



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 23.10 Thursday, March 9, 2017

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

New ALDI grocery store opens today on Belleville Road

ALDI, a grocery store with European roots that claims its prices for high-quality foods are up to 50% less than its competitors, opens today (Thursday) in Van Buren Township.

The newly constructed store, located at 10017 Belleville Road, is just south of Meijer and AutoZone.

To celebrate the opening of its first VBT store, ALDI will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 8:25 a.m. today (Thursday, March 9). The public is invited to attend.

Following the ceremony, the first 100 customers will receive a golden ticket, each containing ALDI gift cards of various amounts. Customers can also tour the store, sample ALDI exclusive brand products, and enter an on-site sweepstakes for a chance to win a year's supply of ALDI produce. ALDI offers a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, including several organic produce items.

A press release tells ALDI's story:

"We're thrilled to join the Van Buren Township community and offer customers the benefits of the ALDI shopping experience," said Ryan Fritsch, Webberville division vice president for ALDI.

"Our high-quality products and everyday low prices make for a combination our competitors just can't match. Our stores are simple to navigate, so it's easy for shoppers to get in, get what they need and continue on with their day knowing they left with a shopping cart full of groceries that fit their lifestyle and save them money."

Thanks to input from customers, the Van Buren Township store presents a new look, offering a modern and convenient shopping experience, Fritsch said. Customers will notice expanded sections for their favorite products, a robust fresh produce selection, brighter colors, high ceilings, natural lighting and environmentally-friendly building materials — such as recycled

(continued on page 17)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztzman

Sophia Zoller, secretary of the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, center, has resigned. She had been on the DDA since the very beginning when it was formed in March 1990. At the Feb. 28 DDA meeting she was presented with a plaque and flowers. Her family came to witness her honors. From left are Tiffani Patterson (her grandson Ryan's fiancé — Ryan was in Texas), her daughter Pamela O'Neill, Sophia, her son-in-law Todd O'Neill, and her grandson Austin O'Neill.

VBT DDA approves purchase prices for two Belleville Road properties

By Rosemary K. Oztzman
 Independent Editor

After a closed-door session on Feb. 28, the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority approved a counter offer to buy two small parcels just north of their Placemaking project at 10101 and 10151 Belleville Road.

If the agreement comes to fruition, they will pay \$132,500 each for the two 35' wide parcels, as long as they are unoccupied and have no leases and both closings are at the same time.

Before the vote, the DDA passed a motion to allow DDA vice chairman and Realtor

Carol Bird to abstain from the vote.

DDA Executive Director Susan Ireland said the extra property would allow for additional parking and a connection to ALDI's to the north.

The Placemaking project is to develop a destination point for residents and visitors.

Ireland said they may ask ALDI if they can use some of its parking lot in the future if they have a big event at their place, the former Albert Harris home.

At its Jan. 24 meeting, the DDA was told a developer, who wanted to buy those two parcels, said he would put up a store of some kind and would like to share the DDA's parking and have a shared driveway off Belleville Road.

Ireland said the DDA had tried to buy the two parcels and went as high as \$25,000 each and the owners never called back. She said they wanted \$400,000 total for the two

(continued on page 16)

VBT seeks to obtain DNR property on lake

By Rosemary K. Oztzman
 Independent Editor

Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara has his heart set on a township "Lake House" at the current 3.02 acres of Department of Natural Resources property on the lake north of the Belleville Bridge.

He said the building on the lake would fulfill his campaign promise to voters that he would make sure everyone had better access to the lake.

On Feb. 6, he held a closed-door session with the board of trustees to discuss the purchase of real property and then had an employee contact the DNR. No public announcement was made of their plan.

A \$300 fee is required for the DNR to review a request and so that \$300 payment was on the voucher list to be approved by the board on Tuesday, March 7.

It was information on that odd entry for "State of Michigan Land Transaction Application Fee" entered for payment on Feb. 28 that was the subject of an *Independent* Freedom of Information Act request.

When the *Independent* publicly asked Supervisor McNamara about the land transaction at Monday's board work/study session, he explained.

He said before he was elected he talked to many voters. He said Van Buren Township was a lake community and few had access to the lake. He wanted to build a lake house for everyone and, "This board agreed to go forward."

Trustee Sherry Frazier said fishing will be a requirement by the DNR for that parcel

(continued on page 7)

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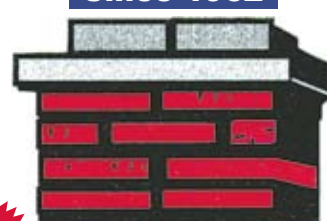
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

City Council to move forward with plans for Harbour Pte. streets

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At Monday's regular meeting, the Belleville City Council discussed some of the details of a proposed street project for Harbour Pointe subdivision and decided to set up two meetings in April to discuss the plans with residents.

The council is depending on a successful special assessment district petition that gets 51% of the 94 parcel owners to sign so the residents can pay for the \$1,825,000 project.

Harbour Pointe was built in 1994-95 and the streets now are crumbling. A recent street assessment showed this subdivision has the worst streets in the city, except for a short piece of Greylock next to Edgemont School.

DPW Director Rick Rutherford said he went into the subdivision and walked the streets. He determined 32 catch basins will need to be replaced and 175 feet of sidewalks as part of the overall project. Individual homeowners will not have to pay for these sidewalks separately as is usually the case in the city.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said one of the questions that has come up hasn't been answered yet. She said they need to know if the special assessment district is a lien against the property. If it has to be paid when the property is sold, no way would the residents want that, she said.

"We've had houses underwater too long," she said.

City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said since there are 94 parcel owners, they will need a bigger room than the council chambers for the meetings. She asked if the Belleville High School Commons was a suitable place and the council agreed it was, especially since it was so close to the subdivision.

Kollmeyer said she would call the school to find out when they can meet there.

"We have to do it sooner rather than later," Mayor Conley said, noting they will have two meetings with the same information and if a person has a question after the first meeting he can bring it to the second meeting.

Mayor Conley said 51% of the people have to want to do it. She asked if a petition should be at the meetings and/or if someone needs to champion the petition.

City Manager Kollmeyer said once a petition is successful the assessment roll is prepared and there are two public hearings on that.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the council:

- Heard James Wilde of Alan C. Young & Associates give a report on the June 30, 2016 audit. He said the city had an increase of 2.5% in revenue and about the same in

expenditures. The general fund balance grew to \$1,221,929, more than 50% of the general fund expenditures, \$2,191,972. Each department came in under budget, he said. A recommendation, for the second year in a row, is to remove any outstanding checks that have not been cashed. There are some that are several years old. The city received an unmodified audit opinion, the highest it can get;

- Held a public hearing on use of the approximate \$57,000 in 2017 Community Development Block Grant funds and then approved the grant use;

- Approved the Belleville Firefighter Association's fourth-annual Fill the Boot for Autism drive from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, at the corner of Main and High streets, rain or shine. Chairman Chris Zweng said last year they collected \$2,158 and this year's goal is \$2,500;

- Approved the Central Business Community's use of Victory Park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 15 for the Flop-E-Bunny Candy Hunt. Firemen said they will bring the bunny to the park in their Hummer and will have a truck at the park for children to explore. A police car is also expected to be there;

- Approved the CBC's use of the Fourth Street Square for a Farmers' Market from 3 to 8 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays, June through September, in conjunction with the "Street Rod Show";

- Approved the CBC's Taste of Belleville event with High Street closed at Horizon Park from 2 to 9 p.m. on Aug. 17 for the Taste of Belleville after the Belleville Bridge Walk. CBC president Bill Wolters said last year's Taste was the most successful ever with more than 22 servers. He said the Rotary's Ducky Race is also a big success. He asked for Aug. 24 to be a rain date and the council agreed, even though it was pointed out the Music Lakeside concert for Aug. 24 already has been approved and the band hired;

- Approved the CBC's Booville Monster Mutt Walk using various locations -- including Fourth, High, and Main streets -- from noon to 2 p.m. Oct. 21. In case there is construction at the library site, the walk would be relocated;

- Heard Wolters state the CBC also would be participating in the National Strawberry Festival, Harvest Festival, and Halloween events in the city this year;

- Approved the city's 22nd-annual Bridgewalk at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 17, in conjunction with the CBC's Taste of Belleville;

- Approved \$128,292.08 in accounts payable and the following purchases in excess of \$500: to Liquiforce, \$36,197.87, final payment for sewer improvements; to TNT Tree Service, \$1,900 for tree



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Ahmed Kassem of Dearborn was sworn in Monday morning as a part-time City of Belleville police officer and then posed for a picture. From left are his mother Amal Kassem, Officer Kassem, his step-father Nabil Nimer, and Belleville Cpl. Kris Faull, who will be showing him the ropes. Officer Kassem recently graduated from the police academy at Schoolcraft College, has an associate's degree in Criminal Justice and has 30 more credits left to get his bachelor's degree. He serves in the Army Reserves.

removal in the DDA District; to The Fire Store, \$931 for a training manikin for the fire department; and to Cadillac Asphalt, \$580.75 for cold patch/repair out of the General Fund/Sewer budget; and

- Heard a complaint from Mike Renaud about "Sam's Lake" at the Kassab parking lot, which he said is a public nuisance.

Rutherford said he has been ticketed four to six times a year and the most recent two Kassab paid \$125 on one and pled out on the other. Rutherford said some new things are in the works as Kassab's problems expand and compound. "We're working on it," Rutherford said.

Sumpter board gives 30 days for new contract for contract workers

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Sumpter Township Clerk Clarence Hoffman, Jr., said contracted employees are worrying about their jobs and, "We've been playing around with this for one, two, three months," referring to new contracts.

At the board's work/study meeting on Feb. 28, Clerk Hoffman said contracted personnel in the water, fire, and police departments will be getting one percent raises like the union employees, so the board should just approve their contracts for four years at one percent pay increase now. He had put the item on the agenda for action as Item M.

But township attorney Rob Young said he doesn't have independent authority on what he should put in the contracts and he can't write these contracts until he gets information -- and he doesn't have the information.

"Rob has made contracts since 2000,"

Hoffman said and Young said he actually has been doing it for 29 years.

Trustee Don LaPorte said he couldn't approve contracts that aren't written. Trustee Esther Hurst suggested continuing the present contracts until new ones are written.

Trustee Matt Oddy said they should add Item N to the agenda that continues the present contracts for 30 days.

"They haven't been updated in some time," Trustee LaPorte said. "We have to dot the i's and cross the t's."

At the regular meeting, Treasurer Peggy Morgan seconded Hoffman's motion to renew all the contracts for four years at the same pay increase as the union.

In a roll-call vote Treasurer Morgan and Clerk Hoffman voted yes and Trustees Hurst, LaPorte, Oddy, and Don Swinson voted no. The motion failed, 4-2.

(continued on page 15)

OPINIONS

Editorial

VBT Board balks at passport cost

The voucher list to be approved at the March 7 Van Buren Township regular meeting showed a prepaid reimbursement to Clerk Leon Wright for a passport.

It was \$110 and sent up a red flag for board members and the press.

Trustee Reggie Miller said she checked with the Michigan Township Association attorney and was told, "We cannot be spending public money on private ID." Supervisor Kevin McNamara said he, too, checked with the MTA attorney and got the same advice.

Clerk Wright was not at the work/study session on Monday or the regular meeting on Tuesday, but he got the message. Supervisor McNamara said Clerk Wright has asked for his request for reimbursement for his passport to be removed from the voucher list.

Wright is set to attend an international clerks' meeting in Montreal on May 21. His airfare to the event is yet to appear on a voucher list, but is expected to be around \$400. He reportedly estimated driving to the event would cost \$634.

Prepaid mileage for some of Wright's other conferences totaled \$417.30: to the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks Institute, March 12-17, the MAMC Clerk's Academy, March 20-23, both in Mt. Pleasant, and the MMRMA conference in Lansing March 2-3.

Wright will reimburse VBT for the passport and the board will discuss international travel and prepaid mileage at an upcoming work session and at budget time.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

Former Belleville City Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Long now is working part time as a clerk at Augusta Township, where she lives. After retiring from her position at the City of Belleville, she worked with her husband at his business, but got bored.

A reader called last week in reference to the letter in our paper about the cougar seen in the woods during the writer's childhood years on Bemis Road.

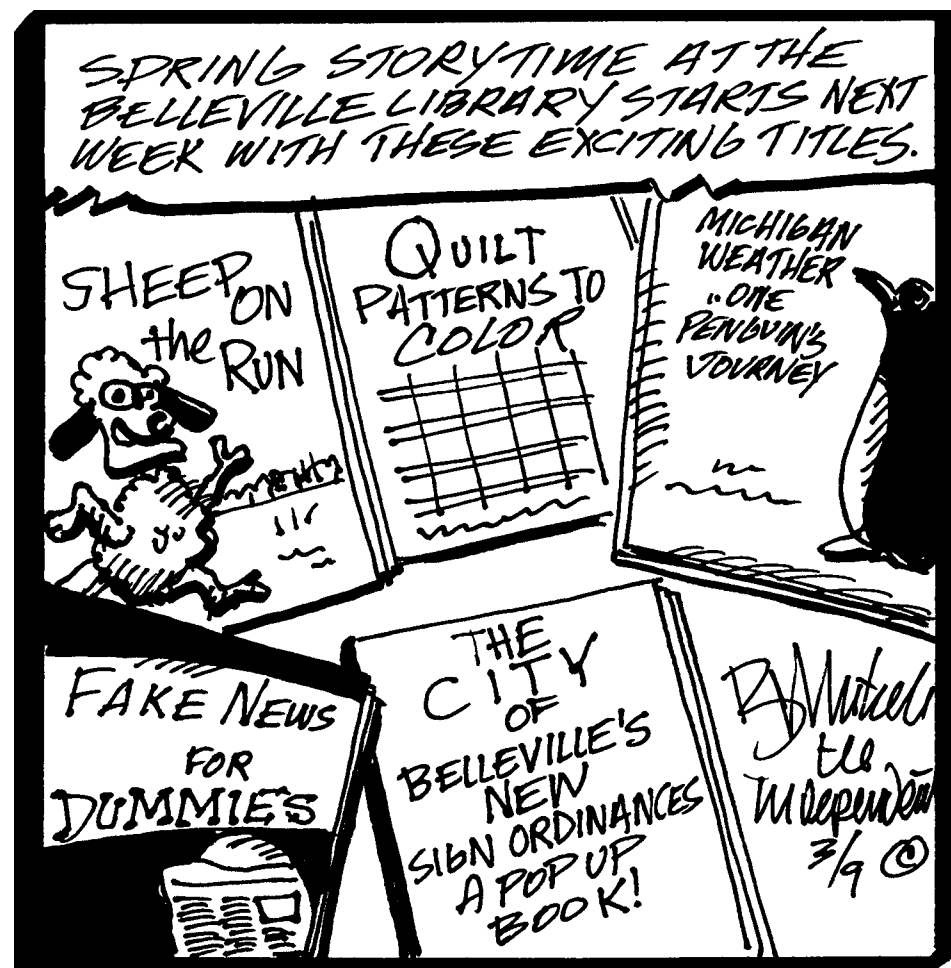
Our caller said a just a few days before her call last week, just after dark, the sensor light went on in her back yard and she saw a big, white animal there. She said she put on the porch light to see it better. The animal, which she said was beautiful, was near the bird feeder. She said its shoulders and head were big and it had a huge tail.

She said it stayed there and looked at her and then with two swishes of its tail it left. She said she lives in the Wilmot/Kozma roads area in Sumpter Township and everybody has chickens. She wonders if that is what attracts the animal. She said now she doesn't go out to feed the birds or to get the paper until it's good and light out. She said the animal is bigger than a dog and is not a coyote. It had a rounder head and smaller ears. Could it be a cougar?

Another reader is concerned about the hen turkey standing in the middle of a road for 12 days. The last time the hen was at Whittaker and Textile. Our reader has tried to shoo her back but she just returns.

He sees that turkey every time he goes to Lowe's on Carpenter Road from his VBT home and is worried about it getting killed. He called Washtenaw County Sheriff's

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



Department, which covers Ypsilanti Township, and the deputy said the turkey has been standing in the road for a month. The deputy also told him Animal Control knows about it. The deputy told him they were very busy, so our reader hung up. He's still worried.

Marvell Brown of Sumpter said she received a call from a person with a foreign voice claiming to be from Publishers Clearing House and he said they would be out in a few hours. She said she would have lots of people there when he arrived. The caller told her he had a couple of questions. He wanted to know her birthday. She told him nothing. He ended up hanging up after calling her a dirty name. Scam time.

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell's aide delivered a dozen Paczki to our office on Fat Tuesday. Dingell sent a letter along saying this is a Dingell family tradition, celebrating Paczki day, a Polish tradition the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. She also said we should remember we are a nation of immigrants.

Last Sunday we finished 13 years of the monthly Bugles Across America ceremonies at the Veterans' Memorial on High Street in the City of Belleville and began the 14th year. Bugler Ross Medos pointed out he and I are the only ones still attending that were there that first cold,

sleety night in March 2004.


VBT Treasurer Sharry Budd announced Monday that the township will not be doing a dog clinic this year. First, Dr. Graf, the veterinarian who has been doing the clinic for years, has retired and, she said, they have had low attendance at the clinic over the past few years.

VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara announced Monday that he was successful in getting a \$50,000 grant from the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority that would pay 40 youth, ages 15-19, \$9 an hour for 20 hours a week for six weeks starting in June. He said Canton also got \$50,000.

He said these workers will be helping senior citizens fix up their homes or yards that are getting blighted. He said they will do landscaping and painting and will be going into trailer parks, where a lot of seniors who downsized now are living.

"It'll be like the Marines hitting Normandy," McNamara said at Monday's board work/study session. They have yet to figure out who will be supervising the youth and how they'll get seniors to apply for help. "I just got the grant!" he said.





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Letters

Thank you for support for me, my family

To the Editor:

I would like to send my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Belleville Moose, UAW Local 735, Belleville Independent and family and friends for the great contributions, support and prayers for me and my family.

It was a humbling experience to come back to this small-town community that I grew up in after so many years of being gone for 18 years of Naval service and having such a great turnout and big-league community support.

I know there are many families that have sons and daughters serving and this support from family and friends across this great land is the backbone of the Armed Forces and motivates Sailors, Marines, Soldiers and Airmen to go and fight the good fight and be tested and build resilience for future endeavors.

So this 15 March I must face a third surgery to remove a pituitary tumor and I know I will be in good hands from all your prayers and support we have received from everyone. I cannot thank everyone enough.

I will be indebted to you all knowing that my family will be taken care of while I face this obstacle. I will keep everyone posted on my recovery process and thank you all again for everything.

All the support was amazing! You all are truly my angels. Thank you.

Very respectfully,
Jason Basham

Attend VBCS Fair this Saturday at WCCC

To the Editor and soccer members:

Once again thank you for registering for the upcoming Spring 2017 soccer season. We are so excited to get the soccer season going. We are looking forward to the players and coaches that will be returning and we welcome all new players and coaches. We would like to thank the parents and families, as well, for all the support in our community and being able to keep our program going.

Please be sure to attend this Saturday, March 11, for the Van Buren Community Soccer Fair from 9 to 11 a.m. at WCCC.

We still have some spots available on a few of our teams. We will be taking on new players, if you would like to sign up.

We also have a few spots open on a couple of our select teams. We will be holding an

open tryout following Meet the Coach from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the same location.

Please plan to attend if your player would like to play in a more competitive level. All are welcome. (You must not be committed to another WSSL club Select Team.)

If you are coaching for the Spring 2017 season, please arrive by 8:45 a.m. to help set up. If you are unable to make it, please email us at vanburensoccerbelleville@gmail.com right away.

A couple of friendly reminders:

On this date we will have a shoe exchange. If your child has outgrown their shoes, shorts, socks, shin guards, please bring them so we can enjoy our first "Leave 'em if you Got 'em, Take 'em if you Need 'em" exchange. Please help our families that cannot afford to purchase equipment every season.

Spring season is scheduled to start around April 15. We need volunteers for the concession stand. If you would like to volunteer please see Kim on Saturday to sign up.

A few dates to save:

Select tryouts for our more competitive players will be held June 16 and June 18. More information to follow, but please make sure to save these dates.

Soccer Rules!

Thanks!

Angie McCluskey, president
Van Buren Community Soccer
And all board members

I want a better world for black, white people

To the Editor:

I am a 2015 graduate of Belleville High School and am extremely fond of this little town I get to call home. I love the diversity it offers, but I want to bring light to how far we still have to come.

In love, I want to ask my dear white neighbors how you are treating the black youth in our community, in your actions, words and your thoughts. In love, I want to ask my white neighbors to be brave enough to honestly evaluate your own thought processes, your gut instincts towards a hooded black man on the street, your jerk reaction emotions when it comes to the Black Lives Matter movement and why you (probably) resent it.

Why does it offend you for a human being to proclaim that they don't want to be shot? Why am I taken seriously when I speak on matters of injustice, but when it comes from the mouths of those with firsthand experience they are waved off, pushed to the side?

I want a better world, for both my black and white counterparts. I demand a more just society and I refuse to side with the oppressor by remaining silent. White parents, has the thought ever crossed your mind that merely going five over could result in your child losing their life? Because that is a black reality.

White cops, you are not the bad guy. There are people who walk around dangerously

(continued on page 15)

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More Letters

Thank you to St. Jude

To the Editor:

St. Jude has answered my prayers. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine consecutive days. Then, publish it when your prayers have been answered.

St. Jude's Novena

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P.J., Van Buren Township

To the Editor:

Thank you, St. Jude, for answering my prayers.

Peace and Love, C.J.



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Obituaries



David N. Fields

DAVID N. FIELDS

(March 9, 1942 – March 1, 2017)

David N. Fields, age 74, of Belleville, died peacefully with his family at his side, Wednesday evening, March 1, 2017.

David is the loving husband of Sandra for 53 wonderful years; dear father of Kimberly of Belleville, proud grandfather of Michael of East Lansing and Jennifer of Ann Arbor. Mr. Fields is also survived by many loving extended family and friends, including his nieces and nephews. Sadly, he is preceded in death by his parents, Clifford and Eloise Confer and his brother, Sydney.

Born in Detroit, Michigan on March 9, 1942, David was a lifelong Belleville resident. He enjoyed serving his community in countless ways, including serving 12 years on the Belleville city council, the City of Belleville police reserves and the Board of Review. In addition to his civic duties, he was employed with General Motors Ypsilanti Powertrain plant for 36 years. In his spare time, he was also an avid motorcyclist.

In keeping with Mr. Fields wishes, a private family ceremony will be held with his grandson Michael Henry officiating. Interment will follow at Soop Cemetery, Van Buren Township. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be directed to the American Leukemia Foundation.

PHYLLIS E. BUCZKOWSKI

(April 16, 1929 – February 28, 2017)

Age 87, of Van Buren Township, died at Cedar Woods Assisted Living facility. A Memorial Service will be held at 1:30 p.m. March 22, at Cedar Woods, 44401 S. I-94 Service Dr. Arrangements by Janowiak Funeral Home, Sumpter Chapel.

DNR property

(continued from page 1)

and she felt, "They are more than willing to get it off their plate."

She said the board believed the DNR would require the same amount as it asked of the Belleville Area District Library when it wanted to build a library on that lakeside site. At a library meeting in 2014, the library agreed to pay \$395,000 to the DNR for the property, the same price the DNR paid for it when purchased from a private property owner.

Voters subsequently turned down a library on the lake.

"It needs to serve the whole community," said Trustee Paul White, of a proposed Lake House property, saying there should be lots of picnic tables and shelters on the site.

McNamara said they can do 100-120 parking spots and it will be a great place for family reunions, graduation parties, weddings, and other events.

He pointed to the board and said the board members would decide what the site

would look like.

Trustee Frazier said she would like to see a nautical theme instead of a utility looking building on the site.

"This building will define our township," McNamara said.

"It should be named Van Buren Lakeside Park or something like that," said trustee White. "I don't want to see 'McNamara' on that building."

McNamara said that would be confused with the airport, referring to the McNamara Terminal named for his father.

"Any decision has to be done in public," said Trustee Reggie Miller. She said the township hasn't filled out paperwork and when she found it had, she asked, "Shouldn't that have been done in open forum?"

Trustee White said in the closed session there was general agreement to move forward.

"How could we fill out the form without a vote?" Trustee Miller asked.

Matthew Best, deputy director of planning and economic development, who was knowledgeable about the application, said this application to the DNR was not for purchase but was for review with a required \$300 fee.

When the *Independent* said that VBT Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Wright was the applicant on the State Land Transaction Application, Trustee White said, "She [the *Independent*] has more information than we do."

McNamara confirmed this would be a park project. Trustee Miller asked if the project would be sent before the Recreation Committee for study. McNamara said it would.

"My dream is that within three years you're using it," McNamara said of the park on the lake.

Rollover accident on Eastbound I-94 at rest stop involves stolen van

On Feb. 28, at about 2 p.m., a stolen van being chased by Westland Police westbound on I-94 hit a tree and rolled over several times as it tried to turn into the rest stop.

The driver fled from the Michigan Avenue and Merriman Road area and crashed 16 miles later in Van Buren Township. The suspect suffered minor injuries and was taken to the hospital by HVA.

A Westland police officer attempted to pull over the white van and when the plates were run discovered it was stolen.

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Court Watching:

Judge Parrott sets March 10 exam for David Radecki

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

David Arthur Radecki, 38, is scheduled for an 8:30 a.m., Friday, March 10, preliminary exam before 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley.

Radecki is facing two felony charges: criminal sexual conduct-2nd degree (person under 13) and accosting a child for immoral purposes. There also are two misdemeanor charges: aggravated indecent exposure and indecent exposure.

A Border Patrol Agent and former Boy Scout leader, Radecki was arraigned Feb. 16 by Judge David Parrott. Radecki posted bond and was put on a tether.

He is a former Belleville resident and 1997 graduate of Belleville High School. He most recently resided in Livonia with his wife and two daughters.

Published accounts say Radecki took members of his Boy Scout Troop #793 from St. Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville to the Romulus Recreation Center where they used the pool and locker room.

A 12-year-old boy told his mother that Radecki exposed himself and did inappropriate touching multiple times on Oct. 1, 2016. She contacted the police.

Romulus Police investigated for several months and obtained an arrest warrant on Feb. 7.

On March 1, Radecki was before Judge Parrott for his probable cause conference. Judge Parrott signed a requested order for the defense attorney David Jones to get a copy of the victim's Kids' Talk DVD.

Jones said since Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Michelle Jarczewski was engaged in a trial, rather than having the preliminary exam the following Wednesday, as is the usual procedure, they agreed on March 10.

Camera crews from channels 4 and 7 and reporters were in the jury box to record the session in Judge Parrott's courtroom on March 1.

Wisam Louis Mansour

Wisam Louis Mansour, 46, is charged with criminal sexual conduct - 1st degree, home invasion-1st degree, criminal sexual conduct-2nd degree, criminal sexual conduct assault, and stalking on Jan. 6 in Van Buren Township.

A translator of American Sign Language

helped in Judge Parrott's courtroom to make sure Mansour, who is deaf, understood the probable cause conference proceedings.

The preliminary exam was set for 9 a.m. March 29. At that court session they will need two interpreters since the victim is also deaf.

Defense attorney Loren Dickstein said at the March 29 court session he would like to have his client separated from the victim, maybe with a curtain, so the sign language being used by the interpreter to speak to his client isn't interpreted by the victim.

Judge Parrott assured him, "We'll come up with something." He said there is a projector screen in Judge Oakley's courtroom and maybe that could be used.

Van Buren Township Detective Ken Toney is the officer in charge of the case.

Mansour posted his \$50,000/10% bond after Judge Tina Brooks Green reduced it on Feb. 22. It originally had been set at \$75,000/10% and Mansour was lodged in the Wayne County Jail.

Donald Hazel Swinson

Donald Hazel Swinson, 76, was at court for his probable cause conference on felony charges of assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and weapons felony firearm (using a weapon to commit a felony) which is alleged to have occurred on Feb. 15 on Harris Road in Sumpter Township.

Judge Parrott announced Swinson's preliminary exam would be at 10 a.m., March 15, before Judge Green. Swinson had posted his \$10,000/10% bond and bond was continued. Retained defense attorney is Daniel Geherin and officer in charge of the case is Sumpter Township Officer Jim Cayce.

Ahmed Abdulk Al-Kumain

Ahmed Abdulk Al-Kumain, 52, was set for his preliminary exam on a charge of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder on Feb. 7 in VBT. He was free on \$75,000/10% posted bond. Court-appointed attorney David Lankford said the prosecutor is unable to proceed, so he made a motion to dismiss.

Judge Parrott explained that this was being dismissed without prejudice which means it could be refiled in the future. VBT Officer Mike Long is the officer in charge of the case.

Eddie Al Dusseau

Eddie Al Dusseau, 50, waived his preliminary exam and was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on March 15. He is charged with possession of controlled substance - narcotics and possession of marijuana, in

the city of Belleville on Nov. 17, 2014. His personal bond of \$20,000 was continued.

His retained attorney is Michael Vincent. Officer in charge of the case is Belleville Cpl. Kris Faull.

William Dee Montgomery

William Dee Montgomery, 56, waived his preliminary exam on a charge of possession of narcotics or cocaine on May 28, 2015 in VBT and was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information March 15. He was free after posting \$3,000/10% bond. His court-appointed defense attorney is David Lankford and the officer in charge of the case is VBT Detective Donovan McCarthy.

Davvion Bowdick Gray

Davvion Bowdick Gray was in custody for domestic violence and was set for his pretrial, but the prosecutor made a motion to dismiss without prejudice, which means it could be refiled even if the victim doesn't wish to proceed. Gray's older brother, Randy Gray, was the victim and he told Judge Parrott he would like to dismiss the charges against his brother.

Judge Parrott did dismiss the domestic violence charge, but then processed another standing charge against Gray: a March 7, 2016 charge of driving while license suspended in VBT, plus he failed to appear in court four times.

Gray pled guilty and Judge Parrott gave him credit for time served and released him. He had been incarcerated since Feb. 10, a total of 20 days. Judge Parrott did advise him he would have to pay the \$45 clearance fee to the state to get his license back.

Belleville Officer Jeff Wickham was the officer in charge of the domestic violence case.



Airman Brittany Braggs graduates from AF basic training in San Antonio

U.S. Air Force Airman Brittany Braggs graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Brittany, the daughter of Teresa R. Brooks of Ypsilanti, is a 2011 graduate of Belleville High School.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

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Month of March is Quilt Show time at Museum

The 21st-annual Quilt Exhibit at the Belleville Area Museum sponsored by the Western Wayne County Quilt Guild takes place March 1-31.

There are more than 100 quilts to view, various sewing demonstrations, Bed Turnings every Friday and Saturday and representatives on hand from the quilt guild to answer questions.

The special sewing class for Girl Scouts

on March 18 is already sold out.

The museum is located at 405 Main Street in downtown Belleville. Museum admission is \$2. The museum is open Tuesday 3-7 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday noon to 4 p.m.

For more information, call the Belleville Area Museum at (734) 697-1944 or email kdallos@provide.net.



At the Feb. 6 meeting of the Belleville Women's Club, Darlene Collins, left, presented Virginia Truran with the Member of Achievements Award.

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The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding a member luncheon meeting featuring a tri-community update with speakers Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley, Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara, and Sumpter Deputy Supervisor Karen Armatis on Wednesday, April 5, at noon at Wayne County Community College on Haggerty Road. Registration gets under way at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$15 per person, if purchased in advance, and \$20 at the door. For more info and tickets, call the chamber at (734) 697-7151.

For the first time, ever, the Yankee Air Museum is offering rides on its Douglas C-47 Skytrain at a special rate -- just \$95 -- in an event titled "Fly the Pattern," as part of the Detroit Aviation and Airline Collectibles Show on Saturday, May 20. The plane ride will include an engine start, taxi to takeoff, an airborne lap around the airport, the landing, and taxi to the hangar -- a 20-minute excursion. Rides are limited to 12 passengers at a time. The Museum's C-47 is the military variant of the Douglas Commercial 3, or DC-3 airliner and was the first plane acquired by the Yankee Air Museum back in 1982. The Museum is

celebrating the plane's 35th anniversary of flying. The collectibles show will feature vendors selling everything from model planes, military advertising, clothing, trading cards, art, and much more. Call (734) 483-4030 and ask for Megan.

The Homegrown Knowledge series continues tonight at the Belleville Area District Library with the Yankee Air Museum's very own Randy Hotton and his new book, "Willow Run," featuring stories of the history of the local WWII bomber factory. Book sales and signings will be available with the proceeds to benefit the YAF museum. The free program starts at 7 p.m. and is open to the public. Call (734) 699-3291.

Congratulations to Atchinson Ford salesman Bob Gaffka, who recently sold his 6,000th vehicle at the dealership on Belleville Road. Gaffka has been at Atchinson for 29.5 years. What an accomplishment!

New, three-bedroom homes start at \$42,900 at Maple Leaf South, a manufactured home community located at 51000 Michigan Avenue in Belleville (Van Buren Township). Right now, purchase a new home and receive free homeowner's insurance for one year, a free home appraisal, free home warranty, and a free storage shed. Be sure to ask how you could double your tax refund and get a free month of lot rent. Restrictions apply. A special open

house will take place this Saturday, March 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. See their ad in today's paper and call (734) 234-5266.

Tickets are still available for the Cosmic Bowling & Auction fundraiser to benefit youth group activities at Open Arms Church in Belleville. The event is being held tomorrow, Friday, March 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Lodge Lanes in Belleville. The cost is \$20 per person and includes two games of bowling, shoes, and pizza. Call (734) 699-5000.

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

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ORPHAN OF THE WEEK

“SAMSON”



Samson is nothing but a hound dog looking for some love! He's a 1 year old Coonhound mix full of happy, excited energy and affection to share. We won't deny that he's a lot of dog to handle and definitely needs a family ready to take on a high-energy and enthusiastic dog. Being a hound mix, **Samson** loves being outside and gets a little stir-crazy when cooped up inside too long. He will need lots of daily exploration and playtime outside to keep him on his best behavior. He's not a couch potato dog that's for sure. **Samson** is very smart too and knows some basic commands especially when his nose smells that treats are involved. He will still need training and consistent corrections to help him remember his manners as he continues to grow into adulthood. He has been playing with another dog here and does well with her although he likes to continue to play long after she's tired out. He'd probably do just fine with another high-energy dog that can keep up with him. It would be hard to find a cuter big dog than **Samson**. His long, floppy ears, goofy face and mischievous nature are beyond adorable. If you think you're ready to give this high-energy, playful pup the home he needs than call us today to meet him. He's already neutered, vaccinated and micro-chipped. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at 734-461-9458 or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.

Superintendent's Corner

By Pete Kudlak
Superintendent,
Van Buren Public Schools

As I started to look at the District back in July, I really had my eyes and ears open to our special education services that we provide to our students. These services usually are very telling with what a district

holds important. Just like other public schools in Michigan, Van Buren Public Schools has a wide-scope of students with disabilities. We educate about 700 students that range from small speech issues to students that are severely impaired in many different ways. These services can include speech & language, school social work, visual impaired, hearing impaired, physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing, homebound services, psychological services for testing, mobility & orientation,

and transportation. These services are on top of the daily education of the student. School districts in Michigan are required to provide these services to qualified students ages 0 - 26. We either provide them directly or, in some instances, we contract with another school district or agency to provide. The vast majority of our special-needs students receive all of their services in our buildings during the school day. In some areas, districts partner up to create a classroom (as no one district has enough students to provide the special needs of that specific population). We send some students to neighboring districts to meet their needs, while we host a partnership program for students that are on the autistic spectrum.

Districts do receive additional funding to provide these specialized services to students. We receive federal funds (IDEA) and local funds (3.5 mills levied by the county under Act 18 authority). While these funds do not cover all the expenses, they help offset the cost of everything that goes into providing a quality education to our students with disabilities.

True public education is built upon educating all of our students. As public educators, we embrace this role and work diligently to make sure the needs of all students are met. It is important to me that we nourish all of our students and parents. We should be a supportive entity that works together to give each student what he/she needs to thrive.

I have been very impressed with the special education teachers and paraprofessionals that VBPS has educating students. They are an amazing group of caring, empathetic, and talented educators that push students each day to grow and develop. I also love how they advocate for the needs of their students and parents in order to provide an enhanced educational experience.

They continue to make us a better school district and we appreciate all they do!

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Menard set to start site work mid-March, open new store in February

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Menard hopes to get started on site work on its new home-improvement store in mid-March, to get really underway with construction in June, and open its new store in February 2018.

Nick Brenner, corporation counsel for Menard, Inc., was at the Feb. 22 meeting of the Van Buren Township Planning Commission to represent the company which was seeking renewed approval of its plans that had expired since their first approval in February 2015.

Commission chairwoman Carol Thompson stated to Brenner, "You're here not because you're asking for anything new. Your plans reached their shelf life and you are here to renew everything."

Menard had a representative at the Feb. 14 VBT Board of Zoning Appeals meeting where all its previously granted variances were renewed. While the planning commission usually waits until another meeting to vote on a request, this time members approved the special use approval at the same meeting and sent it on to the township board for final approval.

It also approved a tree removal permit and the final site plan.

A public hearing was held on the request for approval of a retail building with outside storage of supplies. This is a special land use in the C-2 district and requires a public hearing.

The woman who owns the residence at 1001 Endicott, to the west of the site, spoke to support the project. She said Menard's pond will be in her backyard and they have been more than accommodating.

"I am in support of their building," she said. "They have been willing to work with our community."

There was no other public comment.

Brenner said the project is on 24.08 acres and contains 162,340 square feet of heated building and 200 square feet of unheated. It will be red brick with tan blocks and a lumberyard.

"This is the most landscaping of any Menard in existence," Brenner said. He said this was a buffer to keep noise down for the residents. He said the warehouse was cut from the 53,000 square feet, in the original plan, to 46,000 square feet in this plan.

Brenner showed pictures of the Moline and O'Fallen, IL stores that showed little landscaping although they were next to residential areas.

Ron Akers, director of planning and economic development, said Menard has been in discussion with the township to construct a store in the Belleville Road corridor since before 2012.

It most recently obtained final site plan approval from the planning commission in June of 2015 and decided early in 2016 that it would postpone store construction nationally in order to reevaluate the economic condition after the presidential election.

In late 2016, Menard indicated it would resume the construction of the VBT store, which would be located immediately north of Walmart on Belleville Road.

In other business at the Feb. 22 meeting, the commission:

- Approved temporary land use for Phantom of Michigan to sell fireworks from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., for dates in June and July at the Lakewood Shopping Plaza, 2095 Rawsonville Road, for longer than the seven consecutive days allowed in the ordinance; and
- Approved an amendment to the approved Country Walk site plan for revised single-family architectural elevations for Allen Edwin Homes. The unfinished Country Walk subdivision, on the east side of Martinsville Road, north of Savage Road, is the subject of the request. Akers said there are 536 units in the subdivision

and there are 236 lots in phases 3 and 4. Gilbert Homes owns 10 of the lots. Bradley Scobel, of Allen Edwin Homes, said they would be constructing almost 200 homes. Commission vice-chairman Donald

Boynton left the meeting before the Allen Edwin Homes request was discussed, having asked for recusal because he is president of the homeowners association for phase 3.

League of Women Voters celebrates first year of tri-community services

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

About two dozen people attended the Feb. 23 meeting of the Belleville geographical unit of the League of Women Voters held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Van Buren Township. The meeting marked the one-year anniversary of the local unit.

The local LWV group is under the Northwest Wayne County unit, based in Livonia. The Belleville-area group will be under the wing of its mentors until it learns the ropes and is able to go out on its own.

Presiding at the meeting was Angela Ryan, president of the Livonia group, who said the LWV is a strictly non-partisan group.

The LWV put on candidate forums for Van Buren and Sumpter townships in 2016 and Barbara Miller said the forums were excellent and the Belleville group is learning the LWV way of doing forums.

Virginia Belinski told of voter registration events in which she has taken part, including two temples in Canton, one at Schoolcraft College, and one at Wayne County Community College.

In other reports at the meeting of 2017 LWV activities:

- Donna Gilkey-Lavin and Belinski told of their positive experiences at the Women's March in Washington, D.C., the day after the Presidential Inauguration. Lavin acted out her steps in a lengthy report on why she decided to go to the march and being on a bus for 12 hours with 52 ladies she didn't know and finally being behind the stage and not seeing a thing. Belinski said she heard of the march within a few days of the election and decided, "I'm going." She and her sister attended (and were in front of the stage) and will be taking part in other demonstrations. They told of ongoing organizing on the internet for more events.
- Rachel Rion said she was in Wayne for the Women's March and there were 4,000 people there and 11,000 in Ann Arbor. She said there are plans for the Ides of Trump on March 15 to inundate the President with postcards demanding he release his taxes.
- Paula Bowman and Barbara Miller reported on the brochure "They Represent You" being put together for the tri-community. It is a work in progress to give voters easy access to information on their elected officials.
- Bowman and Belinski reported on the Government Finance Study underway by the state LWV. A consensus meeting for the Livonia group was set for Feb. 25.
- Miller and Ryan reported on election

monitoring for condos/co-ops that is being done in Wayne by the local LWV, which is being paid for doing it. The Belleville group is looking into doing this locally as a fund raiser.

• Sherry Frazier reported on a relationship with WCCC. They are asking the college to have booths set up at the beginning of classes so they can register voters. Frazier then went on to say, "It makes me swell with pride that these women went to Washington in a democracy where people are participating ... We need to make democracy work." When it was pointed out Millennials refuse to register or to vote, Ryan suggested they get the Millennials involved in local questions first.

• Miller pointed out VBT Clerk Leon Wright is doing voter registration at Belleville High School and setting up voting machines for the student council elections.

• Miller suggested a Voters Hall of Fame be set up. She passed out information on the Pennsylvania Voters Hall of Fame that honors those who have voted in every November election for at least 50 consecutive years. She said the local group could start with honoring voters in one community to get it started here.

• Ryan and Miller talked about fund raising, since the local group will have to be on its own and raise its own funds. They suggested auctions and donations.

• Bowman, who is chairwoman of the state LWV convention May 19-21, at the Kellogg Center in Lansing, said the Livonia group is able to send and pay for five delegates and some from Belleville could be included.

• Miller said that Suffrage started in 1920 and will be celebrating its 100th anniversary within a few years. She suggested members start reading up on Women's Suffrage so they will be knowledgeable on the subject.

Birthdays

- March 1 – James Higerson, Mark Melidosian
- March 4 – Ida Thompson
- March 6 – Susie Estermyer
- March 11 – Adriana Kibilko
- March 13 – Tom Mytych
- March 19 – Amanda Kibilko
- March 21 – Jerry Zywicki
- March 25 – Erica Fulton

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Free class on family history research to start March 23 in Ypsilanti

Kathy Bailey of Willis will be presenting another series of free classes to teach participants how to find information on their families for personal enrichment and to share with their families.

The series of six classes will be on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. March 23 through April 27.

The classes will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 941 South Grove Road, Ypsilanti 48197.

The class will teach how to search huge online databases, including FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com.

The class also will include technologies for doing research, organizing family information, and learning of records that are available for various locations worldwide during different periods of time.

Bailey said the participants will learn of many resources that provide help when working at home or in a library.

To reserve a place in the free class call Bailey at (734) 461-6133, text (734) 660-1971, or write to her at kbailey@gmail.com.

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Sumpter Board

(continued from page 3)

Supervisor John Morgan was on vacation and absent from the meeting, so Trustee Swinson was presiding after a unanimous vote of the board. Usually the clerk or treasurer presides when the supervisor is absent.

Then Item N came up and Trustee Hurst made a motion to extend all contracts for 30 days. Hoffman was the only one voting no. The 5-1 vote passed the motion.

In other business at the Feb. 28 meeting, the board:

- Heard Melissa Gaynier of the Senior Alliance give a report on the alliance and its work to help seniors in the township;
- Approved an agreement with Browntown Township for animal control services. Police Chief Eric Luke said one of the townships had to approve it first and now it can go before the Brownstown board;
- Set a public hearing for the 2017-18 budget for 6 p.m., March 28;
- Approved holding Sumpter Township Country Festival May 26-29 using Parks and Recreation funds;
- Approved fireworks on Sunday, May 28, at the Sumpter Township fairgrounds, with a rain date of Monday, May 29;
- Approved Sharon Pokerwinski as grant administrator for the Parks and Recreation Commission;
- Approved Jennifer Price to the position of secretary to the Parks and Recreation Commission;
- Approved a \$500 check from the Parks and Recreation account for Holly Swinson to get supplies for the beer tent for the festival;
- Approved Resolution 2017-04 that establishes an amended fee structure for business licenses. The Home Based Business License fee is \$50 and the Commercial Based Business License Fee is \$200;
- Approved designating the Supervisor's office as the American Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator;
- Approved public notice about Rights to the Public in regards to ADA;
- Removed from the agenda an item to go out for bids for an automatic ADA door opener to be paid out of federal Community

Development Block Grant funds. It was explained the CDBG money comes in July and it is too early to get bids now because they will expire in 30 days. It will be put back on the agenda in July;

• Heard Water and Sewer Department Director Ken Kunka give a report on activities in the Water Department;

• Heard Clerk Hoffman report the township has a couple of hundred thousand dollars in the account for the library and the township owns the property next door to the south and next door on the north. He said a brand-new building would look "friendlier" instead of taking the old DPW building and using it. "Why not build a new building?" Hoffman asked;

• Heard Ronald Barrington Robinson say, "A lie is a lie no matter who tells it." He said for years he has been an independent producer of programs that have run on cable TV in Flint and Detroit and he was considering doing a program on the business of marijuana. He said that is why he has been following the Nelson Po case and attending court sessions. He said he was in Judge Boykin's court in Detroit recently and Sumpter Township Officer Toth told him to get out of the courtroom. "Only Judge Boykin has the power to remove me," Robinson said. He said he commented, "I'll be a son of a b----," and Judge Boykin admonished him. He said the removal was not legal and if Toth had not lied he wouldn't have been removed. He said Toth told the judge that Robinson was a possible witness in the case, but he said he knows nothing about the case except what he has read in newspapers. "That lie has kept me out of that courtroom," Robinson said. [Later that evening, Chief Luke emailed an explanation to the *Independent*: "He was sequestered by order of Judge Boykins along with two other individuals who could possibly be called as witnesses in the case. He then called D/Sgt. Toth a name while walking out and was immediately reprimanded by the judge";

• Heard Robinson also tell the board that when he was running for township office in 2016 two of his horses were poisoned and one died. He asked anyone who knows about this to call the FBI office in Detroit because he believes it to be a hate crime. There is a \$5,000 reward;

• Heard Sharon Pokerwinski say if she was

Mary Sherwood she would be complaining about the blight on the north side of Willis Road across from Mary's Sherwood Road home. Police Chief Luke said that is in the courts right now and the property owner was ticketed five weeks ago; and

• Heard Pokerwinski tell Treasurer Morgan that while Morgan thinks it is a mistake that the late Alan Bates name is on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, his name should not be removed. She said Mr. Bates is one of those who worked on the plan and his name should not be removed. "It is not a mistake," she said.

More Letters

(continued from page 5)

ignorant in every sphere of society. But not all of them carry guns. Not all of them have sworn to protect and serve. Go above and beyond and change the narrative, or quit your job.

White citizens of America, in love, do better. Be better. Your lack of action is not cutting it and your silence is a privilege. Start anywhere, even if it's uncomfortable. Future generations have their eyes on us.

Olivia Borgdorff, Belleville
White American, objecting to privilege and prejudice

BHS Senior Party planners need help

To the Editor and Community Members:

Graduation for the BHS Class of 2017 is fast approaching. There has been a long-standing tradition that after the graduation ceremony is over, the graduates are invited back to BHS that night for a Senior Party. The party this year is on May 26 from approximately 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. This is a safe, alternative party; an evening of fun, entertainment and prizes. There is music, sports, games, food, etc. This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime memory.

The Senior Party Planning Committee at Belleville High School will be organizing this adventure. The team, made up primarily of parent volunteers, is asking area businesses and community members to help us make this a night to remember. Any help you could offer, such as monetary gifts or items that would be appropriate for the Class of 2017, would be most appreciated. Besides providing entertainment, decorations, food and

drinks; our goal is for each graduate to be awarded a prize that evening.

Felicia Lasenby is the BHS Staff Senior Party Liaison and Tony Attard is one of the many parents in charge of fund raising. The Tax ID of the high school is 38-6004192. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Lasenby at (734) 697-9122, ext. 2111, flasenby@vanburenschools.net.

Checks should be made payable to Belleville High School and please note in the memo area that it is for the Class of 2017 Senior Party. Checks and items can be sent or dropped off at: Belleville High School, Attention: Felicia Lasenby, 501 W. Columbia, Belleville, MI 48111.

Should you wish to donate an item(s) you would like picked up, please call BHS at (734) 697-9133 and arrangements will be made.

Thank you for your time and your continued support of our community. Felicia Lasenby, BHS Teacher Student Council Advisor, BHS Senior Party Planning Team Liaison

Monroe Fine Art Fair seeking artists

To the Editor:

The organizing committee for the 14th-annual Downtown Monroe Art Fair is seeking painters, print makers, photographers, wood carvers, stained glass artists, jewelry makers, fiber artists, sculptors, potters, and other artists to participate in this year's festival.

This year's dates are Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 12 and 13. Saturday hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Booth space is \$100 for the two-day event. Artists must provide their own tents. Electricity is available upon request. Chairs and tables can be rented for a small fee. Last year over 90 artists were featured on East First Street and Washington Street in historic, downtown Monroe, Michigan's third-oldest city.

Applications are available on the festival website at downtownmonroeartfair.com or by contacting Jennifer at (734) 242-1472 or Bev at (734) 242-8308. The mailing address of the festival is: Monroe Fine Art Fair, P.O. Box 2601, Monroe, MI 48161.

Beverly M. Heck
Monroe Fine Art Fair 2017
bevheck@sbcglobal.net

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VBT DDA

(continued from page 1)

parcels.

In January, DDA board members directed Ireland to tell the developer that they are interested in sharing a drive, while also making another offer on the property.

Ireland said the \$132,500 figure was the owners' counter-offer.

In other business, the DDA:

- Honored DDA secretary Sophia Zoller who was retiring, after having been with the DDA since it started. DDA chairman Craig Atchinson presented her with a framed certificate and read off all her many accomplishments;
- Heard Ireland report the Belleville Road rights-of-way acquisition for sidewalks is beginning to wind down. The DDA has secured 11 rights of way, noted three were already obtained, is waiting for four mortgage releases in order to complete the sales, waiting for two property owners

to answer or propose a counter offer, one has an existing easement for a sidewalk, and 11 property owners do not wish to discuss right-of-way acquisition. Ireland said it is hoped the acquisitions acquired would improve the DDA's ability to ensure pedestrian and/or non-motorized accessibility to the downtown area of the community in the future. Since neither the DDA nor the township is an Act 51 recipient with a current documented project, it has added some difficulty to the process;

- Approved a change order to the Commonwealth Associates' contract for Belleville Road right-of-way acquisition. Ireland said \$21,000 more is needed to complete the remainder of the work that is left; and
- Heard Ireland report on the pedestrian overpass on Belleville Road. The engineer for the pedestrian bridge confirmed that he believed MDOT could accommodate most design concepts. He requires signage dimensions and wording / letter clarification.

City of Belleville Public Notice

City of Belleville Regular City Council Meeting Minutes February 21, 2017

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street by Mayor Pro Tem Loria.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Marcotte	Present
Council Member Smith	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS

Presentations
Daniel Hampton from The Senior Alliance presented the FY 2016 Services Report detailing all the services provided to the City's residents stating that more than 847 clients had been served with total service dollar expenditures valued at \$721,999.

Citizen Comments
John Juriga stated that the Mayors' Ball was a huge success, and Mayor Conley added that it raised more than \$50,000 to benefit the Belleville and Romulus Boys and Girls Clubs.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Loria, second by Smith to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Fielder, second by Smith to approve the regular city council meeting minutes of February 6, 2017 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Mayor's Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Motion by Marcotte, second by Loria to approve Resolution No. 17-008 appointing Randy Priest to the Board of Review with a term ending December, 2017.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Bayou Grill – Car Show Street Closings

Motion by Smith, second by Marcotte to approve Resolution No. 17-009 granting the Bayou Grill use of Main Street for the annual car show with road closures as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Music Lakeside Event/Use of Horizon Park

Motion by Fielder, second by Smith to approve Resolution No. 17-010 granting BACA the use of Horizon Park for Music Lakeside with road closures

as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. FY 2016/17 Budget Amendments

Motion by Fielder, second by Marcotte to adopt Resolution No. 17-011 approving budget amendments to the FY 2016-17 budget as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Special Events Ordinance

Mayor Conley stated that since the last discussion, the ordinance had been revised to include an appeals process. After some discussion, there was consensus that the only change needed was to delete the 24-hour emergency contact information from the ordinance and keep it on the application, but not on the special event license/permit.

Motion by Loria, second by Smith to adopt Ordinance No. 17-002 with one revision as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. 2017 CDBG Funds

Motion by Fielder, second by Marcotte to approve Resolution No. 17-012 to hold a Public Hearing during the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting on March 6, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. to seek public comment on the proposed CDBG projects or suggest other projects for spending 2017 CDBG funds.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. Street Evaluation: Special Assessment District (SAD)

City Manager Kollmeyer distributed a cost estimate provided by Public Financial Management Inc. (PFM) for a complete road rebuild in the Harbour Pointe Subdivision, assuming a 10-year bond for \$1,825,000. PFM will also provide a cost estimate for a 15-year bond. After some discussion, Mayor Conley stated that she wants to see a 20-year bond schedule that incorporates the cost of sidewalks and infrastructure. Next steps will be to hold a meeting(s) with residents; hold 2 public hearings; seek engineering design, construction, and construction management bids. The Harbour Pointe SAD is considered Phase I, and all additional phases will be managed using the same process.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Fielder, second by Smith to approve Resolution No. 17-013 for accounts payable and payables over \$500.00 totaling \$171,907.03.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to adjourn meeting at 9:15 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Scharf, City Clerk

Approved: March 6, 2017

Published: March 9, 2017



Sumpter Township Public Notice



Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes February 14, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:39 p.m., showing present: Supervisor J. Morgan, Clerk C. Hoffman, Treasurer P. Morgan, Trustees: Oddy, Hurst, LaPorte. Excused absence: Swinson. Also showing present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk J. Hoffman and approximately 25 residents.

3. Agenda: Motion by Hurst, supported by P. Morgan to approve the agenda with Items E and H removed, adding the 2017 Parks & Recreation Master Plan and Approving CDBG allocations for 2017 and 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only:

5. Minutes

A. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by Oddy the Public Hearing Block Grant Minutes of January 24, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by Oddy to accept Planning Commission Minutes of December 8, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hurst to approve Warrants totaling \$3,358,558.16. Roll Call Vote: Yes: J. Morgan, C. Hoffman, P. Morgan, Hurst, Oddy, LaPorte. Excused absent: Swinson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Water & Sewer Report-P. Morgan: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hurst to Receive and File Water & Sewer Report with the exception of Supervisor's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Police Report - Luke: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hurst to Receive and File Police Report with the exception of Supervisor's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Building/Ordinance Report - C. Hoffman: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hurst to Receive and File Building/Ordinance Report with the exception of Supervisor's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Fire Report-Januszyk: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hurst to Receive and File Fire Report with the exception of Supervisor's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Treasurer's Report-P. Morgan: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hurst to Receive and File Treasurer's Report with the exception of Supervisor's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Supervisor's Report - J. Morgan:

A. Thank you to Leroy Paige

B. Michigan Law Enforcement annual Polar Plunge February 18, 2017

C. St. Anthony's Boy Scout Troop #793 Pancake Breakfast February 19, 2017

D. Sumpter Township Offices will be closed February 20, 2017 President's Day

E. February 24, 2017 Sumpter Senior's Black History Program

F. Belleville Community Chorus Baked Potato Dinner February 25, 2017

G. Belleville Rotary Club Fat Tuesday Annual Italian Buffet February 28, 2017

Motion by Oddy, supported by LaPorte to approve the Supervisor's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Attorney's Report - Young: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hurst to Receive and File Attorney's Report with the exception of the Supervisor's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Board Response:

15. New Business:

A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hurst to approve for Sumpter Seniors to use the Community Center for a Black History Celebration, free of charge February 24, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve to re-appoint Richard Pokerwinski to Planning Commission, term to expire July 23, 2019.

C. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by LaPorte to approve to remove Esther Hurst from Zoning Board of Appeals due to Township Board Appointment to Trustee. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by Hurst to

approve to appoint Ken Bednark to Zoning Board of Appeals, term to expire December 17, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Item Removed.

F. Motion by Hurst, supported by LaPorte to approve the employment contract for Maria Beaudrie. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by C. Hoffman to approve to have Attorney Young write a contract for Michelle Bellingham as Human Resource Coordinator Effective February 27, 2017 with Michelle leaving the Union. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Item Removed

I. Motion by Hurst, supported by Oddy to approve for CAL Plumbing to install water fill stations at ground working level to fill the trucks at station #1 at a cost of \$1,100.00. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to approve for Standard Operating Guideline for Incident Reports #8243-100 for Sumpter Fire Department. Motion carried unanimously.

K. Motion by Hurst, supported by Oddy to approve the Payment of \$3,200.80 for Fire Hose awarded through FEMA Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

L. Motion by Hurst, supported by P. Morgan to approve for Software from Emergency Reporting Co. for logging in Fire Reporting Incidents to the State of Michigan at a cost of \$3,319.00 with recurring yearly at \$2,220.00. Motion carried unanimously.

M. Motion by Hurst, supported by Oddy to approve for six (6) G1 Unication VHF Voice Pagers with stored Voice for Fire Department use for the price of \$2,734.85 with a two (2) year warranty. Motion carried unanimously.

N. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hurst to approve the 2017 Recreation Master Plan with corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

O. Motion by Hurst, supported by P. Morgan to approve the CDBG Allocations for 2017-2018. Motion carried unanimously.

16. Announcements:

A. Recognition of Colleen Armatis for passing all of her fire testing

B. Taxes Due February 28, 2017 without penalty

17. Open Floor:

A. Bill Simmons

- Retirement
- Mary Ban
- ADA Improvements
- Bemis Road in need of Repair
- Willow Road Landfill
- Budget Hearing Date
- Meals on Wheels

C. Ronald Barrington Robinson

- Item L
- Dress Code

D. Jay Bardell

- Compensation figures in the Independent for years 2015 and 2016
- Township Owned Properties

E. Sharon Pokerwinski

- Items removed from Agenda
- Dress Code

18. Adjournment: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by C. Hoffman to adjourn at 7:37 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk
Sumpter Township

Certification

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the following is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on February 14, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and the said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk
Publish: March 9, 2017

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ALDI

(continued from page 1)

materials, energy-saving refrigeration and LED lighting. ALDI stores also feature a simple-to-navigate layout, easy-to-spot signage and prominent product prices.

Beyond staples such as bread, dairy and a variety of fresh produce, ALDI offers a growing organic selection, USDA Choice meats, the liveGfree gluten-free product line and better-for-you options, including the SimplyNature line of products free from over 125 artificial ingredients and preservatives and the Never Any! line of meats free from antibiotics, added hormones and animal by-products.

To better serve customers and their growing families, ALDI now carries a full line of baby products, Little Journey, which offers customers award-winning diapers, wipes, training pants, formula, organic food and snacks.

Fritsch said all ALDI exclusive brand food products are free of added MSG, certified synthetic colors and partially hydrogenated oils, and since more than 90 percent of the products available are under ALDI exclusive brands, customers can feel good about the food they buy at ALDI.

Plus, ALDI ensures its exclusive brands meet or exceed the national brands on taste and quality by conducting rigorous testing on all products. ALDI stands behind this

quality with a Double Guarantee: If for any reason a customer doesn't like an ALDI exclusive brand food, ALDI will give them their money back *and* replace the product.

In addition, ALDI continues to provide ALDI Finds: premium food and household products that are only in stores for a limited time. ALDI Finds vary week to week and themes usually match the season. Information can be found on aldi.us and in weekly ALDI ads.

ALDI saves customers money by cutting overhead costs through smart practices, such as a cart rental system: ALDI shoppers insert a quarter to release a cart from the corral and receive the quarter back upon the cart's return.

Other cost-saving practices include a smaller store footprint, open carton displays and encouraging customers to bring their own shopping bags. ALDI also saves shoppers money by keeping stores open during prime shopping times. The new Van Buren Township location will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Sunday. All ALDI stores nationwide accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express.

ALDI is in the midst of an accelerated growth plan, and by the end of 2018, there will be nearly 2,000 ALDI stores serving 45 million customers each month from coast to coast. As an employer of choice, ALDI offers employees generous wages and benefits that are higher than the national average for the retail industry. Part-time staff working at least 25 hours per week receive full health insurance benefits and dental coverage, and all ALDI employees are invited to participate in the 401(k) program.

ALDI was honored with the 2015 Supermarket News Retail Achievement Award, recognizing the company for its ongoing business expansion and product evolution. For more information about ALDI, visit aldi.us.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, March 9** – "Homegrown Knowledge: Willow Run" starts at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Randy Hotton, co-author of a new book on the subject, will share details and stories about the history of our local WWII bomber factory. Hotton will sell copies of the book during the program, with proceeds to benefit the Yankee Air Museum.

• **Saturday, March 11** – Van Buren Community Soccer is holding Meet the Coach from 9 to 11 a.m. at Wayne County Community College. Open Select Tryouts will be from 11 a.m. until noon at the same location.

• **Saturday, March 11** – You are invited to visit the Western Wayne County Quilt Guild on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Otisville Room at Van Buren Township Hall. All levels of sewers are welcome and there are lots of different projects.

• **Saturday, March 11** – Roast Beef Dinner at the Community United Methodist Church, 11160 Olive St., Romulus, 5-7 p.m. Donations: \$10 per adult, \$4 for children 6-12, and free for children 5 and under. For carry outs, call (734) 941-0736 after 5 p.m. www.romcomumc.org

• **Sunday, March 12** – Southern Echo musical performance from 2 to 5 p.m. at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township. Free. Information: Mike Hoben (734) 260-1170 or Lynette Jordan (734) 699-8918.

• **Friday, March 17** – St. Patrick's dinner at the Eagles, 9961 Beck Road. Menu includes corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots, rutabagas, bread, butter and dessert. Tickets \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Serving from 5 p.m. until 8 or until gone. Entertainment by Whitey. (734) 699-8836

Sumpter Township Public Notice

Township of Sumpter 2017 March Board of Review

The following are the dates and times for the 2017 March Board of Review:

Tuesday, March 7, 2017 4:30 PM Organizational Meeting

Monday, March 13, 2017 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM Appointments

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Appointments

Wednesday, March 15, 2017 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Appointments

Letters of Appeal have to be received by Sumpter Township's Assessing Office by Wednesday March 15 at 12:00 PM

Publish: March 2, 2017; March 9, 2017

COME TO THE CABARET!!!



Come and enjoy the individual talents of members of BCC featuring solos, duets and ensemble performances from our adult choristers.

Open Arms Lutheran Church

7865 Belleville Road
Belleville, MI 48111

Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 3:00 PM

Cost: **FREE**, but donations are welcome!!

Refreshments available



Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN JOB VACANCY

Starting Hourly Wage: \$16.12

General Duty Statement:

Van Buren Charter Township is now accepting resumes for a Water Worker I.

Detailed information can be found on the Van Buren Township website.

www.vanburen-mi.org/about-the-community/help-wanted

Only Qualified Applicants Need Apply

SELECTION PROCESS

Must successfully complete the written assessment testing as well as an oral interview and background survey.

The Charter Township of Van Buren is an equal opportunity employer.

Publish: March 2, 2017; March 9, 2017; March 16, 2017; March 23, 2017

Van Buren Township
Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 381 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police for the past week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Feb. 26:
0446 – operating while intoxicated, Tyler Rd. / Belleville Rd.
0847 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Hamlin
1225 – malicious destruction of property, Van Buren St.
1309 – threat, Haggerty Rd.
1328 – personal injury accident, EB I-94/Belleville
1405 – fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
1438 – unattended death, Bak Rd.
1643 – trespassing, Rose Blvd.
1758 – larceny, Winding Pond Dr.
1807 – assault & battery, Crowley Ave.
2311 – threat, Belle Pointe Dr.
Monday, Feb. 27:
0727 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Oak Ln.
0839 – assault & battery, Michigan Ave.
1227 – fight, W. Archwood Dr.
1435 – disorderly, Lake Point Blvd.
1456 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
1623 – personal injury accident, Michigan/Denton
1657 – missing person, Lake Villa Apt.
1851 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1947 – harassment call, Purple Sage Ct.
1957 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2105 – harassment call, Denton Rd.
2253 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
Tuesday, Feb. 28:
0925 – hospice death, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0946 – disorderly Van Born
0950 – sexual assault, Holly Ln.
1439 – property damage accident, Ecorse/I-275
1631 – ordinance violation, W. Huron River Dr.
2109 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
2149 – property damage accident, Michigan Service Dr. / Cemetery Rd.
Wednesday, March 1:
0703 – assault & battery, Denton Rd.
0842 – threat, Belleville Rd.
0919 – ordinance violation, Clayton Rd.
0923 – property damage accident, Pebblebrook Dr.
1251 – abandoned auto, Parkwood Dr.
1303 – fraud, Nautica Dr.
1327 – abandoned auto, Ecorse/I-275
1413 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1432 – neighbor trouble, Lake Villa Dr.
1548 – neighbor trouble, Lake Villa Dr.
1753 – mental subject, Sheldon Rd.
Thursday, March 2:
0559 – noise complaint, Daniel Dr.
0847 – property damage accident, Tyler/Haggerty
1044 – ordinance violation, Elwell Rd.
1045 – ordinance violation, Haggerty Rd.
1056 – disorderly, Haggerty Rd.
1330 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Tyler
1707 – mental subject, Parkwood Dr.
1716 – personal injury accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Oak Ln.
1813 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Rose Blvd.
1918 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
2047 – road hazard, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.
2118 – road hazard, WB I-94/Belleville
2144 – disorderly, Birch Dr.
Friday, March 3:
0517 – property damage accident, Van Born / Haggerty
0934 – ordinance violation, Arborview Ln.
0954 – ordinance violation, Riggs Rd.
1107 – threat, Beckley/I-94 S. Service Dr.
1250 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1324 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1413 – breaking & entering, Rose Blvd.
1515 – private property impound, Oak Ln.
1656 – malicious destruction of property, Harmony Ln.
1850 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2050 – domestic, Quirk Rd.
2114 – domestic, Quirk Rd.
2114 – road hazard, Martz Rd./Hoeft Rd.
2317 – domestic, Wildbrook Dr.
2330 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd.
Saturday, March 4:
0701 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd./N. I-94

Service Dr.
0917 – larceny, Parkside Dr.
1403 – family trouble, Bentley Dr.
1559 – breaking & entering, Denton Rd.
1715 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2037 – juvenile complaint, Denton Rd.
2231 – noise complaint, Hardwood Dr.
2254 – fight, Bog Rd.
Also on this week’s log are 84 traffic stops, 11 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police
Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 26:
0019 – parking complaint, Carmell St.
0048 – suspicious person/vehicle, High St. / W. Columbia Ave.
0142 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0153 – fight, Main St.
0508 – animal complaint, Potter Dr.
0558 – animal complaint, Potter Dr.
0930 – road hazard, Charles St.
0936 – civil matter, Main St.
1213 – property damage accident, Puro Health and Wellness
1503 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1615 – civil matter, Belle Villa Blvd.
1625 – vehicle lockout, Santa Clara St.
1829 – vehicle lockout, Church St.
1922 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Aberdeen Ct.
1926 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1957 – animal complaint, N. Biggs Ave.
Monday, Feb. 27:
0727 – property damage accident, W. Columbia
0934 – disorderly, W. Columbia Ave.
0950 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1359 – 911 welfare check, Owen St.
1550 – mental subject, W. Columbia Ave.
1554 – suspicious person/vehicle, Harbour Pointe Dr. / Light Tower Ct.
1738 – assist fire dept., N. Edgemont Ave.
1757 – lost property/child, Main St.
1957 – traffic offense, W. Huron River Dr./Church
2024 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
Tuesday, Feb. 28:
0550 – intrusion alarm, Carmell St.
0750 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
0929 – parking complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1046 – breaking & entering, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1151 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1410 – welfare check, E. Columbia Ave.
1426 – found property/child, Main St./Fifth St.
1850 – civil matter, Belle Villa Blvd.
1905 – harassment call, N. Biggs Ave.
2051 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2353 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.
Wednesday, March 1:
0854 – ordinance violation, Wexford Ave.
0941 – private property impound, Belle Villa
1014 – warrant arrest, Main St.
1109 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1754 – 911 welfare check, Third St.
1819 – malicious destruction of property, Wexford
2330 – intrusion alarm, E. Columbia Ave.
Thursday, March 2:
0022 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
0238 – intrusion alarm, High St.
1036 – animal complaint, N. Liberty/Fifth St.
1217 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Huron River Dr.
1337 – civil matter, Owen St.
1338 – misc. complaint, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1338 – civil matter, Henry St.
1339 – misc. complaint, Main St.
1339 – juvenile complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.
1704 – assist fire dept., Loza Ln.
1821 – assist other dept., Rose
Friday, March 3:
0020 – parking complaint, Carmell St.
0206 – parking complaint, Carmell St.
0942 – harassment call, N. Liberty St.
1228 – 911 welfare check, Owen St.
1342 – narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
1511 – sexual assault, W. Columbia Ave.
1652 – 911 welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1702 – property damage accident, Main/Third
1724 – juvenile complaint, Victorian Ln./Savage
1751 – harassment call, Main St.
2113 – welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.

2207 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Huron River
2222 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
Saturday, March 4:
0247 – parking complaint, Breakwater Ct.
0250 – 911 welfare check, South St.
0540 – property check, Main St.
0608 – misc. complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
0834 – misc. complaint, Main St.
1127 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
1544 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1547 – assist citizen, Sumpter Rd.
1730 – assist fire dept., San Carlos St.
1842 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Aberdeen Ct.
2145 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, W. Columbia Ave.
Also on this week’s log are 47 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township
Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 26:
0233 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.
0929 – fire dept. assist, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0946 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1006 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
1306 – noise complaint, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
1444 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
1452 – dumping complaint, Rawsonville/Willis
1508 – assault, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1905 – assist other agency, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1914 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1942 – assist other agency, 20000 bl. Sherwood
2243 – noise complaint, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
Monday, Feb. 27:
0933 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0943 – juvenile complaint, Birch Ct.
1120 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.
1338 – suspicious person, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1814 – found property, Hampshire
2218 – suspicious person, 8200 bl. Rawsonville
Tuesday, Feb. 28:
0115 – reckless driver, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
1120 – larceny, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1236 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1410 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1906 – well-being check, Virginia
1949 – suspicious incident, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
2004 – suspicious vehicle, 20000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
2013 – alarm, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
2018 – juvenile complaint, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
2045 – well-being check, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
2332 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
Wednesday, March 1:
0104 – traffic hazard, Sumpter/Arkona
0706 – traffic hazard, Haggerty/Judd
0816 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.
0930 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1411 – fraud complaint, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
1506 – civil dispute, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1510 – suspicious incident, 18000 bl. Martinsville
1851 – property damage accident, Sherwood/Judd
1955 – well-being check, 9100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
Thursday, March 2:
1129 – 911 hang up, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1237 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Traskos
1350 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1423 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1510 – civil dispute, Edgewood
1838 – civil dispute, Redwood
2039 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
Friday, March 3:
0753 – suspicious vehicle, Haggerty/Judd
0945 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Harris Rd.
1049 – subpoena service, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1105 – subpoena service, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1135 – subpoena service, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1256 – subpoena service, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1423 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1551 – fraud complaint, Virginia
1723 – civil dispute, 19000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1724 – citizen assist, Carriage Ln.
1857 – property damage accident, 51000 bl. Willis
Saturday, March 4:
0927 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
0949 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0950 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1004 – malicious destruction of property, Mulberry
1036 – civil dispute, Redwood
1119 – alarm, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1127 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.

1141 – family trouble, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
1229 – suspicious incident, 23000 bl. Sherwood
1429 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Willis / Rawsonville
1826 – assist other agency, 12000 bl. Rawsonville
1958 – warrant arrest pick up, Sumpter/Bemis
2134 – suspicious incident, California/Willis
Also on this week’s log are 21 follow-up investigations, 28 miscellaneous details, 201 patrol checks, and 40 traffic stops.

Belleville to arrest
17-year-old suspect after
Washtenaw is done

Belleville Police Chief Hal Berriman said his police department will arrest and arraign Samuel Hamilton, 17, of Ypsilanti, on charges of possession of a stolen vehicle, resisting arrest, and fleeing and eluding police -- once Washtenaw County is done with him.
Chief Berriman said Washtenaw had other charges against Hamilton and once they are through with him he will be turned over to Belleville to prosecute.
On Feb. 17, Belleville Police chased and apprehended a vehicle that had been stolen out of Van Buren Township on Feb. 12.
Officer Jim Trombley and two reserve officers – Cpl. Nick Johns and Officer Jim Piper – took into custody the 17-year old driver and two juvenile passengers. The three bailed out of the vehicle after it crashed on Henry Street. The reserve officers chased and caught the juveniles near Belleville High School.

Correction: VBT 2016 salary entry on Carrie Traster was incorrect

On the front page of the Jan. 26 issue of the *Independent*, we published the 2016 police wages for Van Buren Township. Included in the list was Carrie A. Traster, which listed \$52,809.12 as salary, \$30,327.43 as benefits and \$83,136.55 as total compensation.
Officer Traster, who was injured in an on-duty accident in September 2014, said the pay listed in the paper was inaccurate and she didn’t get any insurance beyond September 2016 because that’s when the township dropped her insurance and all her other benefits.
VBT Deputy Clerk Joanne Montgomery provided the following statement:
“Recent upgrades in accounting software mistakenly included workman’s compensation wages in the reporting of Ms. Traster’s overall wages. Her corrected Township wages are as follows: 23,080.40 wages, 28,053.18 fringes [\$51,133.58 total]. We apologize for the error.”
Officer Traster said she got wages of \$16,488.39 recorded on her W-2 form for 2016. She is suing the township over the accident and a settlement has not been agreed upon.
--Rosemary K. Otzman, editor

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– Albert Einstein

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Upcoming Meetings

• Thursday, March 9 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission meeting at 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Monday, March 13 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education regular meeting, 7 p.m., Belleville High School Commons

• Tuesday, March 14 – Van Buren Township Senior Center Endowment Committee at 11 a.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of

Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, March 15 – Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority, 2 p.m. Also, Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.

• Monday, March 20 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, March 21 – Van Buren Township regular meeting, 7 p.m.

• Wednesday, March 22 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

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- Rabies 1 Yr.

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- Distemper
- Fecal
- Deworming
- Feline AIDS/Leukemia Test

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(#4)

Expires 4/30/17.

CAT PACKAGES

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(#2)

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- Distemper
- Bordetella
- Rabies 1 Yr.

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CAT DENTAL
\$189

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46663 AYRES, VAN BUREN
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10696 VAN BUREN LANE, VAN BUREN
SUPER AFFORDABLE LARGER VAN BUREN ESTATES HOME. 3 Bedrooms, 1 Full Bath, Extra HUGE Cooks Kitchen, Hardwood Floors and More. Corner Lot with Full Brick Exterior PLUS Fenced Yard. Enjoy the Neighborhood. Just Listed and Priced to Sell at \$105,000

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6797 SADIE VAN BUREN
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23260 KARR, SUMPTER
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VACANT KARR ROAD 5 ACRES \$35,000

42915 WILLIS 4 SPLITS \$30,000 & \$40,000
26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES \$30,000
45885 BEMIS PAVED BUIDABLE LOT \$25,000
24409 SHERWOOD 1.15 ACRES \$30,000
20743 GRIFFIN COURT 1.4 AC \$29,500
ELWELL ACROSS FRM 29300 10AS \$59,500

49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES \$180,000
BEMIS 6 ACRES + 6 ACRES \$65,000 EACH
VINEY AND SIBLEY 21+ ACRES \$450,000
WILLOW ROAD 1.36 ACRES \$15,000
22407 KARR 21 AC & POLEBARN \$195,000
26455 KARR 5 ACRES 162X1308 \$33,000

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