket is \$50. Includes one adult beverage and a light breakfast. Slip into your best Rosie the Riveter look or WWII-era work ware. There will be costume prizes, riveting machine demos, stories, and more.
- **Saturday, March 14, and Sunday, March 15** –The Van Buren Community Players present “Murder’s in the Heir” dinner theater at the Van Buren Community Center, 46425 Tyler Rd. Tickets must be purchased by March 7 at <http://vbtvbc.ludus.com>
- **Monday, March 16** – Belleville Area Garden Club at 6:45 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Guest speaker Andrew DesJardins will demonstrate air-layering techniques for propagating fruit trees. Wear Irish green for a group photo.
- **Tuesday, March 17** – St. Patty’s Day Dinner at Van Buren Eagles 3996, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township. From 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. or until gone. Corn beef, potatoes, onions, carrots, cabbage, rutabaga, roll and dessert. \$20. Also, Van Buren Eagles’ \$500 Cabela’s gift card raffle, \$10. Drawing March 25. Do not have to be present to win.

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CAMPBELL



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Campbell has quite the story. Before coming to us, this handsome boy was living his entire life inside a cat carrier. Because of that, he was understandably overwhelmed and defensive in his kennel at the shelter. It was the only way he knew how to cope.

But the moment Campbell was given space in a larger room, everything changed.

Out of his shell came the sweetest, most charming boy. Now, he eagerly walks up to people for attention, happily accepts treats, and has discovered the joy of playtime! Watching him realize he's safe and free to explore has been truly heartwarming.

Campbell isn't a fan of being held-and that's perfectly okay. He prefers affection on his own terms: pets, company, and interactive play are much more his style. He gets along well with other cats and is curious about them. He can be a bit of a rough-and-tumble player, and he may growl or hiss during play sessions-but don't worry! That's just his enthusiastic play style. He's having fun and doesn't mean any harm.

Campbell is looking for a patient, understanding home that will continue to give him the space and kindness he needs to thrive. In return, you'll get a resilient, affectionate companion who's discovering just how good life can be. Could you be the one to show Campbell that his best days are still ahead?

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'Murder's in the Heir' at VBT dinner theatre March 14, 15, 21, 22

Van Buren Community Players will present Billy St. John's "Murder's in the Heir" in the Aspen Room of the Van Buren Community Center on March 14, 15, 21, and 22.

Turn the game of Clue into a play and you have the entertaining "Murder's in the Heir." Almost every character in this mystery has the weapon, opportunity, and motive to commit the unseen murder. And it's up to the audience to decide who actually did it!

Each of the heirs to the tyrannical billionaire Simon Starkweather has the means and the motive to do away with him. Starkweather gathers his family and employees to announce the contents of his will. His lawyer reveals that he has bequeathed vast fortunes to his befuddled niece Fiona, her playboy son Jordan, his great-niece Paula, and his grandson Simon III, as well as to his many servants. Then his lawyer delivers the bombshell.

Within hours the will becomes invalid. Predictably, the lights go out and Simon is discovered murdered. Simon III is determined to find his grandfather's killer.

Secret ballots gathered at intermission from the audience determine the killer in this curious maze of murder. The public is invited to join the entire cast to see who can solve the mystery.

"The cast and I are elated that Mr. Billy St. John has graced us with his play, 'Murder's in the Heir,'" said director Chandler Gimson. "We are eager to be a part of the dramatic process as he chooses which of the eight endings and character's he'd like for his play. It should go absolutely swell, right? Alas, if we run into any difficulties we can always ask the audience!"



Cast members, from left, are Jen Cousino, Andrea VanDenBergh, and Nevaeh Robinson.

The cast of this show includes Damon Williams of Detroit, Marci Karp of Flat Rock, Brandon Gallerani of Garden City, Elizabeth Rusanchin of Ypsilanti, Andrea VanDenBergh of Van Buren Township, Heidi Leads of Van Buren Township, Jen Cousino of New Boston, Nevaeh Robinson of Belleville, Cindy Franklin of Ypsilanti, Jill Yob of Van Buren Township, Barb Day of Belleville, Maddie Dickerson of

Plymouth, Tiffany Darby of Taylor, and Sherrie Saksewski of Van Buren Township.

Dinner theatre performances are March 14 at 6:30 p.m., March 15 at 1 p.m., March 21 at 6:30 p.m. and March 22 at 1 p.m. in the Aspen Room of the VBT Community Center, 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township.

A buffet of beef braised pot roast, mixed greens salad, rice pilaf, garlic mashed potatoes, brown gravy, mixed vegetable medley, buttery yeast roll, water, lemonade, fruit punch and coffee is included with each ticket.

Tickets to the performances are \$43-\$47 each and can be purchased online by going to <http://vbtvbc.ludus.com> or in person at the Community Center desk Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For ticket assistance via phone, call (734) 699-8921. Online ticket sales will close one week prior to performances. For group sales (10 or more tickets) use code **Buy10** on general tickets to receive a discounted rate of \$42 per ticket before fees.

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Photo courtesy of Elena Manalp, VBT Communications
 On Saturday, Feb. 28, the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed the town's newest Realtor Lauren Rivers, broker of Rivers House, with a ribbon-cutting in Belle Park Plaza. A large crowd gathered to wish her well including Belleville Mayor Ken Voigt, members of the chamber, friends, and family.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, March 9 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
- Tuesday, March 10 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m. Belleville Area District Library, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 11 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 12 – Keystone

- Academy School Board, 5 p.m.
- Monday, March 16 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education workshop, 6 p.m., administration building. Also, Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 17 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed.
- Wednesday, March 18 – City of Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m., city hall. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 6 p.m.

Sherron LaTrice Franklin earns degree from U of Maryland

ADELPHI, MD -- Sherron LaTrice Franklin of Van Buren Township, earned a Bachelor of Science *magna cum laude* in Accounting from the University of Maryland Global Campus in fall 2025.
 Franklin was one of more than 6,400 students worldwide who earned degrees from UMGC in the fall 2025 term.
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(continued from page 1)

clear that the township needs to take some additional considerations with regards to private prisons and detention centers.

“There is a significant difference between the amount of water and sewer demand between a warehouse and a detention center and in certain areas of the township we have capacity issues which need to be considered for these types of facilities,” director Akers said.

The moratorium would give the planning commission time to address size and scale in review of these issues, he said.

McNamara said the planning commission

wants such uses to be specified as needing special land use approvals.

He said this does not apply to Cannolli, the data center seeking to build in the township, since it complies with the requirements for its zoning and was filed before this resolution was passed. He said you can’t deny to hear a request after it is in the pipeline.

McNamara said the board is trying to get ahead of a problem.

Clerk Wright agreed, saying, “This is one of the things we have been asked to do and we can do it.”

Under public comment, John Delaney chastised the board for just adding this item to the agenda at the last minute. He said they need to put this before the public for

consideration before they vote on it.

“I’m going to fight like hell to keep a detention center out,” McNamara said.

In other business at the Feb. 17 meeting, the board:

- Heard clerk Wright memorialize the late Jessie Jackson and then the board held a moment of silence to mark his passing. Wright also introduced three members of the Belleville High School student council who put on a presentation honoring important personalities for Black History Month. Students were Braylon Hubbard, ’26; Morgan Liggins, ’27; and Cassidy Taylor, ’27;
- Adopted the IAFF Medical Expense Retirement Plan (MERP) to replace the Healthcare Savings Plan with MERS. It was explained the full-time fire fighters needed a different kind of coverage;
- Approved the supervisor’s reappointments of Kimberly Nofz, Charles Coleman, Stacy English, Tommy Wall, and Mark Woodson to the Recreation Committee with terms to expire Feb. 1, 2027;
- Approved the appointment of Brian Cullin as the Planning Commission liaison and Bernard Grant as the alternate Planning Commission liaison to the Board of Zoning

(continued on page 13)



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City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
 Tuesday, February 17, 2026 - 6:30 pm

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Voigt Present
 Mayor Pro-Tem Bates Absent - Excused
 Council Member Kissel Present
 Council Member Beebe Present
 Council Member Priest Present

3. PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- Presentations
 - i. **Public Safety Director Faull – Fire Department Progress Update**
 1. Director Faull updated the Council on the progress being made with the Fire Department and its hired consultant.
 - ii. **SGR Executive Recruitment**
 1. Clay Pearson from SGR Executive Recruitment presented the services they have to offer in recruiting a new City Manager.
 - iii. **Michigan Municipal League**
 1. Greg (last name unknown) from the Michigan Municipal League presented the services they have to offer in recruiting a new City Manager.
 - iv. **Pivot Municipal Services Group**
 1. James Freed from Pivot Municipal Services Group presented the services they have to offer in recruiting a new City Manager.
 - v. **Vittraino Consulting, LLC**
 1. Jaymes Vittraino from Vittraino Consulting, LLC presented the services they have to offer in recruiting a new City Manager.
- Citizen Comments
 - i. None.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION: Motion by Beebe, supported by Kissel to approve the agenda as presented, with the addition of item 8F, Extension of Greg Flynn Contract, under General Business.
Motion Carried.

5. CONSENT AGENDA
The Consent Agenda groups routine meeting discussion points into a single agenda item. In so doing, the grouped items can be approved in one action, rather than through the filing of multiple motions.

- **Approval of Minutes**
 - i. February 2, 2026 – Regular Meeting Minutes
- **Budget report**
 - i. As of February 5, 2026
- **Communications**
 - i. None.
- **Council Follow-up list**
 - i. As of February 12, 2026
- **Police Stats**
 - i. January 2026
- **Fire Stats**
 - i. None.
- **DPW Report**
 - i. As of February 12, 2026
- **Special Events**
 - i. Egans Car Shows
 - ii. Egans St. Patrick’s Day**MOTION:** Motion by Kissel, supported by Priest to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Motion Carried.
- 6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**
 - a. None.
- 7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**
 - None.
- 8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION**
 - a. **Resolution # 26-007 – Victory Station Rental Rates**
MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Priest to approve **Resolution # 26-007**, as presented.
Motion Carried.
ROLL CALL VOTE:
 Council Member Beebe Aye
 Council Member Priest Aye
 Council Member Kissel Aye
 Mayor Voigt Aye
Motion Carried.
 - b. **Discussion – FY 2025-26 Budget Timeline**
 - a. Deferred to next regularly scheduled meeting.
 - c. **Grant Services**
 - a. Deferred to a future meeting.
 - d. **Recruitment Services for City Manager Search**
 - a. Deferred to next regularly scheduled meeting.
 - e. **Chase Access Quote – Resolution # 26-008**
MOTION: Motion by Beebe, supported by Priest to approve **Resolution # 26-008**, as presented.
Motion Carried.
ROLL CALL VOTE:
 Mayor Voigt Aye
 Council Member Beebe Aye

- Council Member Priest Aye
- Council Member Kissel Aye
- Motion Carried.**
- f. **Extension of Contract – Greg Flynn**
MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Beebe to approve the extension of Greg Flynn’s contract on a month-to-month basis, until decided otherwise.
Motion Carried.
ROLL CALL VOTE:
 Council Member Kissel Aye
 Mayor Voigt Aye
 Council Member Beebe Aye
 Council Member Priest Aye
Motion Carried.
- 9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES**
 - Accounts Payable
 - Departmental Expenditures**MOTION:** Motion by Kissel, supported by Beebe to approve Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures in excess of \$2,500, as presented.
ROLL CALL VOTE:
 Council Member Beebe Aye
 Council Member Priest Aye
 Council Member Kissel Aye
 Mayor Voigt Aye
Motion Carried.
- 10. INTERIM CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**
 - The new City Hall project is going well. Much of the hardware has been installed, and the staff plans to begin moving sometime in the next couple of weeks. The intention is to hold the first Council meeting in March at the new building, with a grand opening event slated to take place on March 31st.
 - The Liberty Street project is still ongoing. Residents are advised that any running water they may spot along the street is part of the project, and they should not be concerned.
 - Re-paving of the intersection at Main St./Belleville Rd./S. Liberty/Denton Rd. is slated to begin once the Denton Rd. bridge construction is completed.
- 11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**
 - a. **Council Member Priest**
 - i. Thank you to Public Safety Director Faull for her updates on the Fire Department.
 - ii. Thank you to DPS Director Johnson for the DPS report.
 - iii. Thank you to all citizens who helped to keep their sidewalks cleared this winter.

- b. **Mayor Pro-Tem Bates**
 - i. None; absent – excused.
- c. **Council Member Beebe**
 - i. Thank you to the recruitment firms who presented this evening.
 - ii. Excited for the new City Hall building to be completed.
 - iii. Thank you to Public Safety Director Faull for all of her hard work with the Fire Department.
- d. **Council Member Kissel**
 - i. Thank you to the Fire Department for everything they have been doing.
 - ii. Attended an MML meeting recently, and there were some concerns expressed about potential political posturing this year.
 - iii. Thank you to the Planning Commission members, they are a great group.
 - iv. The review of the city’s Master Plan is still ongoing.
- 12. Mayor’s Comments**
 - Excited about the new City Hall.
 - Reminder that the Mayor’s Ball will be held on April 25th, with proceeds benefiting the Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue.
- 13. CITIZENS’ COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
 - e. **Public Safety Director Faull**
 - i. Members of the city’s Public Safety departments will be playing in the Unified/Public Safety basketball game.
- 14. ACTION ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING**
 - Deferred items from this meeting.
- 15. CLOSED SESSION – MCL 15.268 Sec. 8(1)(h)**
MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Beebe to enter Closed Session at 7:58 p.m.
Motion Carried.
MOTION: Motion by Beebe, supported by Priest to re-enter Open Session at 8:57 p.m.
Motion Carried.
- 16. ADJOURNMENT**
MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Priest to adjourn at 8:58 PM. No objections were noted.
Motion Carried.
 Respectfully submitted by,
 Briana Papin, City Clerk/Treasurer
 Published: March 5, 2026

Musings

By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director



March is here and the annual Quilt Show started at the Belleville Area Museum on the 3rd. Never fear, it is running the entire month and ending on the 31st. The museum is open on Tuesdays 4 to 7 p.m., Thursdays noon to 4 p.m. and Saturdays noon to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, and children \$3. The museum and our local Quilt Guild do an amazing job each year and this one is special, celebrating our nation's 250th anniversary. USA!

Sumpter Township is holding a blood drive on March 19 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Community Center gym, 23501 Sumpter Rd. Please don't wait until it is too late. Just call (800) 733-2767 to set up an appointment.

Well, it looks like you are going to have to choose because Sumpter Parks & Rec. has also scheduled a Casino Bus Tour on March 19 leaving at 9 a.m. and returning at 5 p.m. For only \$45 (plus of course the money you don't plan on losing!) you will be heading for Firekeepers Casino in Battle Creek. Pay at the treasurer's office in township hall.

One more in Sumpter, but not until April 11 and 12. The Sumpter Spring Vendor & Craft Show will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Community Center, 23501 Sumpter Rd. Vendor spaces are \$10, or \$15 with a table. To participate, call Maryann at (734) 461-9373.

Great news for the area children. Missoula Children's Theatre is coming back this summer. Auditions aren't until July 20 but I want to give you a heads up so if you are interested you can schedule a vacation for a different time. The performances of "Rapunzel" are scheduled for July 25 at McBride Middle School.

JR's Small Engine is taking advantage of the weather and putting his ad in a little earlier this year. Better take note of his phone number before something goes wrong. Just saying!

Do you have an item you would like to see in this column? Call Janet Millard at (734) 699-9020.

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

ESTATE SALE

ESTATE SALE March 5 - 7, 9a.m.-5p.m. Vintage dishware, small kitchen appliances. Emme & Kelly Jr. collectables. Microwave, puzzles, clothes, woman's shoes, jewelry & more. 37390 McBride, Romulus 03/05

FOR SALE

SAYLOR BEAL AIR Compressor, 2 stage, 5 hp, 80 gal, 3 phase & 220 converter \$600. Foldable engine hoist, 2 ton \$250. Heavy duty aluminum loading ramp, 38" x 109" \$500. (313) 565-8596 call Mike 03/05

6 FT BLADE LITTLE RHINO for a 3-point hitch. Heavy duty. \$285 OBO. (734) 697-9527 03/05

MICHIGAN MEMORIAL - 2 grave sites for sale. Catholic section 540, Block 23. \$7,800 OBO. (734) 699-4048 03/05

FRENCHIES, YORKIES, TEDDY BEAR & Cockapoos. Vet checked, happy puppies, \$599 & up. View available pups at Petcitypets.com Ypsilanti. (734) 487-0800 Come see the difference. 03/05

WESTERN SNOWPLOW- 7 1/2'. \$500 OBO. (734) 417-3233 03/12

FOOD GRADE BARRELS Plastic &- metal. Inventory & pictures at www.mattsbarrels.com, call or text (734) 474-5981. Located in Willis. 03/12

FENCE BOARDS 2 x 6 and 2 x 8, reasonable. (734) 461-1414 HAY, round bails (708) 646-7595 06/04

FOUND

FOUND - Set of keys on Columbia by the High School. Call the Independent, (734) 699-9020 03/26

WANTED

ADVANCED H & W PAYING CASH

Buying Junk Cars & Trucks. Free 7 Day Pick Up. Call Today!

(734) 223-5581
(517) 605-6388

D.K. JUNK CAR BUYERS PAY CASH

We Work
Monday - Saturday.
734-368-5088
734-545-5195

WANTED TO BUY - Standing timber. Sawmill office. (517) 254-4463 04/02

WANTED - ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED - SMALL CONTAINERS of shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez's. 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

Notice to Advertisers - private gun sales:

It is the responsibility of both the classified seller and buyer to ensure they understand all laws applicable to private gun sales in Michigan. The *Belleville-Area Independent* is not responsible for the legal compliance of classified buyers and sellers.

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.

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.



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

INTERIOR / EXTERIOR
MAINTENANCE. Painting, roof leaks,
cleaning & gutter repairs, landscape
maintenance, and power washing.
(734) 796-3628 03/12

A-1 QUALITY MOBILE HOME
SERVICE. Licensed over 50 yrs. Seniors,
Veterans, 1st Responders & Educators
10% off. (734) 397-2615 12/31/26

LARRY'S HANDYMAN SERVICE.
No job too small. Interior/exterior
painting, wallpaper, plumbing,
powerwashing & carpentry.
(618) 267-7774 09/17

HELP WANTED



CDL DRIVER NEEDED

Immediate Position.
Local Driving, Home
Every Night.
Kovalak Excavating
Company
Call 734-645-0100



Local Excavating Company
has a position for
BACKHOE & ALL SMALL
EXCAVATING EQUIPMENT
Prior Experience Necessary.
Also need a LABORER.
Kovalak Excavating
Company
Call (734) 461-6838
or (734) 645-0100

ASSISTANT MANAGER

ANGEL FOOD CATERING is
looking for an Assistant Manager
in the Catering Department.
Associate degree in a hospitality
field and one year event
experience. Is preferred. Able
to work weekends & occasional
holidays, good driving record &
TIPS Certified is a plus or willing to
certify for TIPS training. Please call
(734) 697-1100 and ask for Tyler.

Birthdays

Feb. 26 - Stacy Bailey
March 8 - Michael Burns
March 9 - Dazhia Schroeder

Do you or does someone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* and we will publish it as soon as possible.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR HVAC PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND ON-CALL SERVICES

Bid Titled, "HVAC PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND ON-CALL SERVICES" may be submitted by U.S. Mail, personal service, or courier service to the Township Clerk's Office at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. No bids submitted by facsimile will be accepted. Bids are to be delivered in sealed envelopes and clearly marked as "HVAC PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND ON-CALL SERVICES - 2026-2027". Thursday, April 16 at 3:00 p.m., is the deadline to receive for sealed bids. All bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud with total pricing immediately following in the Denton Room.

A mandatory pre-bid tour and meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 6, 2026, at the Charter Township of Van Buren Municipal Center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. Any questions must be submitted by 10:00 a.m. Thursday April 9, 2026.

All bids shall be delivered to the Van Buren Township Clerk's Office in sealed envelopes and titled, "HVAC PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND ON-CALL SERVICES". The outside of the envelope containing the bid shall bear the name of the Bidder, their address, license number if applicable, and the name of the project for which the bid is submitted, to include experience, equipment and minimum of three (3) references.

1. Name and address of company
2. Telephone number
3. Name of contact person

The scope of this contract shall include all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, service and insurance by the Bidder to complete the bid entitled: "HVAC PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND ON-CALL SERVICES". Bid bonds will be returned to unsuccessful bidders when contract is executed with the approved bidder.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of **five percent (5%)** of the bid amount subject to the conditions in the Information to Bidders. A bidder will be permitted to withdraw their bid unopened after it has been deposited, if such request is received prior to the time specified for opening bids and provided that their identity is made known and the responsible party signs for the bid. No bid shall be withdrawn after the opening of the bids without the consent of the Township for a minimum of ninety (90) days from the scheduled time for closing bids.

The Township reserves the right: to accept any or all alternative bids; to award the Contract to other than the lowest Bidder; to waive any irregularities of informalities, or both; to reject any or all bids; and in general, to make the award of the Contract in any manner deemed by the Township, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the Township. Conditional bids will not be considered. The Charter Township of van Buren is an equal opportunity contractor which does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, or physical disability. All qualified contractors are urged to respond.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT, AS WELL AS SPECIFICATIONS, MAY ALSO BE ACCESSED ON THE VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP WEBSITE AT WWW.VBTMI.GOV AND BIDNET.COM

VBT

(continued from page 11)

Appeals;

• Approved the union contracts for the IAFF (full-time fire fighters), MAFF (paid-per-call fire fighters), POLC command officers, POLC patrol officers, and dispatch employees;

• Approved the Hydro Corp 5-year renewal service agreement costing \$520,137.69 to be paid from the Water and Sewer contracted services account. The current agreement expires in March. The company inspects 180 non-residential water connections and 3,700 residential water connections. "It's the law," said Kevin Lawrence, director of Water and Sewer. McNamara said if the connections aren't secure, contaminants could get back into the water system and "poison us";

• Approved Fishbeck Engineers to provide Professional Construction Engineering Services for the Belleville Road Reconstruction Water Main Replacement project in the amount of \$113,496 to be paid from Capital Outlay - System Improvement Appropriations. Construction of the water main will begin this spring;

• Heard Ron Akers, director of municipal services, read an update on the Belleville Road widening project that was prepared by Merrie Coburn, director of the Downtown Development Authority. She said the township is still waiting on NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) approval, but will not be able to do tree and vegetation clearing during the bat-breeding season, which is April-August, so work will probably get under way in late fall;

• Heard Delaney comment that he has been calling in complaints for six months

about fixing the Ecorse/Haggerty Gateway sign that has the "n" light off, making the sign call the township "Van Bure." He pointed out those Gateway signs were very expensive. He said he also wants updates on the legal action on the drift race track on Robson Road, which is near his home. He said he helped get the co-gen project planned for Visteon in Van Buren to move to Canton instead. Delaney said the "dog and pony show" put on last week before the data center vote "doesn't cut it";

• Heard Tracy Osborne of Hannan Road say he thought it was strange to see the board push the ICE detention center away so fast, while it welcomed the data center. He questioned the safety of the sound at the data center, especially the low-frequency noise that could affect his special-needs daughter. Osborne said he would like to see a sound study that is done in the summer, not the one they have that was done in cold weather. He said his water well is shallow, just 15' down, and he fears that will be affected;

• Heard Delaney speak under Public Comment for a second time, this time questioning why the public can't know the Fortune 50 company that will operate the data center. He said he will request the name under a Freedom of Information Act request. Clerk Wright said someone already did that and the name of the company is not on the confidentiality agreement signed on the project; and

• Heard McNamara tell Delaney that he did ask that the sign be fixed and it wasn't fixed. In responding to a comment that the township doesn't want to spend money on a law suit to stop the data center, McNamara said he spent \$300,000 in legal fees to fight the radioactive waste at the landfill and \$1 million in fighting Visteon.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
BID INSTRUCTIONS FOR
2027-2031 PARKS & RECREATION
MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The Charter Township of Van Buren will receive bids for the Van Buren Township 2027-2031 Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update at the Office of the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, MI 48111 until Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 1:00 PM local time. No bids will be received after that time.

Bid documents will be available on the Township website and at the Office of the Township Clerk. Bids will be accepted only on provided forms. Bids must be sealed in an envelope marked, "**TOWNSHIP CLERK / 2027-2031 PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE**", and submitted to the office of the Township Clerk. Bids will be publicly opened at 1:00 PM on Thursday, March 26, 2026.

The Charter Township of Van Buren reserved the right to waive any discrepancies or irregularities in the bid. The Township reserves the right to reject any, and all bids, and is not required to accept the low bid. Bidders should direct questions and correspondence Nicole Gerhart at ngerhart@vbtmi.gov.

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 340 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

Sunday, Feb 22:

0007 – assist citizen, Rawsonville Rd.
0027 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Walden Blvd.
0028 – property damage accident, Country Ln.
0122 – noise complaint, Ironwood Dr.
0139 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville/Quirk
0232 – property damage accident, 0232, E. I-94 / Belleville Rd.
0322 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Ross
0538 – suicidal person, Vernon St.
0631 – assist fire dept., E. I-94/N. Belleville I-94 ramp E.
0720 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1034 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1118 – found property/child, Belleville Rd.
1121 – civil matter, Rawsonville Rd.
1302 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
1302 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.
1434 – intrusion alarm, McBride Ave.
1455 – fraud, Harmony Ln.
1458 – civil matter, Ecorse Rd.
1900 – mental subject, Speedway
1908 – intrusion alarm, Samuel Barton Dr.
2106 – welfare check, Beckley Rd.

Monday, Feb. 23:

0201 – harassment call, Jackson St.
0256 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0328 – assist other dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Meadows Cir.
0756 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
0841 – 911 welfare check, Village Center Dr.
xxxx – fraud, Tyler Rd.
1026 – assist other dept., Van Born/Haggerty
1200 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1248 – traffic offense, Martz Rd./Rawsonville
1259 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
1530 – threat, Sheldon Rd.
1546 – fraud, Marina Dr.
1632 – intrusion alarm, Hull Rd.
1700 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.
1709 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1721 – civil matter, Ormond Dr.
1753 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1934 – welfare check, N. Prairiegrass Ct.
2029 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Andover Dr.
xxxx – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rolan Meadows Dr./Tyler Rd.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2158 – welfare check, Maple Dr.

Tuesday, Feb. 24:

0102 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ironwood Dr.
0155 – family trouble, Lake Villa Dr.
04331 – family trouble, Lake Villa Dr.
0626 – family trouble, Lake Villa Dr.
0722 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0854 – welfare check, Rawsonville Rd.
1130 – welfare check, Lake Crest Dr.
1146 – private property/property damage accident, Sawgrass Ct.
1222 – civil matter, E. Huron River Dr.
1243 – PPO violation, Denton Rd.
1259 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1342 – animal complaint, Sheldon Rd.
1356 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1421 – animal complaint, Bayloff/Belleville
1543 – follow up by officer, W. Adams
1614 – civil matter, Ormond Dr.
1710 – welfare check, Western St.
1727 – motorist assist, Bemis Rd./Rawsonville Rd.
2010 – animal complaint, Ayres Ave.
2014 – civil matter, Lake Villa Dr.
xxxx – threat, Lake Villa Dr.
2109 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2136 – civil matter, Victoria St.
2357 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
2359 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Village Green Ln.

Wednesday, Feb. 25:

0048 – 911 welfare check, Village Green Ln.
0217 – property check, E. Huron River Dr.

0439 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr./Ryznar Dr.
0504 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
0648 – road hazard, N. I-94 Service Dr./Hannan
0745 – misc. complaint, Freeport Ct.
0748 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
0942 – civil matter, Holly Ln.
1013 – animal complaint, Winchester St.
xxxx – private property impound, Van Born
1138 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Robson Rd.
1318 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1343 – assist fire dept., Maple
1346 – motorist assist, Cisco
1502 – civil matter, Maple Dr.
1623 – warrant arrest, Canton Center
1830 – civil matter, Chaney Ave.
1845 – civil matter, Sylvia Dr.
1904 – property check, E. Huron River Dr.
xxxx – misc. complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.
xxxx – assist other dept., Ypsilanti FD
2033 – threat, E. Huron River Dr.
2125 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
2204 – domestic, Colony Ln.
xxxx – civil matter, W. Huron River Dr.

Thursday, Feb. 26:

0104 – noise complaint, W. Archwood Dr.
0630 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Denton Rd.
0717 – malicious destruction of property, Tyler
0740 – suicidal person, Sumpter Rd.
xxxx – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr./Morton Taylor Rd.
0747 – private property/property damage accident, Southport Apts.
xxxx – overdose, Sumpter Rd.
0908 – property damage accident, Savage Rd.
0912 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Rawsonville Rd.
1034 – civil matter, Sylvia Dr.
1140 – juvenile complaint, Amanda Dr.
1150 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.
1153 – found property/child, Peninsular Dr.
1237 – assist fire dept., N. Ponderosa Trl.
1357 – intrusion alarm, Laguna Dr.
1337 – family trouble, Belle Pointe Dr.
1406 – 911 welfare check, Maple Dr.
1419 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1433 – breaking & entering, Belleville Rd.
1453 – intrusion alarm, Winding Pond
1522 – welfare check, W. Huron River Dr./Elwell
1602 – fraud, Oak Ln.
1529 – missing person, W. Huron River Dr.
1613 – fraud, Western St.
1739 – animal complaint, E. Huron River Dr.

1842 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Hickory Woods
1906 – 911 welfare check, Patty Ln.
1918 – assist fire dept., Bemis Rd.
xxxx – overdose, Thornwood Dr.
1949 – noise complaint, Lake Point Blvd.
1955 – larceny, S. Timberview Dr.
2104 – suicidal person, Denton Rd.
2240 – assist fire dept., Tyler Rd.

Friday, Feb. 27:

0001 – civil matter, Country Ln.
0011 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Maple Dr.
0226 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Lighthouse Dr./N. I-94 Service Dr.
0312 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Oak Ln.
0405 – property check, E. Huron River Dr.
0934 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Jackson Ct.
1056 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1028 – animal complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1059 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.
1129 – welfare check, Timberview Ct.
1234 – fraud, Berkdale Dr.
1533 – road hazard, Belleville Rd.
1550 – parking complaint, Chester Ct.
1551 – traffic offense, Woodgrove Dr.
1615 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1653 – assist fire dept., E. I-94/Belleville Rd.
1703 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1743 – property damage accident, Van Born Rd.
1809 – assist fire dept., W. I-94/Haggerty Rd.
1904 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.
1939 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Hamilton St.
2002 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd.

2030 – motorist assist, Ecorse Rd./Morton Taylor
2053 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Martinsville Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Michigan Ave.
2150 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
2244 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Westlake Cir.
2244 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd.
2312 – noise complaint, Lake Villa Dr.
Saturday, Feb. 28:
0015 – family trouble, Rose Blvd.
0147 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd./Haggerty Rd.
0219 – warrant arrest, Mound Rd.
0231 – welfare check, Tyler Rd.
0412 – welfare check, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0436 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.
0438 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1004 – welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
1042 – trespassing Denton Rd.
1128 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
1146 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Martz Rd.
1249 – parking complaint, Jeremy Rd.
1243 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1218 – welfare check, Westlake Cir.
xxxx – animal complaint, Locust Dr.
1259 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./Denton Rd.
1349 – civil matter, Lake Point Pass
1432 – found property/child, Ashbury Dr.
1443 – juvenile complaint, Winchester St.
1523 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Denton Rd.
1524 – intrusion alarm, Wildbrook Dr.
1628 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./Van Born Rd.
1645 – vehicle lockout, Parkwood
1709 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis
1818 – trespassing, Preswick Ct.
1832 – family trouble, Amanda Dr.
1853 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2210 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
2247 – road hazard, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.

Also, on this log are 151 traffic stops, eight of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 22:

0110 – family trouble, Henry St.
0140 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville/Quirk
0955 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1139 – animal complaint, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1205 – parking complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1346 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
1434 – 911 welfare check, High St.
1525 – assist fire dept., Breakwater Ct.
1746 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd./Main St.
1943 – civil matter, South St.
Monday, Feb. 23:
1158 – civil matter, E. Columbia Ave.
1706 – disorderly, Fourth St.
1752 – trespassing, Savage Rd.
1913 – fight, W. Columbia Ave.
1933 – parking complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1937 – parking complaint, W. Columbia Ave.

Tuesday, Feb. 24:

1137 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Santa Clara St.
Wednesday, Feb 25:
1620 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1700 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1717 – property damage accident, Main St.
1736 – assist fire dept., E. Columbia Ave.
1752 – assist fire dept., Main St.

Thursday, Feb. 26:

0920 – property damage accident, Main St./Third
1752 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2015 – private property/property damage accident, Owen St.

Friday, Feb. 27:

0729 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
1125 – civil matter, Charles Ct.

1258 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Wexford Ave.
1617 – welfare check, Oak
1654 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1951 – assist fire dept., N. Aberdeen Ct.
2203 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, South St.
2227 – parking complaint, Victorian Ln.
2238 – parking complaint, Victorian Ln.
Saturday, Feb. 28:
0735 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Henry St.
0836 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1316 – domestic, Oxford Ct.
There are 104 reports on this week's log, 68 of which are traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 22:

0100 – fire dept. assist, Birch Ct.
0125 – follow-up investigation, out of township
0741 – animal complaint, Rawsonville/Judd
0742 – property damage accident, Tulip Dr.
0805 – property damage accident, Clay Rd. / Sumpter Rd.
1512 – fire dept. assist, Rawsonville/Arkona
1926 – mental health call, Walnut St.
1948 – welfare check, Kansas
2021 – family trouble, Birch Dr.
Monday, Feb. 23:
0707 – 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1018 – larceny report, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1055 – assist other agency, 43000 bl. Willow
1408 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1436 – suspicious circumstance, 40000 bl. Bemis Rd.

1536 – juvenile matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
1557 – property damage accident, Rustic Ln.
1756 – civil matter, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1943 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.
2034 – animal complaint, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Elwell Rd.
2338 – suspicious vehicle, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

Tuesday, Feb. 24:

0005 – 911 hangup, 22000 bl. Fenster Ave.
0942 – 911 hangup, 9100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1353 – property damage accident, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.
1407 – civil matter, Magnolia Dr.
1531 – 911 hangup, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
1537 – assist other agency, Rawsonville Rd. / Willis Rd.
1655 – suspicious vehicle, Haggerty/Judd
1706 – suspicious person, 19000 bl. Haggerty
1715 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Executive
1807 – suspicious circumstance, Rustic Ln.
2105 – juvenile matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.

Wednesday, Feb. 25:

0139 – 911 hangup, Greenmeadow Dr.
0903 – property damage accident, Rustic Ln.
1124 – family trouble, 13000 bl. Rawsonville
1401 – assist other agency, Clark Rd. / Oakville Waltz Rd.
1434 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1445 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1516 – animal complaint, Rustic Ln.
1557 – juvenile matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
1808 – juvenile matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
1957 – misdemeanor warrant arrest, Willis Rd. / Martinsville Rd.
2025 – juvenile matter, Wyoming St.
2222 – family trouble, 23000 bl. Haggerty

Thursday, Feb. 26:

0333 – assault, Mulberry Dr.
0522 – 911 hangup, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
0641 – follow-up investigation, Knollwood
0713 – malicious destruction of property, Tamarack Dr.
0939 – mental health call, 27000 bl. Sherwood
1221 – fire dept. assist, 9100 bl. Rawsonville
1241 – harassment complaint, Brookview Dr.
1342 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1405 – civil matter, Vermont St.
1551 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1552 – juvenile matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.

(Continued on page 15)

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VBT planners postpone action on US Signal data center expansion

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Planning Commission voted unanimously on Feb. 25 to postpone action on final site plan approval for the expansion of US Signal Properties data center until more information is received.

Specifically, commissioners wanted a different letter from DTE and a completed and reviewed sound study that complies with the ordinance.

US Signal had received preliminary site plan approval from the commission on Dec. 10 to add phases 2 and 3 to its current data processing center on the 7.91-acre parcel at the northeast corner of Haggerty and Tyler roads.

The preliminary site plan was approved subject to several conditions, including a noise study and a letter from DTE assuring that the electrical rates for residents would not go up because of this expansion.

Treasurer Sharry Budd, who sits on the planning commission, said she didn't like getting the sound study five minutes before the meeting. She said she doesn't disapprove of the project, but she is not ready to act.

The sound study and a DTE letter were presented to the commission and the press just before the meeting started.

It was explained that the sound study could not be completed by Shiner

Acoustics, LLC because of the weather and they would have to wait until March weather to get details needed. A sound wall to the north might be needed, but they don't know now because the sound study isn't done.

Also, commissioner Bernie Grant said he realizes this is a traditional data center and not hyper scale, but he wanted screening of the generators and chillers on the north side. He said there is a potential for another phase if they can get power from another source.

It was noted the treatment plant/utility provider for this site is South Huron Valley Utility Authority (SHVUA) and it does not discharge to Belleville Lake or Edison Lake.

Commissioner Jackson Pahle pointed out the DTE letter doesn't say "rates" and that's what the commission said they wanted to see.

Commissioner Peter Creal said he was concerned the sound study can't be completed until March and, "We don't have complete information to act."

Planning consultant Vidya Krishnan of McKenna Associates said without information on whether there will be a sound wall or not means they are not ready for approval. She said staff could not approve a sound wall.

"It's to your benefit to have a sound study," said commissioner Jeff Jahr, noting if they don't need a sound wall the design would be different. He said the project will be expedited if they postpone the meeting for information. He said if they need a noise wall, they'll have to come back to the commission.

He said US Signal is a really responsible company and the commission wants to help with the expansion. He said they can postpone due to the sound study and the DTE letter can come back with a "rate" statement.

Angela of US Signal said the Michigan Public Service Commission is the body that approves rate increases.

Krishnan said the township wants insurance that this project won't raise their rates. She said DTE has issued a letter before that mentioned rates.

Krishnan asked for trees on the lawn on the south side, but said it wasn't required.

Commissioner Jahr made the postponement motion asking for the acoustic study to be finalized and a new DTE letter to be obtained. He asked that the final site plan meeting be rescheduled as soon as possible.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 14)

- 1847 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
 - 2351 – family trouble, Arizona St.
 - Friday, Feb. 27:**
 - 0412 – suspicious circumstance, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
 - 0510 – civil matter, Utah Ct.
 - 0738 – alarm, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
 - 0811 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
 - 0943 – mental health call, Edgewood Dr.
 - 1130 – follow-up investigation, Montana St.
 - 1256 – 911 hangup, Arizona St.
 - 1623 – mental health call, Washington St.
 - 1822 – assist other agency, Mulberry Dr.
 - 2147 – L3504 detail SU, 23000 bl. Sumpter
 - 2253 – suspicious circumstance, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
 - Saturday, Feb. 28:**
 - 0119 – suspicious circumstance, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
 - 0508 – assist other agency, Delaware St.
 - 0810 – follow-up investigation, Mulberry Dr.
 - 0947 – citizen assist, 19000 bl. Martinsville
 - 1210 – animal complaint, Magnolia Dr.
 - 1301 – noise complaint, 26000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
 - 1453 – traffic complaint/hazard, Harris Rd. / Martinsville Rd.
 - 1511 – mental health call, Utah Ct.
 - 1606 – mental health call, California St.
 - 1707 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Sumpter Rd./Bemis Rd.
 - 1802 – animal complaint, Rustic Ln. / Rawsonville Rd.
 - 1910 – 911 hangup, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
 - 2246 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Willow
- Also on this week's log were 133 patrol checks, 78 traffic stops and nine misc. details.

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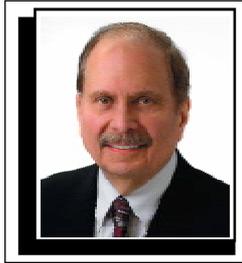
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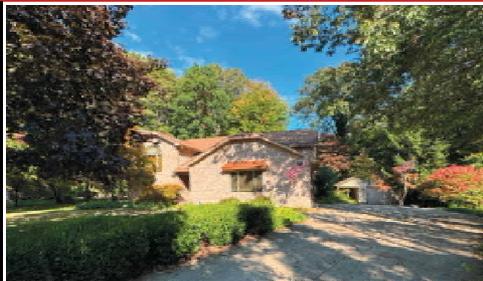
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